

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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21st Sunday in ordinary time
24th August 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

Dechomet

Sat 23rd Barry Gibbons MM
Agnes Rooney
Sat 30th Margaret Ross
Timothy Doyle

Leitrim

Sat 23rd Cahal Keown
Bernard Cunningham
Wed 27th Fr Jim Kerr
Sat 30th Cissie McAnulty

Gargory

Sun 24th Mark McEvoy

Dromara

Sun 24th Elizabeth McCoubry (Derry)
Alice Lundy & Deceased Members of
McCann & Mageean Families
Molly, Tom & Pdraig McMullan &
Maira McMullan-Grogan
Sun 31st Daniel Hughes (Derry)
Dan Hughes & Deceased Family
Members (Finnis)
Eileen & Peter O'Hare & Deceased
Family Members

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

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Safeguarding Officer

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Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£380	£997

Thank you for your continued contributions

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Nivana Marie Cousins

Day of Prayer & Reflection for Gaza **Sun 24th August**

Light a candle in your home or church;
attend Mass; spend time in the church;
pray the Rosary; make some small
personal penance or sacrifice, let the
light of hope radiate out from the island
of Ireland for peace, for Gaza and for
the future of its people.

Memorial Mass

Archbishop Eamon Martin will preside
at a Mass in memory of **Fr Joseph Monaghan**
being celebrated in St Patrick's Church,
Banbridge on **Sun 31st Aug at 3pm.**
Fr Monaghan was a native of Scarva St, Banbridge.
He became a Columban priest and a
missionary in the Philippines.
He was killed in 1945, while being held
captive by Japanese forces in Manila.
This occasion has been planned to recall and
honour his life, his service and his sacrifice,
in the eightieth anniversary year of his death.

The Old Testament: Jesus's Bible
The historical books of the Old Testament
cover the period from the return from
Egypt into the promised land until the
return from the exile in Babylon.

Judges

This book takes its name from the
"judges", twelve military heroes sent by
God to lead the people in the interval
between the death of Joshua and the
institution of the monarchy.

1 and 2 Samuel

The books of Samuel span the history
of a century (about 1100-100 B.C.E.) and
relate a series of episodes centering around
the persons of Samuel, Saul and David.

Sunday Message

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 24 August 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



Today's readings are about inclusiveness, about the open, all-embracing, nature of the Kingdom of God. It's a place where all are welcome.

Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem when someone asks him to estimate how many will be saved. But he says that this is the wrong question. The real question is not 'how many' but 'how.' How does one get into the Kingdom?

Jesus then offers advice on how to enter. The kingdom is like a narrow door, he says. The door is not so wide that anyone can just walk through. Because it is narrow, individuals will have to make an effort to get through it.

Nor does the door remain open indefinitely. Like any respectable establishment, the kingdom has a closing time. It's no good coming after hours. Some make desperate attempts to persuade the host to let them in. They claim a spurious relationship with him, saying that they ate and drank with him, that they heard him speak. But the Lord is not impressed with these superficial claims to friendship. Casual acquaintance is no substitute for true discipleship.

The pain of exclusion is made worse for the latecomers when they see how easy it was to gain entry. Almost anybody can get in. Inside there are rich and poor, men and women, people of every background from every corner of the globe. Membership of the kingdom is open to anyone. The only requirement is to hear the word of God and keep it.

Today's first reading from the Book of Isaiah makes the same point. This book was written after the Jews returned from years of exile in the foreign city of Babylon. They were perhaps tempted to consider themselves as favoured by God, as superior to others, and that no other nation shared their privileges as God's chosen people.

But Isaiah has a surprise for them: God will create a new people that will include outsiders and not just the people of Israel. These people will be invited to come to the Holy City and some will even become priests in the new temple. Membership is open to everyone, irrespective of race or background. It's a broad vision of inclusiveness.

The lesson of today's readings is obvious. God wants us to share eternal life with him in his kingdom. It is an open invitation extended to all, but we can't presume entry. We can't take it for granted. We must choose to belong. A seat in the kingdom requires that we do our best to live up to our baptismal calling. It requires that we remain faithful to Christ and his Good News every day of our lives. ■

REFLECT

There's nothing worse than being excluded from something, especially if you feel you should have been invited. Many friendships have ended because of a failure to invite somebody to a wedding or other celebration. Those not invited feel hurt, snubbed, let down. It's a wound that takes a long time to heal, or may never heal at all.

In today's Gospel Jesus talks about people being excluded from the kingdom of God, and how they will feel left out in the cold. No matter how hard they try to get in, they are refused entry. The door will remain closed to them.

It sounds harsh, but there is a difference between those not invited to a party and the individuals Jesus is talking about. The difference is that everyone receives an invitation to the feast in God's kingdom. Those who end up being excluded are those who choose to exclude themselves, those who snub the invitation. By not being faithful to Christ and his teaching, they choose to cut themselves off from the kingdom of God. When the door is closed to them, they will have only themselves to blame. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be faithful to you, so that I will be able to enjoy eternal life in your heavenly kingdom. Amen."

DO

Think about the choices you make every day, and whether or not they bring you closer to God.

PRAY

Pray for Christians throughout the world that they will grow in the love of God, and so will be found worthy of a place in God's kingdom.

LEARN

Everybody is invited to the feast of God's kingdom

The key to our salvation is that we hear the word of God and keep it