

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021 – SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

'The Word was made flesh and lived among us'

Today, in this Season of Christmas, with our hearts and minds dwelling on the privilege of being a part of God's family, we continue to rejoice in the birth of the Baby Jesus. The Gospel we listen to today is the same as that of Christmas Day (Daytime Mass). It is the Prologue which opens the Gospel of John, bringing us to the very beginning of time and reminding us that the Word was there from the beginning. It is a magnificent manifesto of the Incarnation, God made Man, the Word made flesh, that lived among us, the True Light that would give all of us a glimpse of the glory of God.

SUNDAY MASSES

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Vigil, Saturday: 6.00pm, Sunday Morning: 11.00am, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (10 Jan, 24 Jan & 31 Jan – 5th Sun)

Attendance at our Masses in Castlederg is open to all the areas. Parishioners should phone or email the Parochial House, between 11am & 2pm on **Thursday or Friday**, to book a place. If you are emailing, please include the number of people that hope to attend and, remember, a 'space' can hold up to three people.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DRUMNABEY: Sun 10 January – 12.30pm: Listymore Park, Oakland, The Crewe, Garvetagh & Lisleen, Coolcreaghy.

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sun 10 January – 9.00am: Dunteague, Glassmullagh, Lisnacreight.

WEEKDAY MASSES – ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG:

Monday, 7.30pm; Tuesday, 5 January, *Vigil Mass for Feast of the Epiphany*: 7.30pm, Friday, 10.00am

All our Masses in Castlederg are live-streamed on our parish webcam: www.castledergparish.com

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to £2,906. Thank you also for donation of £100 and donation for Trocaire of £100. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House.

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE 2020 Advent Appeal: Boxes can be returned to the Parochial House in the coming weeks.

NEXT SUNDAY, 10 January, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The Gospel we will listen to is St Mark 1:7-11: You can access the Readings on catholicbishops.ie/readings.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: Wednesday of this week, 6 January, is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, normally a Holy Day of Obligation. A Vigil Mass for the Holy Day will be celebrated in Castlederg on Tuesday at 7.30pm. A morning Mass can also be accessed via webcam on parishofaghyaran.com at 10.00am on Wednesday.

The word epiphany means 'manifestation', 'revelation' or 'showing'. The Feast of the Epiphany, on the twelfth day of Christmas, celebrates the manifestation of the Child Jesus to the Wise Men (Magi) from the East and their adoration of Him. Perhaps we don't often use or think of the word *epiphany* in relation to our own faith journey, but our epiphanic journey begins with Baptism, our first call to follow Christ. We pray today that, guided by Scripture, nourished with the Eucharist and encouraged by others who point us in the right direction in life, we will walk in the ways and light of the Lord, in the hope that, one day, our journey will lead to God's eternal home.

Blessing of the New Year (from the Family Prayer Book)

In January, the month of darkness and frost - Be with us, Lord
In February, the month of rain, wind and snow - Be with us, Lord
In March, the month of farmers, lambs and new life - Be with us, Lord
In April, the month of swallows, growth and green grass - Be with us, Lord
In May the month of the cuckoo, flowers and summer - Be with us, Lord
In June, the month of examinations, mid-summer and sun - Be with us, Lord
In July, the month of holidays, dry grass and summer's end - Be with us, Lord
In August, the month of harvest, wheat and corn - Be with us, Lord
In September, the month of fruits, schools and St Michael - Be with us, Lord
In October, the month of falling leaves, colour and nuts - Be with us, Lord
In November, the month of the holy souls and saints - Be with us, Lord
In December, the month of the gift, the light and our Emmanuel - Be with us, Lord.