

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**8<sup>th</sup> 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



## St Patrick's Day masses

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup>** 7pm Dromara 8pm Leitrim  
**Tues 17<sup>th</sup>** 10am Gargory 7:30pm Dechomet



*We pray for our recently deceased*  
*Peter Joe O'Hare, Dree Hill*  
*Chris Owens, Ribadoo Rd*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Dechomet

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Brian, Colm & Sr Josephine Rooney

### Leitrim

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Patsy, Cissie & Colette McMullan  
Barney O'Hare

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>** Margaret McCrickard  
Anne Bannon  
Malachy Savage

### Dromara

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup>** Peter McNeill & John McNeill

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>** Mary Hughes (Derry)

### Gargory

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>** Noleen Hardy

## SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191  
Drumgooland 07825 419067

## Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329  
[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish	£839	£2,180
Priest	£667	£1,974

Figures include monthly standing orders  
Thank you for your continued contributions  
St Michael's Hall - Whist £500

## First Confession

St Michael's **Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm**

## Sign of Peace



I will restore the option of the handshake  
over the coming weeks

## Children's Heartbeat Trust

Kieran and Paula Doyle and extended family  
wish to thank all those who contributed to  
the donations raised in **memory of Louie**.  
**£3,400.70** was given to the Trust during the week

## Cancer Research UK

Dromara local committee

Quiz, **Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**

King's Bar, Finnis

Teams of six, max. Entry fee £5 per person  
All support most welcome

## Dromore Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

**15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May (inclusive)**

Pilgrims and workers £890

Assisted Pilgrims £850

If interested, please contact any member  
of the Lourdes Committee

## Nine-day Pilgrimage to Rome & Umbria

**27<sup>th</sup> Jul-4<sup>th</sup> Aug**

€1,395 includes flights, accommodation,  
most dinners, coaching and all tours.

Visiting some of the most beautiful places in  
Italy including Assisi, Orvieto and Spoleto.

Mass at the tomb of St Carlo Acutis.

For more information email: [info@myriam.ie](mailto:info@myriam.ie)

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish*  
*Owen Liam Ward*

Live Streaming of Masses: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) Dromara

# Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## THE WORD

Year A • 8 March 2026 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 3

The story of the meeting of Jesus and a woman at the well is one of the highlights of John's Gospel. More than any other Gospel, John emphasises the importance of personal encounters with Jesus.

For Jews, Samaria was a kind of 'no man's land' between the regions of Galilee and Judea. Samaria had at one time been the seat of the Independent Jewish Kingdom of Israel. Captured by the Assyrians more than 700 years before the birth of Christ, it had been 'planted' with non-Jewish people who intermarried with remnants of the local Jewish population. Other Jews saw them as outsiders and as tainted. Samaritans returned the compliment and sometimes harassed Jewish pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. It was territory best avoided. The Samaritans were proud of their ancient Jewish roots, however, including the well of the patriarch Jacob that is the scene of today's Gospel.

Tired from travelling and in need of a drink, Jesus stops at a well where he encounters a Samaritan woman with a colourful past who has come to draw water from it. Jesus does the unthinkable. He speaks to her. He is aware of her past but doesn't let it get in the way. He is aware, too, that she is a Samaritan. But he doesn't see her as different or unworthy or inferior. Instead, he sees the good in her.

He asks her to give him a drink. She replies, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" She's astonished that he would speak to her, of all people.

Then they start to talk about religion, and Jesus reveals himself as the Messiah. Rather than dismiss his claim, the woman returns to her people to tell them about Jesus. She bears witness to Jesus. This outcast of a woman, this foreigner, this outsider, brings people to faith. She becomes a true disciple.

All because Jesus treated her with love and respect. Just like he treated everyone he encountered. ■

### SAY

"Lord, help me to treat everyone as you would treat them. Fill me with your love."

### PRAY

Today's Gospel is a story of how a woman and her townspeople come to faith. Thank God for the gift of faith you have received. Pray for a deepening of your faith.



### REFLECT

As 1938 began, life was good for 11-year-old Robert Borger. His family owned an electrical goods shop in Vienna. He liked school, had many friends. Then disaster struck. Hitler marched into Austria, unifying the country with Germany. It was a catastrophe for Austria's Jews, and the Borger family was Jewish. Jews were assaulted, their businesses ransacked, their lives made intolerable.

Overnight, Robert's schoolmates shunned him. They wouldn't play with him, taunted him, chased him away. Imagine his horror at suddenly being terrorised by those he considered friends.

Desperate to get his son to safety, Robert's father placed an ad in *The Guardian* newspaper, which read: 'I seek a kind person who will educate my intelligent boy, aged 11, Viennese of good family.'

A wonderful Welsh couple responded to the ad and Robert eventually reached them in Wales. But he was never the same. He had experienced so much trauma, he died before his time, another victim of the Nazis.

That's what racism does, what hate produces. Hitler's racism murdered over 6 million Jews, gypsies and others, destroyed the lives of millions more, like Robert. And people let it happen. There would have been no holocaust if enough Germans had opposed Hitler, if they'd said no. But they remained silent, and so became complicit in genocide.

Three years ago, at world youth day in Portugal, Pope Francis spoke to half a million pilgrims from throughout the world. "Friends, I want to be clear with you," he said. "In the church, there is room for

everyone. Everyone. In the church, no one is left out or left over. There is room for everyone, just the way we are.

"Everyone, everyone, everyone," he repeated.

That message summed up Francis's papacy. Open church, open hearts. It's a message of inclusion our church needs to hear. It's a message of inclusion our world badly needs to hear.

We see what racism is doing in Gaza today, what racism is doing in so many countries, how hate is flooding the internet, dividing people rather than bringing them together.

Racism is a sin. It's never justified under any circumstances against any person or any group. So, what to do?

First, be actively unracist. It's not enough to oppose racism. We must actively oppose it, take a stand against it, wherever we encounter it - in person or online. When we see hate, we must call it out.

Second, try to stand in the other person's shoes. Imagine you were that person. How would you like to be treated?

Third, be welcoming. Go out of your way to make people feel at home. To be Christian is to welcome and include. It is the opposite of them and us. For Christians, there is no them and us - only everyone together, as Pope Francis told those young people.

Jesus didn't see the Samaritan woman as a foreigner to be avoided, victimised or denigrated. He treated her with profound respect. It's how we must treat everyone. ■

### LEARN

Water is a central image of today's Gospel. It teaches us that Jesus is the living water that leads us to eternal life.

Christians make no distinctions between people

### DO

Remember Jesus' words in the judgement scene in Matthew's Gospel: I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Think about your attitude to immigrants, to strangers. Will God be pleased with you on judgement day?