

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### Weekend Masses

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

*The sick & housebound will be attended this week*

### Weekday Masses

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>** 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet  
**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>** 9:00am Dromara

### Christmas Masses

**Christmas Eve** 6pm Leitrim 7:15pm Dromara  
8:30pm Dechomet 9:45pm Gargory  
**Christmas Day** 9am Gargory 10am Leitrim  
11am Dromara

### Mass for New Year's Day

10am Leitrim 11am Dromara  
Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 7:30pm Dromara

*We pray for our recently deceased  
Mary Flood (nee McCartan), Castlewellsan*

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Dechomet

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>** John Greeran  
William James Doyle  
**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** Daniel, Mary Rose, Martin Matheson  
& Jack Murphy

#### Leitrim

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>** Brendan Cunningham  
Patrick Smyth  
**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** Kathleen & Annie Cunningham  
Mary Burns

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup>** Winnie McCrickard  
Mary McAnulty

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>** Patricia O'Prey  
Edward H & Rose E Ward  
Maurice & Frank McElroy

#### Dromara

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>** Liz McKay  
Gerard & Mary McGrillen  
Christopher O'Hare  
**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>** Peter & Eileen O'Hare & Deceased  
Family Members

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>** Annie & Douglas Taylor

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** Mary Rice (*Dree*)

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup>** Dariush Mehrtash

#### Gargory

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** Jim Cunningham (*Greencastle*)  
**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>** Archdeacon Liam Boyle  
**Sun 4<sup>th</sup>** Francis Cunningham  
Peter & Una Gribben

**Collections Dromara Drumgooland**  
Parish £322 £886

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

St Michael's Hall Bowling Club £350

St Michael's PS Parent Association £120

### Confessions for Christmas

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>** 6:45-7:15pm Dechomet

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>** 6:30-7:00pm Dromara

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>** 7:30-8:00pm Leitrim

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** 10:00-10:30am Gargory

There will be no mass on Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Normal masses on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> & Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Dec  
No weekday mass Mon 29<sup>th</sup>, Tues 30<sup>th</sup> & Wed 31<sup>st</sup>

I will be on holiday from Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Jan (*afternoon*)  
until Thur 15<sup>th</sup> Jan

### Diocesan Office New Location

Following the recent completion of the sale of the Bishop's House, Newry, the Diocesan Office has now relocated to *The Convent, Chapel Hill, Mayobridge*. The phone number and email address remain the same.

The Diocese has requested direction from the High Court concerning its financial position. Bishop Eamon Martin will inform us of the result of this request when it becomes available.

*Dear Parishioner*, as I reflect on another year ending, I am very aware of a deep feeling of gratitude. Your support and care for me does mean so much. The goodwill, openness and trust, your prayers for me and your very generous financial support is so constant. I do try to see it as your gift, without taking it for granted. If I have done so, I am sorry. The journey in faith is always an ongoing journey, it is not a sat nav journey, the destination may not be clear and the road does have its potholes. Yet together we travel, on occasion, we can be the light, the guiding star to another person, and not be aware of it. Thank you for enriching my journey.

In 2025 there were 46 baptisms (*Dromara 12, Drumgooland 34*). There were four marriages celebrated in the parish churches and sadly, 16 funerals. The stories behind these statistics are different, but I do pray that each person who has known grief, or joy, may know that God is with them.

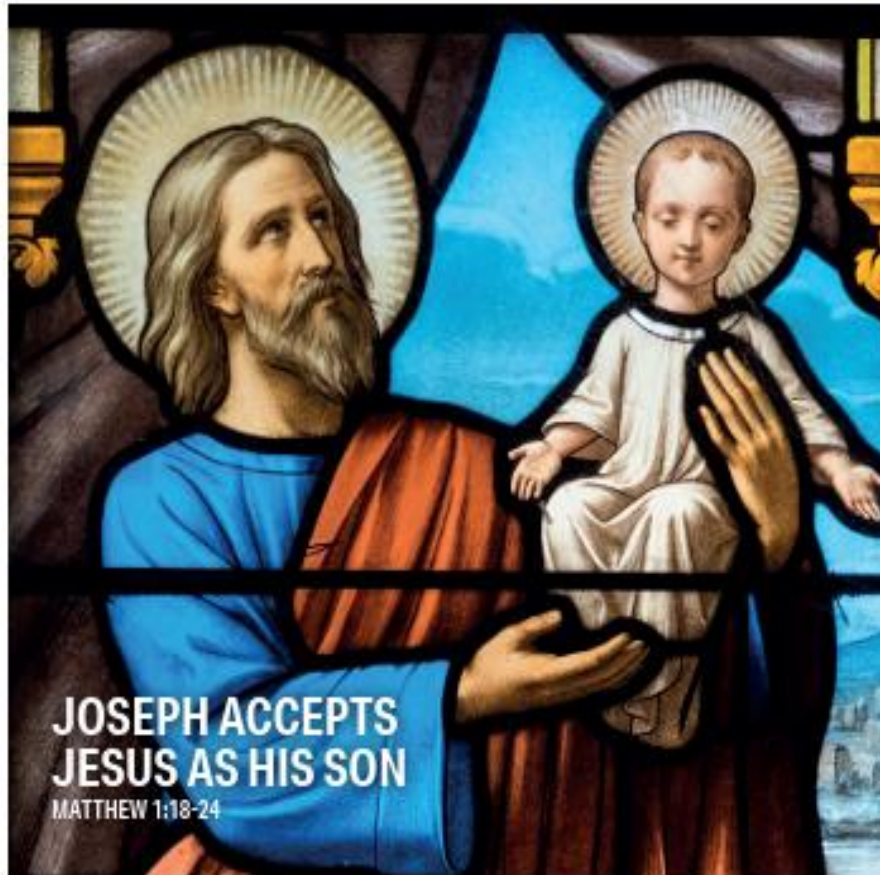
*Fr Peter.*

# Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 21 December 2025 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 4



## JOSEPH ACCEPTS JESUS AS HIS SON

MATTHEW 1:18-24

This passage presents the quiet yet profound role of Joseph in the unfolding of salvation history. Unlike Luke's Gospel, which focuses on Mary's "yes," Matthew offers Joseph's perspective—a man caught in a dilemma between righteousness and mercy. Betrothed to Mary and discovering she is pregnant, Joseph initially plans to divorce her quietly, choosing not to expose her to shame.

But God intervenes through a dream. The angel reassures Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph's response is immediate and obedient. Without protest or delay, he does what the angel commands. In doing so, he becomes the earthly guardian of Jesus and the protector of Mary.

Matthew's Gospel highlights that this moment fulfils the prophecy from Isaiah: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel" — which means "God is with us." That name is central to Christian faith. In Jesus, God is no longer distant or hidden — He is present in our humanity, born into our world.

This passage teaches that God often works through ordinary people, quiet decisions, and faithful obedience. Joseph reminds us that trust in God sometimes means letting go of our own plans and stepping into mystery with faith. ■

### LEARN

Saint Pope John Paul II emphasized in *Redemptoris Custos* ("Guardian of the Redeemer") that Joseph's faithful obedience shows us the dignity of human cooperation with God's plan. Joseph's "yes" reminds us that holiness often grows quietly through daily faithfulness and trusting surrender to God's will.

### SAY

Lord, give me the strength to trust Your plan.  
The courage to follow Your will,  
And a heart willing to serve each day. Amen.

### REFLECT

The story of Joseph in today's Gospel is a quiet, powerful example of faith and obedience. Imagine the confusion and worry Joseph must have felt when he discovered Mary was pregnant. In his time, this would have been a scandal. But Joseph is described as a "righteous man" — someone who seeks to do what is right, even when it's difficult.

When God sends an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream, the message is clear: don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. This reassurance helps Joseph to trust in a plan he cannot fully understand. Instead of reacting with anger or rejection, he chooses to believe and to act in faith.

Joseph's decision shows us that faith often requires courage. It means trusting God's promises, even when the path ahead is unclear or challenging. His obedience makes him a guardian not only of Mary but of Jesus Himself.

As we prepare for Christmas, Joseph's example invites us to trust God's plan in our own lives. Sometimes God calls us to step into uncertainty, to let go of control, and to follow Him with open hearts. May we, like Joseph, listen for God's voice and respond with courage and love. The God who comes to us is Emmanuel — God with us, always. ■

### DO

Spend a few moments each day in quiet prayer, asking God to help you trust His plan—even when it feels uncertain. Like Joseph, try to be open to God's guidance in your life, and take one small step of obedience or kindness in response.

