

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 028 4065 0207 Emergency Tel: 07969 403762
Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

30th Sunday in ordinary time
26th October 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

Feast of All Saints

Fri 31st 7:30pm Dromara
Sat 1st 10am Gargory

The Feast of All Souls will be celebrated at the masses on Sat evening and Sun morning

November Masses for Recently Deceased

Mon 3rd Dechomet
Wed 5th Leitrim
Fri 7th Finnis
All at 7:30pm

The names of those who have died in the parish over the past year will be read out, one or more members of the family will be invited to bring up a candle in their name.

There will also be an opportunity to bring up a candle in memory of a loved one who has died more than a year ago or may be buried elsewhere.

November Dead Lists are available at the back of the churches. Please return them as soon as possible. All envelopes are opened and the lists placed in a basket before the altar. If anyone wishes to place a memory card or photo of a loved one in front of the altar they are welcome to do so.

ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 25th John Smith
Annie B Morgan and Deceased
Family Members
Wed 29th Bernard J & Mary Jane Cunningham
Sat 1st Christy Morgan (*Derryneil*)
Rose McAleenan & Nicholas Duggan

Gargory

Sun 26th Mary Rose McKay MM

Dromara

Sun 26th Michael Rice
Sun 2nd Bridget, Peter & Frank McEvoy

Dechomet

Sat 1st Peter Kelly & Deceased
Family Members

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£359	£1,349

Thank you for your continued contributions

Drumgooland Parish Council Meeting Mon 27th Oct 8pm

St Matthew's Magheramayo Fundraiser

Friends of St Matthew's Magheramayo are organising a sponsored walk at the GAC Pitch on **Sun 26th Oct at 10am** followed by a cuppa in the Hall and 100 square with prizes. Open to all community.

Peter Morgan's Cottage Halloween Music Night

31st Oct from 7:30pm
Music, Song & Supper

Share your spooky stories & jokes or sit back and enjoy the craic!

Follow us on Facebook.

Dromara Cancer Research Coffee Morning

The Dromara local committee for Cancer Research UK is hosting a **Coffee Morning on Sat 1st Nov** from 10am to 12:30pm in Second Dromara Church Hall, Begny Hill, Dromara. All support would be most welcome.

Table Quiz in King Bar on Fri 7th Nov

commencing at 9pm.
All welcome Proceeds
in aid of Lourdes Funds

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Molly & Maeve Shahmohomadi,
Paudí Artúr Moorehead and
Elizabeth Eithne & Theresa Rose Duffin

Leitrim Cleaners

Nov Geraldine, Deirdre & Siobhan

Gargory Altar Rota

Nov Rosaleen & Anne

St Michael's Collectors

Nov Seamus & Peter

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329
safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Sunday Message

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 26 October 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

HUMBLY SPEAKING

LK 18:9-14

This story must have been a tremendous shock to Jesus' listeners. In the Christian tradition, Pharisees have received a bad press. They are often portrayed as hypocrites and legalists. But in Jesus' time Pharisees were highly respected.

Jesus' listeners would have known that the Pharisee in this story was telling the truth of his life. This was how Pharisees lived. They lived according to an exacting religious discipline – of fasting, giving alms, paying tithes. Imagine committing one-tenth of one's income to the Church each year! So, the Pharisee is only speaking the truth when he lists all that he has done, and is doing. You could say it is an exemplary life.

And then we meet the tax collector. Tax collectors, or publicans, were not the most popular folks in town. They not only collected taxes on behalf of the hated Roman occupiers, but often extracted extra money from people to line their own pockets. Think of Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, and the promise he made to Jesus: "Lord, if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will repay it fourfold" (Lk 19:8). In the Gospels, tax collectors were often bracketed in one breath with sinners. So any mention of tax collector would have brought images of corruption, exploitation and oppression to Jesus' listeners.

Imagine, then, how they must have felt when their understanding of holiness was turned upside down. The Pharisee was a respected part of the religious system, a good and holy man; the tax collector was outside it, a traitor, a crook. Yet Jesus praises the tax collector and condemns the Pharisee.

The explanation lies in the first verse of today's Gospel. Jesus "told this parable to

some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everybody else." These people thought that what made them pleasing in God's sight was their own virtuous activity, a laundry list of good works, and they looked disdainfully down their arrogant noses at the rest of the human race, at sinners and tax collectors and everyone else who did not duplicate their good deeds.

The Pharisee was smug. He thought he was a cut above other people, especially sinners like the tax collector. He was so full of his own efforts and achievements that he had little space for the gift of God's mercy.

The tax collector knew he was a sinner. He was aware that he was far from perfect. He is upright before God, he has the stance the Lord applauds, because he trusts not in himself but in God, not in any good work that calls for reward but only in God's goodness and mercy. And in begging for forgiveness, he does not contrast himself with the proud Pharisee or anyone else. He does not dare "lift up his eyes to heaven," and he does not dare to comment on any member of the congregation except himself: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." He knows that God's love and forgiveness is available even to someone like him.

Turns out it is the tax collector, who thought himself far from the Kingdom of God, who is in fact closest to it. ■

REFLECT

The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector offers us both a warning and a consolation. The warning is about judging others. We can all fall prey to the Pharisee's fault. Humans have a natural tendency to compare ourselves with others, to look down on those we think aren't as good-living or hard-working as we think we are. It's why society and church dealt so harshly in the past with unmarried mothers and their children. Judging ourselves to be socially or morally superior to others, totting up all our good deeds, we can, like the Pharisee, feel a little smug.

But, of course, the fact is that no one is perfect. Rather than making comparisons, we should acknowledge what we have in common – that we all have the same human weaknesses and all need God's forgiveness. The fact that we are Christians shouldn't make us self-satisfied, or complacent, or think we are a cut above others. There is no guarantee that we are better living than the non-believer.

What makes all the difference is knowing we are forgiven sinners, that no matter what we have done or not done or how sinful we think we may be, God loves us and forgives us anyway, and that God's forgiveness is always available to us. That's the consoling message of today's Gospel. We just need to turn to the Lord with sincere and repentant hearts, as the tax collector did. ■

LEARN

The Christian has the same human weakness as everyone else

The Christian is slow to judge others

The Christian trusts in God's love and forgiveness and knows that God forgives him or her first

SAY

"Lord, I know I am far from perfect. Help me to live in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen."

DO

The Pharisee looked down on the tax collector. Is there a person or group of people you look down on? What do you need to do about it?

PRAY

Make the tax collector's prayer of humility your own: "God, be merciful to me a sinner."