

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 028 4065 0207 Emergency Tel: 07969 403762  
Email: [dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org](mailto:dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org) Web: [www.dromaradrumgooland.org](http://www.dromaradrumgooland.org)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

### Weekend Masses

**Sat** 6:00pm Dechomet 7:30pm Leitrim  
**Sun** 9:00am Gargory 11:00am Dromara

### Weekday Masses

**Mon** 9am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet  
**Tues** 9am Dromara  
**Wed** 7:30pm Leitrim  
**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

The sick and housebound will be attended this week. If you are currently unable to come to mass and wish me to bring you Holy Communion, please let me know.

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Leitrim

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>** Patrick McCartan  
**Wed 4<sup>th</sup>** Cathal Ward  
**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Patsy, Cissie & Colette McMullan  
Barney O'Hare

#### Gargory

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Paschal King  
Phyllis McAleenan

#### Dromara

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** John Doole MM  
Karen Rice  
Mae & Dan Flynn

#### Dechomet

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>** Willie Rooney  
**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Brian, Colm & Sr Josephine Rooney

### Leitrim Cleaners

**Mar** - Geraldine, Deirdre & Siobhan

### Gargory Altar Rota

**Mar** - Phil

### Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329

[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

### SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191  
Drumgooland 07825 419067

### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £499 £990

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

### First Confession

St Matthews, Magheramayo **Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm**

### World Day of Prayer **Fri 6<sup>th</sup> March 8pm**

St John's Parish Church, Dromara

Every Welcome

### Dromore Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

**15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May (inclusive)**

Pilgrims and workers £890

Assisted Pilgrims £850

If interested, please contact any member of the Lourdes Committee

### Dromantine Summer Camp

Registration for young people aged 11-17, and Leadership applications for young people aged 17+, has opened on:

[www.dromantinesummerncamp.co.uk](http://www.dromantinesummerncamp.co.uk)

Dromantine Summer Camp is a multi-week summer programme held during July & Aug. The camp provides a safe, faith-inspired and fun environment where young people can build friendships, grow in confidence, and engage with themes of faith, fun and friendship.

### Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**

The Society will host an online lecture by Geoff Cobb entitled *Celtic Park, New York and Irish American Olympians*

The ZOOM room will open at 7:15pm.

The talk will start at 7:30pm sharp.

A link to the talk can be obtained by e-mailing the Hon Secretary [goss.jjm@gmail.com](mailto:goss.jjm@gmail.com) and will be forwarded on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> March

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish*

*Cathal Mark Laverty*

*Caoimhe Joanne O'Hare*

*Ray John Madine*

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 1 March 2026 • Colour: Violet • Psalm Week 2

## EVERYONE NEEDS GOOD FRIENDS

MATTHEW 17:1-9



Every year the story of the transfiguration is read on the Second Sunday of Lent. Jesus takes three of his friends up a mountain to pray with him.

While there, something extraordinary happens. It's as if Peter, James and John are caught up in a dream and, suddenly, they see Jesus in all his heavenly glory with Moses and Elijah, two of the great Old Testament figures. They see Jesus as he really is - transformed, radiant. Peter is so overcome by what he sees that he wishes it could last forever. He suggests constructing three tents or temporary dwelling places - one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. But soon the vision ends, and when the three look up, they see 'only Jesus.' The moment has passed but it is one they will never forget.

It is telling that the three disciples Jesus chooses to accompany him to the mountain top are Peter, James and John. Jesus had selected a group of 12 to be his inner circle, as it were. But among that group, it seems these three friends were especially close to him.

Peter, James and John are present with Jesus at some of the most crucial moments of his life. He selects these three to accompany him (along with her parents) when he restores the daughter of Jarius to life. They see with their own eyes that Jesus is the Lord of life, who has authority even over death. These are the three he asks to accompany him to the garden of Gethsemane in his hour of greatest need before his passion and death. And today's Gospel tells us that these are the three who witness his transfiguration, when he is revealed in all his glory.

Jesus wanted Peter, James and John to witness these pivotal moments in his life. They would be able to speak of these events after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. But Jesus probably also turned to them as good friends. He needed their companionship, their support, their presence. He had many followers and acquaintances but he felt the very human need for some closer, more intimate, friendships. Clearly, Peter, James and John had the qualities Jesus was looking for, and so they became his 'right-hand' men, those he regarded as his most trusted associates.

Jesus knew the importance of friendship. In his humanity, he knew that good friendships make life more enjoyable and that good friends help us through the difficult times that will inevitably come our way. ■

### LEARN

The reason the transfiguration takes place at this time in Matthew's Gospel is to give the disciples a boost. Jesus knows there will be tough times ahead. He knows what will happen to him in Jerusalem and that life will be difficult for his followers. The transfiguration is a little glimpse of heaven. It shows them who Jesus really is, and gives them a foretaste of what awaits them if they remain faithful to their Master.

### PRAY

Pray for your friends. Thank God for the gift of true friendship.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to live in such a way as to enjoy your company in heaven forever. Amen."

### DO

On the mountaintop, the three disciples saw Jesus in his radiant glory. Try to see the God-given beauty in all you meet.

### REFLECT

One of the most wonderful opportunities created by the Internet is how it allows people to communicate instantly practically anywhere. It is possible to go online and chat with people thousands of miles away. It was a great help to people forced to practise social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But social media and the world wide web have significant downsides, as we now know only too well. We live in the era of fake news and of deepfake technology. You can create a deepfake video or image of a person in which their face or body has been digitally altered so that they appear to be someone else, typically used maliciously or to spread false information. Artificial intelligence is making this technology ever more sophisticated and difficult to detect.

It means we can't always be sure whether a news item or story is true or false. And we won't always know for sure whether a stranger we are chatting to online is who they claim to be. Just as in everyday life we can wear a mask so that others won't know what we're really thinking, or to protect ourselves from being hurt, so also people can create false digital profiles or personas in order to make themselves more appealing or conceal their true intentions. For whatever reason, they do not want to reveal their real selves, their true face.

In the story of the transfiguration Jesus revealed his true face to his three closest friends. They saw him as he really is in his heavenly glory. The literal meaning of "transfiguration" is to show one's true face. And that's what happened on the mountain top - Peter, James and John saw Jesus' radiant, glorified face. They saw him as he really is - and it took their breath away. They wanted the moment to last forever.

Today's Gospel challenges us to be honest in our relationship with God and others. God loves us as we are and knows us better than we know ourselves. We need not be afraid to show him our true face. Good friendships depend on the willingness to show our true face, be our true selves. That's how we build friendships that last. ■