

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**30<sup>th</sup> November 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

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Leitrim

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup>** Charlie, Brigid, Jim, Phelim & Jerome Shields  
**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>** Fr Lionel Murray  
**Sat 6<sup>th</sup>** Sean Keary  
Rosie & Margaret O'Hare & Deceased Family Members  
Patrick Charles McAleenan  
Mary Teresa Murphy & Deceased Family Members  
Arthur James Doyle & Behan Family

### Dromara

**Sun 30<sup>th</sup>** Eugene Doyle  
Michael McKey  
Margaret, Eddie & Eamon McCann  
**Fri 5<sup>th</sup>** Hugh & Hugh Cormac Smyth  
**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** Laura Armstrong, Hughie, Isabella & Hugh Lavery

### Dechomet

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup>** Margaret Gilmore  
Olivia Fitzpatrick

### Gargory

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** Jim McEvoy MM  
John King

**Dromore Diocesan Historical Society's** new Journal *Seanchas Dhroim Mór 2025* is now available, Price £20. To purchase a copy, email the Hon. Sec.: [goss.jjm@gmail.com](mailto:goss.jjm@gmail.com)

## Dec Rotas

**Leitrim Cleaners** - Bridie, Maura & Bernie  
**Gargory Altar Society** - Fiona & Doreen  
**St Michael's Collectors** - Brian & Eamon

*We welcome into Dromara Parish*  
*Lorna AnneMarie O'Neill*

## SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

## Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329  
[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £439 £921

St Michael's Hall donation £50

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

The **sick & housebound** will be attended this week

**Drumgooland Parish Council** will meet on  
**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec** after the evening mass.

*Please note the change of date.*

## **St Michael's PS Open Night Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 6pm-7pm**

Inviting all parents/guardians of P1 and Reception pupils for the Academic year September 2026.  
Reception pupils can start after their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday new extended hours 9am-2pm.

**St Mary's PS Open Afternoon Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
**2-3:30pm** for prospective New Entrants

**St Mary's Choir Dechomet** There will be short choir rehearsals **commencing 6<sup>th</sup> Dec** after 6pm mass

Please join the *Friends of St Michael's Parents' Group* for **BINGO on Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** in the Parish Hall.  
Doors open at 1:30pm, Bingo starts at 2pm.  
A fun afternoon for all, so please come along and show your support for the School

**Dromara Christmas Whist** in St Michaels Hall  
**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8pm.** Everyone Welcome.  
Please come and support.

## *Santa is coming to town!*

*Sponsored by Eurospar, Dromara.*

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm, Peter Morgan's Cottage**  
Come meet Santa, Mrs Claus & his magical helpers for a fun filled night of food, balloon modelling, a present from Santa and a surprise to end the night!  
*All proceeds donated to Cancer Fund for Children*

**SVDP Dromara Christmas Collection Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Thanks for your support throughout the year

This Christmas the *Friends of St Michael's Parents' Group* are running a **Cash Call**. Tickets are £10 each or three for £20. **1<sup>st</sup> prize is £300 & 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £200.** Tickets can be purchased through the school or via PayPal. Please see Facebook for more details.

## **SVDP Dromara Christmas Appeal 2025**

An **Amazon Wish List** had been setup for anyone wishing to purchase a present for a local child to receive this Christmas. Any support, no matter how small is greatly appreciated and will go directly to support local families in need of support during these difficult times. The Wish List can be found at:  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1RET2PL08GHHT?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1RET2PL08GHHT?ref=wl_share)

# Sunday Message

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## THE WORD

Year A • 30 November 2025 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1



### STAY AWAKE!

MT 24:37-44

In today's Gospel Jesus makes comparisons. He compares the people of his day with those of Noah's, who were punished for their wickedness. The people of Jesus' time are not particularly wicked, but they are heedless and unthinking. They get on with life.

They eat, drink, get married. That's all very fine. But the problem is they don't think about their relationships with God or with one another. Due to their ignorance, they won't be ready for God's coming judgement.

Jesus tells a parable about a householder and a thief. It's not the householder's immoral life that causes his downfall. It's his carelessness. God's judgement comes like a thief for those who are not prepared for it.

Be on the lookout! That's the message of this First Sunday of Advent. Things are changing. Property, possessions, power will all pass away. Even health and life do not last forever. Only our relationships with God and one another are eternal.

The season of Advent offers us an opportunity to stand back from the regular routine of life to reflect on our relationship with God and with each other. It is a time to be more conscious of God's presence, so that he will find us ready and waiting when he comes. ■

### SAY

"Come, Lord Jesus."

### DO

Make some extra time for prayer each day during the season of Advent.

Try to see the sacred in the everyday

Make an Advent wreath

### PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you live in such a way that you will always be ready for his coming.

### LEARN

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" and refers to the four-week period of preparation for Christmas. *Adventus* is a Latin translation of the Greek word *parousia*, which refers to the future coming or return of Jesus. During the Season of Advent we contemplate two different comings of Jesus. The first refers to his birth over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. The second refers to his future return as judge at the end of time.

## REFLECT

The message of the season of Advent, and today's readings, is to stay awake and alert so as to be ready to meet the Lord when he comes. One way to do this is through practising mindfulness or attentiveness. Jesus was always attentive. Remember the story of the Widow's Mite in Mark's Gospel. Jesus was observing people as they contributed to the Temple treasury. We can imagine how pleased the Temple authorities were when the well-to-do made big donations, no doubt greeting these rich benefactors obsequiously, how they were oblivious to the poor widow and her equals, failed to see her, failed to appreciate her. After all, she was a nobody whose offering wasn't worth talking about. But Jesus saw her and he drew his disciples' attention to her. He saw what the others failed to see. Time and again, throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus' attention to people, his compassion, his mindfulness. He sees people's need and responds to it. We must bring this attentiveness to our everyday living too, seeking to be attentive in every moment.

It is about practising Present Moment Awareness. To live in each moment, to be

alive to each moment, to not journey through each day carelessly or casually or in a hurry or half asleep. One of the tips I picked up when trying to cope with chronic back pain was to notice when the pain was reduced or even absent. To not let the moment pass, but to register it, savour it, delight in it. We can be so busy or distracted we fail to notice what we should notice, we can fail to live fully attuned to what's going on around us, to the here and now. We can lose our sense of wonder.

As Elizabeth Barrett Browning writes in her poem, "Aurora Leigh": "Earth's crammed with heaven, / And every common bush afire with God; / But only he who sees, takes off his shoes."

The sacred shines through the everyday. We need to see it, to savour it. This season invites us to take off our shoes, to appreciate every moment, to practice present moment awareness.

Another expression for it is Intentional Living. We don't know how long we have left. It's usually after a health scare or diagnosis of

a serious illness that we begin to focus on our end, our purpose. But notwithstanding how young or old or fit we are, we should live each day with the end in mind, asking how do I wish to spend this day? It's about my priorities and my relationship to time. Do I live purposefully? Are there obstacles or distractions that prevent me from putting God and my loved ones first?

Again the Advent admonition rings loud: Stay attentive! Stay focused! What might be getting in the way of my purposeful living? Are my priorities right? What would I do differently if tomorrow I was told I had a terminal illness?

Maybe to treasure the gifts of family and friends a little more... maybe to acknowledge kindnesses done... maybe to deepen my relationship with God... maybe to free myself from any unhealthy obsessions or addictions... maybe to make the best use of every, single day... maybe to appreciate the beauty of each day. Intentional living is about identifying and focusing on what's important. Advent challenges us to use time wisely. ■