

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Live Streaming of Masses <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiTLQJ1tek5IHBTdkMR6ptw>

Sixth Sunday of Easter
10th May 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

I will be on Retreat Mon 1st to Wed 10th Jun



We pray for recently deceased
Hughie McAvoy, Annaclone

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 9th Susan Greeran
Mon 11th Patsy Greeran & Deceased Family Members
Fr Willie Doyle & Rose Rath
Sat 16th Mary & Arthur Burns
Mary Teresa Rooney
Leitrim
Sat 9th Winnie McCrickard
Brendan McElroy
Tommy & Joe Bannon
Wed 13th John Murphy
Sat 16th Nora McEvoy
Joe & Agnes McEvoy & Eilish Laverty

Dromara

Sun 10th John & Mary Drake

Cemetery Sunday 24th May

Gargory after 9am mass, Dromara 12 noon,
Leitrim 3pm, Dechomet 5pm

The day works well if many people step forward to help with parking, facilitating cars onto and off the roads as well as collecting. Please offer your help. Thank you to all who turn up yearly to volunteer.

SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191 / Drumgooland 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329
safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£866	£1,700
Priest	£1,316	£2,853

Hire of St Michael's Hall £50

Figures include monthly standing orders
Thank you for your continued contributions

First Holy Communion

St Mary's Sat 9th May 10am Dechomet
St Matthew's Sat 9th May 12noon Gargory
St Michael's Sat 16th May 11am Finnis

Please hand in your **Trócaire donations** by **Sun 17th May**. Any donations received after that date will be forwarded to Trócaire later in the year.

There will be an **Open Meeting** of all **St Michael's Hall** users on **Mon 18th May** at 8pm in the Hall. The aim of the meeting is to form a Hall Committee. The Hall is a major asset, people may have ideas on how to improve usage, how the various users can collaborate and what repairs are needed. Please come along.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Last **Music Session** of this season takes place on **Fri 15th May at 7:30pm**. Last chance to enjoy some great music & song etc. until the autumn. The usual warm welcome awaits and a light supper provided.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 15th - 20th May

Petitions, Donations and Candle money will be collected at all Masses this weekend or speak to a Committee Member before 15th May.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Talk by Pdraig Coyle **Mon 18th May 7:30pm**
Ballynahinch Parish Centre. Adm £1.

"The Life of Fr Patrick Kelly, Co Down priest and member of the French Resistance in WW2".

All welcome

Dromore Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to Knock Sun 31st May

led by Archbishop Eamon Martin
Coach departing St Therese's Church, Banbridge 7:30am & St Paul's Church, Lurgan 8am. 'Comfort & Coffee' stops in both directions. No evening meal. Cost £25 pp. Please book through St Therese's Parish Office (028 4066 2136) payment will be taken on the bus.

Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 10 May 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2

"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS"

JOHN 14:15-21



Today's Gospel is taken from Jesus' farewell to his disciples. As a farewell between friends who have spent years in each other's company, it has an especially intimate tone. It touches on four themes that were common in ancient farewell discourses.

The one who is departing usually asks those who will be left behind to guard their legacy. Jesus' legacy to his disciples is the teaching he has left them, his commandments, and so today's Gospel begins with a plea to keep the commandments.

The second theme is how those left behind will keep that legacy. We sometimes say that a group of people, such as the members of a religious order, have kept their founder's spirit alive. In the case of Jesus, this is even more true. The spirit he leaves them is not just good memories that will inspire them. The Spirit of Jesus will remain with them as a new form of presence. John calls this form of Jesus' presence the Paraclete. This is an unusual word we find only in the writings of John. It is not easy to find an exact English equivalent for it, so it is sometimes translated as 'advocate' or 'comforter.' The Greek word means literally someone you call to your aid. It could be used as a legal term for the lawyer of the accused ('advocate' in that sense) or for a friend who was prepared to give evidence on his behalf, a sort of character witness. It could also be used for someone who brought consolation or comfort to those who were downhearted. John probably intends all these meanings at once.

The Spirit that Jesus gives his followers will never desert them. We should keep in mind that the first readers of the Gospel lived in a hostile world where their faith might be put to the ultimate test by arrest, imprisonment and martyrdom. For many of them, the ordeal of appearing in a public court to give a defence of their faith must have been a nerve-wracking possibility. What were they going to say, especially if they were not used to speaking publicly? Jesus assures them they will not be left alone: the Spirit of Truth will be their constant companion. Like the word of Jesus, the Paraclete will abide with them.

The third theme is Jesus' assurance to his own that he will not leave them orphans. Even though the world believes he has died, his risen presence will remain with them, more mysterious indeed, but no less real by not being visible to the eye. The eye of faith will be able to discern the presence of the risen one and will know that his departure to the Father is only a temporary arrangement.

The fourth theme is that the revelation of Jesus has not ceased because he is no longer there. The future will bring new challenges but if they continue to remain united with Jesus and through him to the Father, he will continue to reveal himself to them in many new ways. ■

LEARN

The Christian is one who does God's will

Love is at the heart of the Christian life

God will never abandon us

DO

The Holy Spirit is the holy breath of God. As you breathe in and out, try to imagine your breath as the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, filling you with life every minute of the day.

SAY

"Lord, I know you are with me.
Help me to be aware of your presence at all times. Amen."

REFLECT

Towards the end of her life, my mother would often state that she always knew she was loved, that she had been surrounded by love throughout her 90 years. She appreciated just how fortunate she was.

To experience that kind of love is a very great blessing. Thank God, most of us have experienced the love of people close to us; we know what it is like to give and receive love.

But there are many whose experience is very different - people who have been abandoned, neglected, or taken for granted, people who have experienced the cold hand of rejection rather than the warm embrace of love and affection.

After the collapse of the Ceausescu regime in Romania in 1989, aid workers discovered orphanages in which thousands of children and teenagers were kept in appalling conditions. They were malnourished, dressed in rags and locked in cages or rooms for hours on end. Many found it difficult to communicate and were suffering from what psychologists call 'skin hunger.' They lacked warm human touch. They didn't know what it was like to be kissed, embraced or held close. They didn't know what it's like to be loved. These orphans lacked the essential requirements to develop into healthy, loving, lovable human beings. They had been treated horribly.

There's nothing worse than the feeling of being abandoned, forgotten and alone.

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that we will never be abandoned, forgotten and alone. "I will not leave you orphans," he declares. "I will come back to you."

He will send the Holy Spirit to be our help and guide. It's a statement of the profound love he and his Father have for all of us. We are loved so much they will never abandon us. No matter what difficulties we face, we can be certain we are not orphans. We are children of a loving God. ■

PRAY

Pray for those who feel lost, abandoned or unloved, that they may know that God is with them.