

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 028 4065 0207 Emergency Tel: 07969 403762  
Email: [dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org](mailto:dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org) Web: [www.dromaradrumgooland.org](http://www.dromaradrumgooland.org)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**30<sup>th</sup> 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  
**Tues** 7:30pm Leitrim (*there will be no mass on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>*)  
**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Dechomet

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup>** Stephen McElroy

### Leitrim

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup>** Patrick Hugh Morgan (*Derryneil*)  
Kathleen Cunningham  
**Tue 1<sup>st</sup>** Mickey & Christopher Malone  
**Sat 5<sup>th</sup>** Agnes & John Boyd

### Dromara

**Sun 30<sup>th</sup>** Art Gilmore  
Stephen O'Hare (*Finnis*)  
Deceased Members of  
Lundy Family (*Dree*)  
**Fri 4<sup>th</sup>** Joe & Margaret Rice &  
Deceased Family Members  
**Sun 6<sup>th</sup>** Karen Rice MM

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's  
Finnis Parents Group' on **Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Apr at 3pm**  
for the **final Bingo Session** of this academic year  
in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm.

**£100 JACKPOT MUST GO.**

Good fun, refreshments and a great raffle,  
so please come along and show your support  
for the school.

## Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

To mark the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of  
St Oliver Plunkett (1625-2025) the Society's next  
event in its 2025 programme is a talk by  
Tommy Burns, entitled "**St Oliver Plunkett -  
A Pilgrim of Hope and Peace**"

Tommy Burns is the Drogheda-based author of  
"St Oliver Plunkett, Journey to Sainthood",  
published in 2014.

**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Apr 7:30pm St Peter's Hall Lurgan**  
All members and non-members welcome.

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £668 £1,084

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

**Confirmation** will be celebrated by  
Archbishop Eamon Martin on  
**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 6pm**  
in St Michael's Church, Finnis.

**Congratulations** to the P4 pupils of  
St Matthew's, St Mary's and St Michael's  
who celebrated their First Confession last month

*We welcome into Dromara Parish*  
*Olivia Mary McNeill, Seamus Peter Patrick*  
*O'Hare, Blathnaid Anne McKay & Kai O'Hare*

## Peter Morgan's Cottage

Local History Talk with Trevor Martin

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Apr at 7.30pm**

If you have relatives who emigrated from  
Finnis/Dromara area to the West of America  
& Mining areas, do get in touch with Trevor  
or any Committee Member

**Easter Crafts and Coffee Morning**  
in Peter Morgan's Cottage, Finnis, Dromara  
**on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April from 11am-2pm.**

Browse a variety of homemade crafts,  
perfect for Easter gifts and decorations.  
Proceeds in aid of D&D Lourdes Fund.

## Walk with Carlo

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup> April 2pm to 5pm**

We invite young people and families to join  
us at Dromantine Conference Centre to learn  
about Carlo Acutis a young man of extraordinary  
faith. We will walk in his footsteps and learn about  
his life through the faith and good works of other  
young people from our own local parishes and  
beyond. As we look forward to Carlos'  
cannonization we pray for all our youth that they  
will be blessed with the Spirit and faith of  
Carlo. Please register for this event via email to  
[youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org)

## SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

**Diocesan Safeguarding Officer:** Stephen Sherry  
07301246329/ [safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

## THE PRODIGAL SON

LK 15: 1-3, 11-32



Visitors admire paintings by Rembrandt, "The Return of the Prodigal Son" - St. Petersburg, Russia

This is arguably one of the most popular Gospel stories read at mass and is one that a lot of our young people know from religious education in classrooms.

The main character and the real hero is the loving father, who waits in anticipation for the return of his son. The younger son, through a mixture of immaturity, greed or selfishness, sets out to see the world with the inheritance he receives. Unfortunately, his luck runs out, his life hits rock bottom. The young man returns to his father's house, a place of refuge and a place where he will receive unconditional love and mercy. A party is held in his honour. The parallels between the treatment of the Father of his youngest son is so closely aligned to the way God our Father treats us when we come to his table. We are welcomed to God's house with open arms. The Gospel scene is well depicted in Rembrandt's painting, Return of the Prodigal Son. The father is embracing his young son, his left hand the large strong hand of a man, his right hand is the delicate hand of a woman, showing mercy and kindness. ■

### DO

Think of concrete ways you can go out to your community and bring the love and tenderness of Jesus to the lives of others. No action is too small.



### REFLECT

**S**tories of transformation are part and parcel of the Gospels. Our interaction with Jesus, brings about some kind of change within us. And it differs from person to person. Both you and I may read the same parable, the same gospel story, and it may change us, affect us in two totally different ways. Today's image of the Prodigal Son perhaps? How would you have reacted to the return of the Son after many years away from his family? After spending all of his inheritance. You can imagine the tension in the household when he returns, and yet, God is not vindictive, God does not hold grudges, God is loving and merciful. The fatted calf is killed, so that the long lost son can be greeted at the door of his home with a celebration.

Many of us attend a Lenten Penitential service this time of year and in placing ourselves before God and asking for forgiveness, we are praying for some kind of transformation to take place in our lives. How can I take my human self, with all the anger I might be holding on to, with all the resentments I may be feeling, how can I transform this into an expression of God's love, forgiveness and mercy. ■

### SAY

**"It is not easy to find a name that will suitably express so great an excellence, unless it is better to speak in this way: ... one God of whom are all things, through whom are all things, in whom are all things."**

(St. Augustine)

### LEARN

Save us from the temptations that lead us away from you, and draw us back by the constancy of your love.