

Sacrament of ANOINTING OF THE SICK

“The Church believes and confesses that among the seven sacraments there is one especially intended to strengthen those who are being tried by illness, the Anointing of the Sick.”
— Catechism of the Catholic Church 1511

THE LAST RITES

Recently, during a parish mission, we were invited to a service of healing. In the service, the presider invited those of us who felt in need of healing to come forward for the anointing of the sick.

Almost all of those in attendance – and the Church was packed – presented themselves to the clergy. Some were clearly ill, others were elderly, but there were many others, of a different age and appearing very healthy, who went forward. Nearly everyone seemed to be identifying themselves as in need of Christ's healing.

Prior to Vatican II this would have been inconceivable. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was, back then, a sacrament reserved for those at the point of death. Known as 'Extreme Unction' it was considered to be the last sacrament along with Confession and Holy Communion or Viaticum (food for the way) that a person would receive in the moments leading up to death.

'Last Rites' is how most of us understand the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. To be present with someone when they receive these rites is a profoundly moving and privileged experience.

AN INNER PAIN

To refer to the sacrament instead as the 'Anointing of the Sick' helps us to see beyond the death bed to the experience of illness from which so many suffer.

It's not just physical either, but more often emotional or psychological. Hence the fact that people who can appear apparently healthy present themselves, presumably dealing with an inner pain that's not visible to the outside world.

Every time this sacrament is celebrated, Jesus, in the person of the priest, comes to each individual who's suffering. The point of receiving the sacrament is not

that a miracle will occur but that a person will be given the grace and inner healing to live with their pain.

COMMUNITY CARE

Pope Francis speaks of this sacrament in relation to the parable of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke.

The Good Samaritan takes care of the suffering man by pouring oil and wine on his wounds. Whilst the oil reminds us of the chrism blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass in Holy Week, the wine symbolises Christ's love and grace which flow from the gift of his life for us.

The suffering person is entrusted to the innkeeper to continue to care for him and he's told not to spare any expense. Pope Francis tells us that this innkeeper is the Church, the Christian community. In other words, each one of us has a responsibility, a ministry, to care for those who are sick or struggling in mind or body.

Our care of one another is a way of lavishing God's mercy and salvation on those who need it.

ERADICATING LONELINESS

The celebration of this beautiful sacrament still has a long way to go.

Despite a change in name, people are still fearful that if a priest offers the sacrament it somehow implies imminent death. This isn't the case of course, since when a priest comes he does so representing Jesus, who comes to relieve those who are sick, to give them strength and hope.

We should be glad that this sacrament is there for us. Sickness can be a very lonely experience which can leave us feeling vulnerable and fearful. Being offered the sacrament of the sick to strengthen us, helps to assure us that we're not alone, that the Lord is with us and we have the whole community praying with us and for us. ■

22 November 2015 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Soul Space

Sacrament of ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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Season colour: **WHITE**

SERIES: Life in Christ

In this series, Sarah Adams explores the beauty and significance of the sacraments and rites that mark our journey of faith and strengthen our ever-growing relationship with God

Today's readings:
Dn 7:13-14
Ps 92:1-2, 5
Apoc 1:5-8
Jn 18:33-37



Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – 22nd November 2015

Sunday Mass times

Dechomet – Sat evening 6pm
Leitrim – Sat evening 7.30pm
Gargory – Sun morning 8.30am
Leitrim – Sun morning 9.30am
Dromara – Sun morning 11am

Masses this week

Mon 9.00am Leitrim
Mon 7.30pm Dechomet
Tues 9.00am Dromara
Wed 7.30pm Leitrim
Fri 7.30pm Dromara Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament will run until 8.30pm each Friday.

Christmas Eve Masses 8pm Dechomet, Gargory & Leitrim; 9.30pm Dromara

Recently deceased Mary Kelly, Bann Road. Funeral Sun 2pm Leitrim

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 21st – Mary Ellen O'Hare; John Doyle

Leitrim

Sat 21st – Gerard Rush (MM); Ryan Doyle; Charlie, Brigid, Jim, Jerome and Phelim Shields;
Ellen O'Hare (Ballymagreehan)
Wed 25th – Gerard McElroy
Sun 29th – Alfie King

Gargory

Sun 22nd – James Gribben (Magheramayo); Felix McCartan and Deceased Family Members

Dromara

Fri 27th – James Anthony King; Michael McKey
Sun 29th – Teresa McNeill; James and Mary Agnes McKenny

Service of Remembrance 12th Annual PIPS Newry & Mourne Christmas Service of Remembrance, Dominican Church, Newry on Sun 13th Dec 4pm

Offerings

	Parish 15 th Nov
Drumgooland	£1,151
Dromara	£565

We welcome into the Parish of Drumgooland Michael Noel Hardy; Kyra Gabrielle McMullan and Aisling Clare Feeney.

Lourdes 59 Club £55 winner Mary McCann No. 11

Traditional Music Night Fri 27th Nov from 8pm in Peter Morgan's Cottage - Music, Song & Supper, £3. Everyone Welcome!

Drumgooland Parish Fundraiser John Kerr has released an album of original songs and is donating the proceeds to the parish. The album will be launched at an Evening of Music & Song on Fri 4th Dec from 7.30pm in Fontenoy Hall. Special guests include Claire McEvoy, and her group "Ceoldroim", and children from St Mary's and St Matthew's schools. Admission: Adults £2.50, Children free. Please come along and support this fundraising effort.

Christmas and Gift Fair in St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan Fri 4th Dec from 7 to 9 pm. Lots of great ideas for Christmas presents plus an opportunity for children to come and meet with Santa. Free Admission.

St Colman's High & Sixth Form College, Ballynahinch '50th Christmas Celebration' Sun 6th Dec, 2pm – 6pm. Afternoon tea will be served.

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner Sun 13th Dec, 1pm, St Michaels Hall, Finnis. Anyone willing to help at the Dinner from 1pm please contact a committee member.

Ladies Night Pretty 'N' Pink fundraiser 16th Oct Thank You everyone who supported, donated and donated online through JustGiving.com. £1,145 was raised. A great night was had by all.

Child Safeguarding Awareness Training

Mon 23rd Nov 7pm, Laitroim Fontenoy Hall. Who needs to attend? Every volunteer (reader, collector, Eucharistic minister, church cleaner, choir, committee member...) aged 18 or over, must attend one session. If I have attended before, do I need to come back? No, 146 have already attended, this is an appeal to the 59 others. If I attended this training in school or sports organisation, etc., do I need to attend? Yes, it must be delivered by diocesan representatives. If I intend to volunteer should I attend? Yes, that would be helpful. What if I am not free on Mon night? There will be more but the sooner you attend the better. The session will only last 1 hour.

Dromara SVP Christmas cards on Sale after Mass

Trócaire Global Gifts leaflets at the back of churches

St Michael's PS Open Day Sat 28th Nov 10.30-2.30pm

Open Day St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, Sat 28th Nov 10am–1pm. P6, P7 & Year 13 entrants are welcome to attend.

Table Quiz in aid of the NI Childrens' Heartbeat Trust followed by music by David Galway will be held in Dolly's Brae Inn on Sat 28th Nov at 8.30pm.

Hugh, Maureen and Roisin would like to Thank all those who supported the recent Down GAA Jailbreak Fundraiser. The Bail target was achieved and hopefully the young players in our Community will benefit from the money raised through their involvement with our County teams. Here they will be developed through the New Mourne Academy Initiative funded by the Jailbreak Fundraiser. Thank you.

St Vincent de Paul Helplines

Drumgooland 077 3883 7895 / 079 7981 5269
Dromara 077 3883 8191

