

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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23rd Sunday in ordinary time
7th September 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

We pray for our recently deceased



Tommy Love, Riverside, Leitrim

ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 6th Eddie McAleenan
Eugene O'Hare & Deceased
Family Members
Nicky Duggan & Deceased
Family Members
Sat 13th Mary Catherine & Seamus Doyle

Gargory

Sun 7th Elizabeth & Patrick McCartan
Josephine King
Sun 14th Oliver McEvoy

Dromara

Sun 7th Pat & John Gordon
Fri 12th Patrick McGrillen
Peter Greenan (*Castlewellan*) &
Deceased Family Members
Declan & Hugh Pat O'Hare
Sun 14th Susan Darby, Joe McCann &
Deceased Family Members

Date for your Diary

Peter Morgan's Cottage

How to Research your Family History
with Trevor Martin in 2 evening sessions

Wed 1st & Wed 22nd Oct

More details to follow

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Collections

Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £477 £966

Thank you for your continued contributions

New Altar Servers

The forms will be available through the primary schools in the coming weeks.

All children will be trained, and the parish follows the safeguarding policies of the diocese.

The forms can be handed in at mass or returned to the school.

Any altar server who no longer wishes to serve, please let me know. The help of older altar servers is greatly appreciated, especially to help the new altar servers settle in their roles.

Preparation for First Holy Communion

The *Do This in Memory* material has not yet been printed but hopefully will be available later this month. The dates for the programme will be published as soon as possible.

Parish Council Meetings

Drumgooland **Mon 8th Sept 8pm**
Dromara **Mon 15th Sept 8pm**

Leitrim Church Boiler

The boiler was not working consistently; it was 25 years old. McMullan Brothers (*Alternative Heat*) assessed the boiler and the needs of the church. The view expressed was to replace the boiler rather than continually repair, a new boiler would also be more energy efficient. The old boiler was recently removed, the new one installed, pipe work and electrics in the boiler house were updated. The work took over two weeks. There has been no charge to the parish for all this work.

Thank you to McMullan Brother for this extremely generous gift.

St Michael's Bowling Club

Practice continues in St Michael's Hall on Thurs evenings at 7-30pm
New members warmly welcomed

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

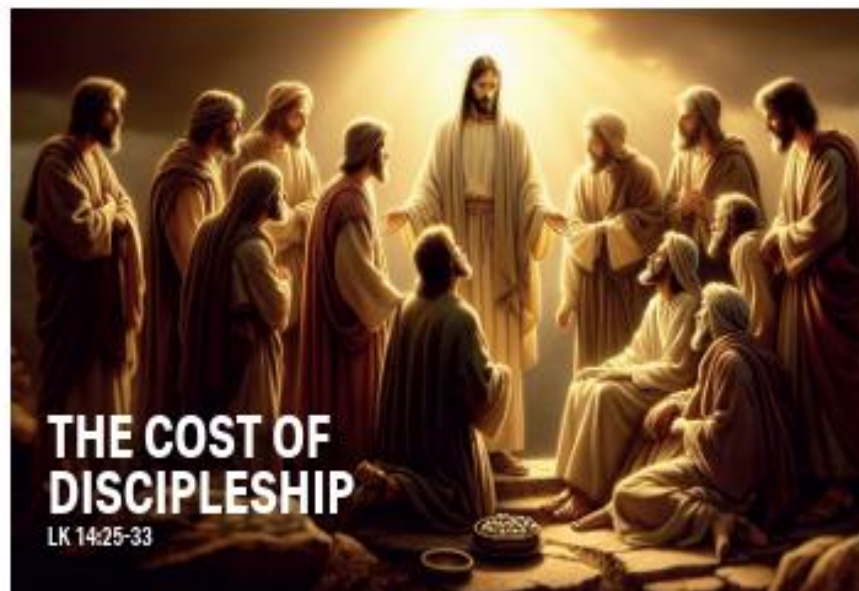
Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329
safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Sunday Message

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 7 September 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



In today's Gospel, Jesus points out the tremendous cost of becoming a disciple. It will involve 'hating' your nearest and dearest, hating even your own life. It is akin to taking up the cross and following Jesus.

The best way to understand the word 'hate' here is to take it as another way of stating a preference. Disciples are to prefer Jesus above all else, including their family and even their own life. For most who've grown up in Christian households, this will seldom be an issue. But Jesus is thinking of those who may be on the verge of deciding to follow him but find it difficult due to family opposition. If you were from a Jewish family, becoming a follower of Jesus meant breaking with ways and values that had been hard won by your ancestors. If you were a prospective pagan convert reading Luke's Gospel to decide whether to follow this 'new way,' the choice could seem just as demanding.

Christians were regarded as a very strange, foreign group whose way of life ran against the grain of Greek and Roman society. Their fellowship included people on the margins – poor workers, even slaves. Some new Christians might have been tempted to cover up their membership of the church by a kind of public conformity to their family's older ways. If this were the case, they would be constantly looking over their shoulders and could never be free enough to be whole-hearted Christians. They will only be able to find that freedom through a definitive break with their families that might appear to their parents as though their children 'hated' them.

For those deeply attached to their families, that kind of break can seem like a painful death. This is why Jesus compares it to the most painful death known, death on a cross. Genuine disciples must take up the cross as Jesus did. In doing so, they will discover it is the way that leads to the new life of Resurrection.

The two parable-like stories about the need to count the cost should be seen in the light of these stark sayings. By putting the parable of the tower builder and the king going to war immediately after the saying about taking up one's cross, Luke is clearly warning would-be converts to calculate carefully the cost involved in following Jesus. It will demand total freedom from everything we hold dear. ■

PRAY

It is not easy to be a Christian in our secular society. Pray for the members of your family and your parish, and for the church throughout the world, that we will be steadfast in the faith and effective witnesses to it.

SAY

"Lord, help me to put you first at all times. Allow nothing to hold me back from being faithful to you. Amen."

REFLECT

Today's Gospel is really about freedom. To be truly free, you sometimes have to let go of dearly held plans or attachments that hold you back from being your best self or following your true calling. The founder of the Redemptorists, St Alphonsus Liguori, often wrote about this kind of freedom. He imagines how a skylark that has spent most of its life in a cage might long to escape. One day, the owner leaves the cage open. The bird flies out eagerly, but after a short flight, discovers it can go no further because it is shackled by a silken thread so fine it has never noticed it. Alphonsus suggests that our ambitions to do great things are often hampered by such invisible threads that we find too difficult to snap. As you read today's Gospel, consider if there is any silken thread preventing you from responding whole-heartedly to the good news. ■

DO

Think about what it means to follow Jesus. Is there anything you need to change in order to be a more committed disciple?



LEARN

The true disciple puts Jesus Christ and his teaching above everything else

The true disciple knows that discipleship costs

To follow Jesus faithfully is the wisest calculation any person can make

Religion isn't a hobby, a private concern – like golf or yoga or football. Everything we do must be at the service of God's Kingdom