

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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5th Sunday of Lent 22nd March 2026

Weekend Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Mon 9am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 21st James Malone
Eugene McMullan
Wed 25th Martin McDonald
Paddy Savage (*Backaderry*)
Sat 28th Maura Murphy
James Gerard Kelly (*Backaderry*)
Kathleen Cunningham
Patrick Hugh Morgan (*Derryneil*)

Dromara

Sun 22nd Pearl McEvoy

Dechomet

Sat 28th Stephen McElroy

Gargory

Sun 29th Marie McEvoy

Parish Contributions

The new boxes of envelopes will be delivered over the next few weeks.

If any person would prefer to pay by standing order, please email the parish (*address on the top of the bulletin*).

If any person has not received envelopes before and wishes to contribute via envelopes, please let us know.

This year's box contains a Gift Aid renewal card.

The parishes must keep an updated record of those who have signed Gift Aid forms to verify that they are paying tax and the addresses are correct. If you are a taxpayer, please sign the card and return it (in an envelope) to the collection basket over the next few weeks.

If you are not a taxpayer, please mark the card N/A or put an X on the card and return it, this helps our records.

Collections **Dromara** **Drumgooland**
Parish £607 £1,024

Thank you for your continued contributions

Holy Week Ceremonies

Holy Thursday

6pm Dromara, 8pm Leitrim

Good Friday

Stations 3pm Dechomet, Dromara & Leitrim
Evening Service 6pm Dromara, 8pm Gargory

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil 9pm Leitrim

Easter Sunday

9:00am Gargory, 10am Leitrim
11:00am Dromara, 12 noon Dechomet

Confessions

Mon 30th 6:45pm-7:15pm Dechomet
Tues 31st 6:45pm-7:15pm Dromara
Wed 1st 6:45pm-7:15pm Leitrim
Sat 4th 10am-10:30am Gargory

Assumption Grammar School Oratory 12 Hour Vigil Wed 1st Apr from 6pm-6am

Join the school community **for one hour**
as they participate in a Vigil

Benediction & Mass will be celebrated at **10pm**
Prayers will be offered each hour
for a different theme.

Archbishop Eamon Martin, along with the clergy of the Diocese, will celebrate the **Chrism Mass on Thurs 2nd April at 10:30am** in Newry Cathedral. All are welcome. *The Mass is also available via Newry Parish webcam at churchmedia.tv/newrycathedral*

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329

safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191

Drumgooland 07825 419067

Live Streaming of Masses

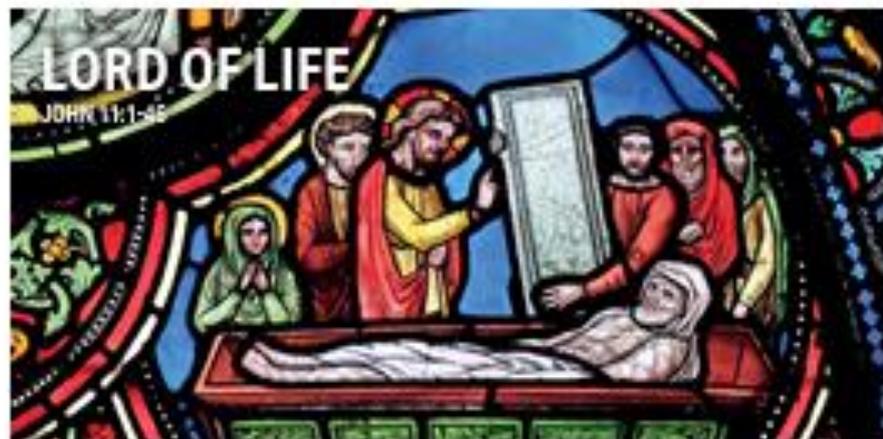
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiTLQJ1tek5IHBTdkMR6ptw>

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A - 22 March 2025 - Colour: Violet - Præter Week 1



The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the last great sign or miracle Jesus works in John's Gospel. It is a powerful demonstration that Jesus is the life of the world.

Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, is ill. His sisters ask Jesus to come to see him. But Jesus delays a while. By the time he finally arrives, Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days. Upset and disappointed, Lazarus's sister, Martha, goes to meet him. In the conversation that follows, Jesus describes who he is and makes an astonishing promise: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Later, gathered around the tomb with Martha, Mary, his disciples and some friends who had come to console the grieving sisters, Jesus works a sign to show his power and to demonstrate that he is indeed the "resurrection and the life." He asks that the stone sealing the tomb be removed. Then he prays, and bids Lazarus to come out. Still in his burial shroud, Lazarus emerges alive.

For John, the raising of Lazarus is a sign that Jesus has the power to give eternal life. It is also a promise that on the last day he will raise our mortal flesh.

Lazarus, the one whom Jesus loves, can be seen as representing all those whom Jesus loves. Just as Jesus gave life to Lazarus, he gives life to us, too. This is the Good News. It is the very foundation of our faith. ■

REFLECT

Our faith is a precious gift. Sometimes we can forget just how extraordinarily precious this faith of ours is, how fragile, if a gift we should treasure and never take for granted.

Faith changes everything. In early 2022, Richard Gaillardetz was discussing with his wife what to do when he retired in a few years from his position as professor of systematic theology at Boston University. He had been dean of theology there as well as a former president of the Theological Association of America. He had a special interest in Vatican II and had written and lectured widely on the Council and its documents.

Richard was looking forward to his retirement - and then all changed, changed utterly. On 22/2/22 - a date he said was very

easy to remember - he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given a maximum of 18 months to live. On that day, all his plans - for retirement, the books he was going to write, the places he and his wife were going to visit - went out the window. He had to manage instead for his treatment and his death. He had to put his affairs in order.

Richard began to write a blog about his illness, which was published as a book after his death. He died on November 7, 2023. In the book *While I Breathe, I Hope*, Richard writes beautifully about the consolation his faith gave him as he approached his end. He believed wholeheartedly in the Gospel, and that belief sustained him to the last.

Richard Gaillardetz knew that the gift of faith offers us two of the most wonderful

SAY

Say with Martha: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into this world."

PRAY

Pray for your deceased loved ones and the deceased members of your local community. Give thanks for their lives. Ask the Lord of life to take them to himself.

DO

There is an old saying: What a man's faith is, he is. In other words, a person's faith shapes the kind of person he or she is. Think about how you live your faith. Does your faith in God shape who you are? Can people see it?

LEARN

Our God is the God of life - not of death.

The Christian believes in the resurrection of the dead. This is at the core of our faith.

The Christian opposes anything that is not life-giving.



consolations. First, the knowledge that God is with us in every minute of every day and that with God by our side, there is no trial, hardship or setback we cannot face or overcome. God always holds us close. God's loving presence always sustains us.

The second consolation is the promise of eternal life. One of the most beautiful lines in all of scripture assures us: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the heart of people what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). We know that our death is not an exit to oblivion but the threshold to a new, transformed, glorified life with Christ in God forever. When our time comes, however it comes, we know, as Richard Gaillardetz knew, that we need have no fear. ■