

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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3rd Sunday of Lent
23rd March 2025

Weekend Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Mon 9.00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

First Confession

Tues 25th Mar 7pm St Michael's

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 22nd John Sweeney
Sat 29th Stephen McElroy

Leitrim

Sat 22nd James Malone
James Gerard Kelly (*Backaderry*)
Wed 26th Martin McDonald & Deceased
Members of Cunningham &
McDonald Families
Sat 29th Patrick Hugh Morgan (*Derryneil*)
Kathleen Cunningham

Dromara

Sun 30th Art Gilmore
Stephen O'Hare (*Finnis*)
Deceased Members of
Lundy Family (*Dree*)

Cemetery Sunday 25th May 2025

St Michael's PS 60th Anniversary

Our School Community would like to invite you to celebrate and reflect on the history of St Michael's PS, Finnis, and give thanks to those that have gone before us, whilst expressing pride in the current and future members of the community at our 60th Anniversary Mass
on Sun 23rd Mar at 11am in St Michael's Chapel
Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parish Hall. Everyone welcome! Please share with all our past pupils, young and old!

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Stephen Sherry
07301246329/safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

| Collections | Dromara | Drumgooland |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Parish | £442 | £1,250 |

Thank you for your continued contributions

The new boxes of envelopes are ready for distribution. They begin on **6th April**. Hopefully, they will be delivered over the next two weeks. If any person who did not previously have a box, wishes to have one, please let me know. If anyone would prefer to pay by standing order, please email via the address on the top of the bulletin.

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Sophia Maria Heaton and Cormac Davidson*

St Matthew's, Maghermayo Car Wash Fundraiser
Sun 23rd March 10am-12 noon

Tea coffee & treats available. Raffle tickets for our Easter Hampers. All Welcome

NI Blood Donation Sessions

The Lodge, Castlewella

Fri 28th Mar 12:30pm to 7pm

Please phone 08085 534 653 to book

Jubilee Year of Hope

Upcoming events in Ss Patrick & Colman Cathedral

Sat 5th Apr

Martina Purdy will speak on the theme of hope

Sun 27th Apr

Celebration of Carlo Acutis becoming a Saint

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Finnis Parents Group' on **Sun 6th Apr at 3pm** for the **final Bingo Session** of this academic year in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm.
£100 JACKPOT MUST GO.

Good fun, refreshments and a great raffle, so please come along and show your support for the school.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Local History Talk with Trevor Martin

Wed 9th Apr at 7.30pm

Life in Finnis & Surrounding Areas in the 19th Century/Stories of Emigration to America
Refreshments and Donations Welcome

*Congratulations to St Michael's Bowling Club
who won the Division 2 Cup*

REPENT OR PERISH

Lk 13: 1-9



The parable of the Fig tree on the stained glass in St Mary Abbot's church on Kensington High Street

Two examples are given by Jesus today when talking about sin and suffering in our world.

Firstly, he speaks of the time Pilate constructed a much needed aqueduct for Jerusalem, with many people outraged at his use of sacred money to build it. So Pilate instructed his soldiers to mingle amongst the crowd with clubs hidden beneath their cloaks. Their job was to beat the Galileans into submission. A task they took on with such enthusiasm, that many were killed. The ones who were killed, says Jesus, weren't necessarily more wicked than those who lived.

In the second example, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree. The Book of Revelation, compares the falling of the stars from the sky at the end of the world, with the falling of the figs from this tree. The fig tree in this story is a reminder of the two kinds of human being: those who give and those who take. Those who only take have to justify their existence. To accept Christ's message is to be open to conversion. ■

LEARN

'Lent is a season of conversion and a time of freedom.' (Pope Francis)

DO

Take the opportunity this Lent to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

REFLECT

March 19th is the day we celebrated one of the great Saints in our Church, St. Joseph. He was the consistent presence in the background of the Gospels, where Jesus found his home, his stability, his growth and learning and wisdom. Joseph the silent worker, preaching by his actions, preaching by his simple presence.

Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into town to preach. Francis and the young friar spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked "Weren't we supposed to preach today?" Francis replied, "Son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behaviour was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!" He summed up his idea in these words "Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words." To him witnessing to Jesus wasn't merely quoting some words out of the Bible from time to time but one who lives by the word of God each day.

The gardener in the Gospel asked the owner of the vineyard to give the barren fig tree another chance to produce fruit. He promised to dig around it and manure it, to give it one last chance to prove itself. It suggests that we too need to nurture our faith and commit ourselves to being helpful to the lives of others.

Perhaps like St. Joseph, we're that simple presence – offering hope and comfort and love to those around us. ■

SAY

Lord, if we possessed a part of the patience that you give to us, then this world would be transformed.