

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

St Mary's, Dregish · St Patrick's, Castlederg · St Francis of Assisi, Drumnabey

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SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

GOSPEL: ST MATTHEW 5:1-12 THE BEATITUDES OF JESUS

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven'

The teachings of the Beatitudes (blessings), by Jesus, brought a deeper understanding and meaning to the Ten Commandments, addressing the attitudes necessary to live out the teachings of the Commandments. Jesus taught the Beatitudes at the beginning of His public ministry (part of the Sermon on the Mount) and, notably, these teachings were mirrored in His lifestyle: Jesus *lived* the Beatitudes, teaching their meaning through His own example.

Like many of the teachings of Jesus, the Beatitudes are challenging. The first Beatitude (*above*) lays the foundation for the rest of them. To be *poor in spirit* is to have an awareness of the constant need for God's loving care and guidance in our lives. We pray today for the grace to be people of the first Beatitude, so that our priorities in life will reflect Jesus' teachings and example. We also ask that we will be inspired by the Saints of the Church, whose Solemnity we celebrate today, so that we too will walk the path of life that will lead to the true riches of God's kingdom.

SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil: Saturday 6.00pm Castlederg. Sunday: 9.00am Dregish, 11.00am Castlederg, 12.30pm Drumnabey
Mass in Castlederg on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month (8 & 22 Nov + 29 Nov – 5th Sunday)

PLEASE NOTE THE WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday 2 November – All Souls Day: 10.00am and 7.30pm, Castlederg,

Friday 6 November: 10.00am and 7.30pm (*Mass for the Faithful Departed*), Castlederg

All Masses in Castlederg continue to be live-streamed: www.castledergparish.com or www.parishofaghyaran.com

SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE DETAILS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 7 & 8 NOVEMBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Saturday 7 November – 6.00pm Vigil: Group **B.** Sunday 8 November – 11.00am: Group **C.** (Details of the Groups on reverse).

Parishioners from these areas should phone the Parochial House, between 11am & 2pm on Thurs or Fri, to book a place. If spaces are still available after 2pm on Friday, a Facebook notice will be posted, opening booking by email up to everyone (on a first come, first served basis).

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DRUMNABEY: Sunday 8 November – 12.30pm: Castlebane, Drumnabey Road, Scarvagherin, Goland, Drumnabey Park, Gamble Park.

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sunday 8 November – 9.00am: Drumlegagh, Baronscourt, Letterbin, Envagh, Leglands, Tullymuck.

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR OUR CHURCHES (IN NORTHERN IRELAND)

Under the current restrictions, everyone must wear a face mask when entering and leaving church. It is also strongly recommended that masks are worn while in church. It remains most important that people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest Covid-19 infection, do not come to Mass.

For the time being, the numbers who can attend weddings and funerals are restricted to 25. This number applies also to those attending graveside services. The temporary regulations also ban wakes, funeral receptions and wedding receptions from taking place.

We must keep in our prayers all those who are suffering directly from Covid-19, those who are anxious about the pandemic, those in the medical and caring professions and all frontline workers who take grave risks on our behalf. We pray also for those scientists who are developing treatments and vaccines, that their work will be blessed by Jesus, the Divine Healer. We look forward to the day when the restrictions in numbers attending Mass will no longer be required.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £2,099. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass. Thank you also to those who contribute by Standing Order.

Sincere thanks for further donation of £300 towards the heating project in Castlederg. Gift Aid will be claimed on all donations (if the donors are Gift Aid eligible/signed up for Gift Aid), which boosts donations by 25%! Your ongoing generosity towards this project is very much appreciated.

CAN YOU FOSTER? Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Can you provide a safe, secure place for a child to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Foster placements can be: long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support. To learn more please telephone Barnardo's Fostering NI on 028 9065 2288 or visit website <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/foster>.

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: St Patrick's, Castlederg next Friday evening, 6 November at 7.30pm.

During this Mass we will light a candle in remembrance of those who have died in the past year. I know that many would like to attend this Mass but, unfortunately, it will have to be restricted to the families of those who have died in the past year. One pew will be available for each family (a maximum of five/ six people per pew).

The families hoping to attend should nominate one family member to book the family pew. Booking should be done by telephone (028 816 71393) between 11am and 7pm tomorrow, Monday 2 November. In order to ensure the safety of our community, no-one should travel into the area for this Mass which will, of course, be streamed online and the stream will be recorded.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES: Since we were unable to celebrate this event in the traditional way this year, I intend to bless all the graves in our graveyards during this first week of November. Unfortunately, it will have to take place privately, keeping in line with the current restrictions.

'REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER' SACRED SPACE IN OUR HOMES: You are invited to create a Sacred Space in your home for November in memory of your deceased family members and friends. Your Sacred Space might include some of the following: photographs or memorial cards, a little box or basket with the names of those you would like remembered in prayer, a crucifix, sacred picture or rosary beads, holy water, a candle (*taking care with it, of course!*). Autumn leaves might be gathered and perhaps some purple material (if you have some readily available) could be used to help create and adorn your Sacred Space. Parents, in particular, are asked to involve their children in creating Sacred Space in the home for November. Those whose names you place on your sacred space will be included in the Prayer of the Faithful at our Masses in the parish throughout the month of November.

We will also create a Sacred Space in each of our churches. From Monday 2 November you are welcome to write out and bring along the names of your deceased relatives and friends, and place these in the baskets that you will find in the Sacred Space. (In compliance with Covid precautions, no facility will be in place within the church this year for you to write the names). You might also like to light a candle in the church in memory of your loved ones.

NOVEMBER PLEDGE The Pioneer Association is promoting the November' Pledge as a sacrificial act in honour of the Holy Souls. If you would like to take up the *Pledge for November*, log into website: www.pioneerassociation.ie to enrol.

CEMETERY COLLECTION: There is a special envelope in your envelope box for this annual collection, which is due to take place next Sunday, 8 November. This collection goes towards the substantial and ongoing costs of the upkeep of our four graveyards. **Thank you** to all who maintain our graveyards to such a high standard throughout the year. Your hard work and dedication to this job is much appreciated. Thank you also to everyone for keeping your graves so well, and special thanks to those who care for graves where there is no-one to look after them.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR DECEASED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: The Annual Mass for deceased children and young people will be celebrated in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Sunday 8 November, at 7.00pm. You can join this Mass live on the St Eugene's Cathedral webcam. If you would like to have a child or young person remembered at this Mass, please email the name to lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 7126 4087.

PRAYER RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES FOR NOVEMBER: The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre has created a range of prayer resources for families to use at home during November in memory of loved ones who have died. These include practical ways to pray together at home, prayers you can use and tips on creating a sacred space for prayer. For the mid-term break there is a *'World Drawing God Day'*, which is a great way to engage children for hours in creative drawing. Drawings can be shared online and you can take an online tour of the Drawing God Museum. To view all the available resources, visit www.catecheticalcentre.org

LOUGH DERG Memorial Service for deceased pilgrims and benefactors. Live via webcam, St Mary's, Pettigo, Sunday 22 November, at 7pm: www.churchservices.tv/pettigo. To enrol a loved one, email: info@loughderg.org / Tel 0035371 9861518.

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: WEEKEND MASS BOOKING ROTA - NOVEMBER 2020

| GROUP A | GROUP B | GROUP C | GROUP D |
|---|---|---|--|
| Sat 21 November, 6pm | Sat 7 November, 6pm Sun 22 November, 11am | Sun 8 November, 11am Sat 28 November, 6pm | Sat 14 November, 6pm Sun 29 November, 11am |
| Castlefin Road Castlefin Park Churchtown Park Hillview Park Brooke Park Harpur Park Willowcrest Stoney Heights Priestsessagh Road Freughlough Road | Town Centre Ferguson Crescent Main Street Upper & Lower Strabane Rd Castleview Tce Mount Bernard Drive Derg Fold, Castlegore Cashel Rd, Ganvaghan Rd Drumquin Road Castlebane Road | Killeter Rd, Dergview Park Alexander Park Ashburn Pk, Kilclean Road Ashleigh Court Oakleigh Grove Kilcroagh Rd, Cavan Road Whiterock Pk, Mucklehill View Kilcurragh Park Greystone Avenue Moneygal Rd, Pollyarnon Rd | Lurganbuoy Road Lurganbuoy Park Garag Hill Burnside Villas Young Crescent Hawthorn Park Crockett Park Hospital Road Breezemount Park |

NEXT SUNDAY, 8 November, is the Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. The Gospel we will listen to is St Matthew 24:42-44, *Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids*. You can view the Readings in advance on www.catholicbishops.ie/readings

Eternal rest grant on to them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.