

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

1st Sunday of Lent
9th 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



St Patrick's Day masses

Sun 16th 7pm Leitrim 8pm Dromara
Mon 17th 10am Gargory 7:30pm Dechomet

Recently deceased



Karen Rice (nee McKay), Ballynahinch

ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 8th Dominic McElroy MM
Barney O'Hare
Paddy, Cissie & Colette McMullan

Sat 15th Margaret McCrickard
Anne Bannon
Malachy Savage
Noleen Hardy

Gargory

Sun 9th Cathal Ward

Dromara

Fri 14th Peter McNeill
Pearl McEvoy
Teresa McNeill
Sun 16th Mary Hughes (Derry)

Cemetery Sunday 25th May 2025

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

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

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £415 £840

Thank you for your continued contributions

New **boxes of envelopes** will be available soon.

Thank you to all who give so generously and regularly to the parishes and myself.

Each year there is a decrease in the number of boxes used. If you do not have a box or give by standing order, please consider doing so. If you wish to give by standing order or wish to have a box of envelopes, please send an email to dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org

First Confession Tues 11th Mar

6:30pm St Matthew's in Leitrim
7:30pm St Mary's in Dechomet

Dromara Parish Council meeting

Mon 10th Mar at 8pm in St Michael's Hall

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

In preparation for St Patrick's Day, Dr Thérèse Cullen will give a lecture entitled 'St Patrick: The Man, The Myths & the Legends' in Newry Parish Pastoral Centre, The Mall, on **Mon 10th March at 7:30pm**. Members and non-members very welcome.

Community Defibrillator

Information session and demonstration at Peter Morgan's Cottage **Tues 11th Mar at 7:30pm**. Please come along and inform yourself about this vital piece of life-saving equipment. The team would like an indication of numbers, please phone 07708017219 if you plan to attend.

St. Michael's PS 60th Anniversary Sunday 23rd March 2025

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 Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 11.00am in St Michael's Chapel, Finnis, Dromara. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parish Hall. Everyone welcome! Please share with all our past pupils, young and old!

Sunday Message

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year C • 9th March 2025 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1

JESUS IS TESTED IN THE WILDERNESS

LK4: 1-13



This famous Gospel signifies the start of lent, and our own 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Jesus goes through his own torment in the desert and is tested to the limit to see if he is totally committed or not. His temptations are somewhat consoling for us, because we're reminded that he was fully human as well as divine.

We can identify somewhat with some of the struggles he must have endured as the heat and the dryness of the desert experience, brought a weight of challenge and misery into his life. Despite the struggle and pain he is to endure, Jesus' determination is steadfast and the Gospel tells us that he stays loyal to his Father's plan. Some might suggest that these 40 days are a precursor for the challenges that will come later, as he descends into the city of Jerusalem. If this is a test, he passes with flying colours. Jesus will go on to say that we must not set our hearts on things to eat and things to drink. We set our hearts on God's kingdom, and these other things will be given to us as well. ■

SAY

Help me to use your love as a way
to persevere in my Lenten intentions.
I am weak, but I know with your help,
I can use these small sacrifices in my life to draw closer to you.

REFLECT

As someone with a sweet tooth, the Lenten journey has always been an uphill task for me, with many a documented failure over the years. Then of course there are the 'days off', which seem to be obligatory in one's 40 days of fasting. Do I count Sundays? St Patrick's Day is surely not part of Lent? And the list goes on and on. We trick the mind into thinking that the 40 days will be a breeze and the sacrifice being made won't be too painful or arduous! Think again!

But for most of us, we know that lent is not meant to be a time of misery and pain. But it is a time to nourish some critical elements of our faith. Some would say that we need 40 days to reflect on the times in our lives when we feel hungry and alone. Do we still trust God? When our lives become a struggle to connect with people and what we're left with is a vacancy. Do we still believe God loves us? Or when tragedy enters our life and God seems no where to be found. Do we believe in God's presence?

I often describe Lent as an opportunity to reflect on the importance faith plays in our lives. As people of faith, it helps us greatly to reflect on God's love and compassion for his people. This is what roots our prayer lives. ■

LEARN

Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.

DO

Choose one thing that you would like to work on for the 40 days of Lent. When you fail, don't be hard on yourself. Just try again.

