

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

REV PAUL FRASER PP, 16 CASTLEFIN ROAD, CASTLEDERG, CO TYRONE, BT81 7BT

Tel: 028 816 71393 Email: castledergparish@derrydiocese.org Parish Website: www.castledergparish.com

Derry Diocesan Website: www.derrydiocese.org Diocesan Facebook: Derry Diocese

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST 2020

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) Gospel: St Matthew 14:13-21

In the 'parables of the kingdom' that we listened to in the last few weeks, we heard how the kingdom, like the seed, starts small but has great potential for growing, given the right conditions. Today, that theory is extended, in the miracle of the five loaves and two fish – the small amount of food, insufficient to feed the crowd, multiplies at the hands of Jesus and becomes an abundance, that satisfies the needs of the crowds.

This miracle is symbolic of Jesus' desire and mission to nourish His followers as they journey with Him in the building of God's kingdom. The Eucharist, instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper, is central to sustaining us on our pilgrim journey and drawing us in to God's kingdom. As the "source and summit of Christian life", the Eucharist is the fullest experience of Jesus in our earthly lives and of our anticipation of deep union with Him one day in God's heavenly kingdom.

SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil: Saturday 6.00pm Castlederg. Sunday: 9.00am Dregish, 11.00am Castlederg, 12.30pm Drumnabey

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: 7.30pm, Castlederg, Friday: 10.00am, Castlederg

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

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: I am very much looking forward to the long-awaited celebration of these important events in the lives of the children and their families, and in the life of our parish faith community.

While we are very fortunate to be able to proceed with the sacraments at this time, we are, as you know, far from being back to normal and, for the protection of everyone, COVID-19 restrictions, including social distancing regulations, will be in place in the church. Unfortunately, this will mean that only limited numbers will be able to attend, as detailed below:

CONFIRMATION: *St Patrick's Church, Castlederg, Friday 28 August, at 5.00pm*

Each of the 31 children will be allocated a pew and each child can bring their sponsor and four other guests.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: *St Patrick's Church, Castlederg, on Saturday 29 August, at 11.00am.*

Each of the 41 children will be permitted to bring two adult guests.

Master McGurk and I are aware that many of you will be disappointed by these restrictions, but we hope that you will understand the reasons for the above decisions. It is vital that everyone coming into the church feels safe. Both celebrations will be live-streamed and recorded, to enable family members and friends who are unable to come into the church to join in.

I ask that you keep the children in your prayer in these coming weeks, as they make their final preparations to receive the sacraments. Please pray God's blessing on them and their families. Thank you. *Fr Paul.*

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,500. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those who are not attending Mass.

Sincere thanks for the following donations received this week towards the heating project in St Patrick's Church, Castlederg: £40, £100, £100, £100, £100, £200. Your generosity is much appreciated.

PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019: A Financial Statement giving a summary of the Income and Expenditure for the parish, for the calendar year 2019, is now on the Notice Boards of our churches. This was available some time ago but, with the closure of the churches, putting it on display was deferred. Please take time to view it, at your convenience. If you have any queries on any of the detail, please contact me.

LOUGH DERG – A new pilgrimage on Lough Derg's lakeshore: *Walk and Pray* in the Lough Derg tradition on 16, 18, 22, 26 & 30 August. In the 1600s and 1700s, when Station Island was closed by the Penal Laws, pilgrims undertook a form of pilgrimage on the lough shore. Walk in their footsteps. Contact 0035371 9861518 or email info@loughderg.org for further details. Numbers are limited. Advance booking essential.

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 8 & 9 AUGUST 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG:

Phone the Parochial House, between 11am and 2pm on Thursday or Friday, to book a place

Saturday 8 August – 6.00pm Vigil Mass:

Killeter Road, Dergview Park, Alexander Park, Ashburn Park, Millbrook Gardens

Sunday 9 August – 11.00am Mass

Cavan Road, Whiterock Park, Mucklehill View, Kilcurragh Park, Greystone Ave, Monyegal Road, Pullyarnon Road

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DRUMNABEY:

Sunday 9 August – 12.30pm: Listymore Park, Oakland, The Crewe, Garvetagh & Lisleen, Coolcreaghy

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sunday 9 August – 9.00am: Dunteague, Glassmullagh, Lisnacraight