

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**7<sup>th</sup> December 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

## Recently Deceased

*Eileen McGouran, Carrickmannon*  
*Roisín Trainer, Naas*

*Aidan Campbell, Downpatrick, formerly Dromara*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Dechomet

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup>** Margaret Gilmore  
Olivia Fitzpatrick  
**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>** Jim Doyle

### Leitrim

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup>** Sean Keary  
Rosie McAleenan, Margaret O'Hare &  
Deceased Family Members (*Backaderry*)  
Patrick Charles McAleenan  
Mary Teresa Murphy & Deceased  
Family Members  
Arthur James Doyle & Behan Family  
Rose & Owen O'Hare (*Finnis*)

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup>** Eamonn McAnulty  
Davy McAnulty

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>** James Quail

### Gargory

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** **Jim McEvoy MM**  
John King  
Alfie King

### Dromara

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** Laura Armstrong, Hughie, Isabella &  
Hugh Lavery

**Tue 8<sup>th</sup>** Alice McKay

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup>** Davy McKay

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>** Canon Gerry McCrory

**SVDP Dromara Christmas Collection Sun 14<sup>th</sup>  
Dec.** Thanks for your support throughout the year

## **SVDP Drumgooland Christmas Appeal**

If you wish to contribute, please take a blue envelope from the back of the chapel and return to any volunteer or place in the collection basket.

## SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

**Collections Dromara Drumgooland**  
Parish £449 £1,192

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

## **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary**

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec** (*a holy day of obligation*)

Masses 10am Leitrim, 7:30pm Dechomet

## **Drumgooland Parish Council meeting**

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 8:15pm**

## **Do This in Memory**

The First Communion preparation programme continues on **13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Dec**

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish*

*James William Burke*

## **Friends of St Michael's Parent Group**

**BINGO Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** in the Parish Hall.

Doors open at 1:30pm, Bingo starts at 2pm.

## **Dromara Christmas Whist in St Michaels Hall**

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8pm.** Everyone Welcome.

Please come and support.

## **St Mary's PS Open Afternoon Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**2-3:30pm** for prospective New Entrants

## *Santa is coming to town!*

*Sponsored by Eurospar, Dromara.*

## **Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm, Peter Morgan's Cottage**

Come meet Santa, Mrs Claus & his magical helpers for a fun filled night of food, balloon modelling, a present from Santa and a surprise to end the night!

*All proceeds donated to Cancer Fund for Children*

**Anam Cara** (*the organisation that supports bereaved parents*) **Parent Support Evening**

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7:30pm,** Armagh City Hotel.

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was.

This Christmas the *Friends of St Michael's Parents' Group* are running a **Cash Call**. Tickets are £10 each or three for £20. **1<sup>st</sup> prize is £300 & 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £200.** Tickets can be purchased through the school or via PayPal. Please see Facebook for more details.

## Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329

[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 7 December 2025 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 2

## PREPARE THE WAY

MATTHEW 3:1-12



In today's passage, we meet John the Baptist, who is presented as the one preparing the way for Jesus. John's appearance and lifestyle — wearing camel's hair and eating locusts — highlight his role as a prophet, calling the people to repentance. His message is simple but powerful: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is not just a call to feel sorry for past mistakes, but an invitation to change direction and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

John's baptism is a symbol of this repentance, a sign of turning away from sin and returning to God. However, he warns those who come for baptism not to rely on their heritage or status. "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance," he says, meaning true change must show in one's actions, not just words.

John also points to someone greater who will come after him, referring to Jesus. He speaks of Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit and fire — a sign of purification and judgment. John's words remind us that the time to prepare for Christ's coming is now, and we must make sure our hearts are ready to receive Him. ■

### REFLECT

John the Baptist appears in the wilderness, crying out: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." His words are not gentle suggestions — they're a challenge. He is calling people to change direction, to turn back to God with sincerity.

Remarkably, the people come. They leave the safety of their towns and walk into the desert. They confess their sins and are baptised. There's a deep hunger here — a recognition that something in their lives needs to be made right.

But John doesn't speak softly to everyone. He warns the Pharisees and Sadducees not to rely on their heritage or status. Being from Abraham's family isn't enough. "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance," he says. Faith must show itself in the way we live.

This passage is read during Advent because it's a season of preparation — not just for celebrating Christmas, but for welcoming Christ into our lives again. John reminds us that preparation is not just lighting candles or singing carols. It begins with the heart.

Repentance is not about guilt — it's about grace. It's the grace of a new beginning, a fresh start. The Lord is near. He comes not to condemn, but to renew. ■

### DO

Take one concrete step this week—whether it's reaching out to forgive someone, letting go of a bad habit, or committing to a daily act of kindness. This simple practice helps live out John's call to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance."



### LEARN

"Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life"

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1431*

### SAY

Lord, help me to see where I need to change.  
Give me the courage to turn back to You,  
And the grace to live with a renewed heart.  
Amen.