

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2020

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

GOSPEL: THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS IN THE VINEYARD (*Matthew 21:33-43*)

'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone'

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 (11 & 25 October)

WEEKDAY MASSES:

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

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

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 10 & 11 OCTOBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Saturday 10 Oct – 6.00pm Vigil: Group D. Sunday 11 Oct – 11.00am: Group A.
(Please see details of the Groups on the reverse of this page).

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: Sun 11 October – 12.30pm: Castlebane, Drumnabey Road, Scarvagherin, Goland, Drumnabey Park, Gamble Park.

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sun 11 October – 9.00am: Drumlegagh, Baronscourt, Letterbin, Envagh, Leglands, Tullymuck

It is most important that people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest Covid-19 infection, stay at home. It is strongly recommended that, with the exception of those who are exempt from wearing them, face masks should be worn by everyone in church.

Taking the increasingly worrying Covid situation into consideration, Masses in the parish at this time are intended for parishioners only – those who reside within the confines of the parish. I appreciate that this may be disappointing for some families, especially in the case of the celebration Month's Mind and Anniversary Masses, but the safety of everyone is paramount, and your co-operation in this recommendation is greatly appreciated. Fr Paul.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,775. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass. **Sincere thanks** also for donation of £500 this week towards the heating project in Castlederg. Just to let you know that 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.

FLU VACCINE WEEK for patients of Western Rural Healthcare, Castlederg: Monday 5 October - Friday 9 October: 8.30am – 6.00pm each day. No appointment necessary. The Clinic is open to all patients 65+ born before 31/3/56 as well as those under 65 who suffer from: heart disease, diabetes, asthma, renal disease, liver disease or low immune system. Also open to carers, pregnant women, shielding patients & their household, all 2 & 3 year olds (pre-school - 2/7/16 - 1/9/18), shingles patients 70 / 78 years – these patients will receive a letter to attend.

Do not attend if you have a temperature, continuous cough cold / flu-like symptoms. Social distancing measures will be in place and, with extra nursing staff on duty to facilitate, it is hoped there will be an excellent turnout.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE will hold two blood donation sessions in St Patrick's Hall, Castlederg, on Monday 12 October: 10.30am – 1.30pm and 3.00pm – 6.00pm. They wish to point out that they operate strictly under Department of Health guidelines.

DAY FOR LIFE is celebrated in the Catholic Church today. It is a day specially dedicated to celebrating and upholding the dignity of human life, from conception to natural death. Pope Francis has chosen the simple theme, "**Choose Life**" this year, with focus on the protection of mothers and unborn children, and the need to bring hope and healing after abortion. The Pope has communicated his hope that the current pandemic may stir in us a renewed care for the most vulnerable and a greater appreciation of the moral imperative to build a 'culture of life'. He appeals for prayers that "minds and hearts may be opened to the sheer gift and wonder of every new life in the womb and thank those who work ceaselessly to protect this life more fully by legislation." Pope Francis also draws attention to the hope and healing that can be experienced following the trauma of abortion. Visit www.dayforlife.org for resources. The Holy Father's Pastoral Message for Day for Life can be viewed on www.catholicbishops.ie.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF MISSION

October is a month when we are asked to pledge special support, prayerful and financial, to the missions in developing countries. Mission Sunday will be celebrated on 18 October. We tend to think of missionaries as priests and Religious who work abroad, in developing countries. Indeed, most of us will know someone whom we would describe as a 'missionary.' Over the years, many people from Ireland, including many from this locality, have been called to serve in the Church's missionary work abroad, where they proclaim the Gospel and support the development and growth of young churches. This month is an opportune time to pray in thanksgiving for them and for their great work. Missionary work, however, is not confined to developing countries or, indeed, to other people. By virtue of our baptism, all of us are called to be missionaries - in our homes, our families, our neighbourhood, places of work, church and parish. Our missionary work is carried out through the opportunities of our daily lives - through caring for and supporting each other, through kindly deeds, generosity and justice. In short, our missionary call asks us to build God's kingdom by bringing Christ and the virtues of the Gospel to all we encounter, sharing the great gift of faith that we have been given. Our call is very much reflected in this year's theme for Mission Sunday: **"Together we can do more"**. Please take time during this Month of Mission to visit:

www.wmi.ie - World Missions Ireland, the official support organisation of the Irish Catholic Church for its overseas mission.
It includes Pope Francis' Message for Mission Sunday 2020 'Here am I, send me'

SEASON OF CREATION: 1 September - 4 October 2020 Theme: Cultivating Hope

Fittingly, the Season of Creation concludes on this Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment and animals. Francis' devotion to God was expressed through his love for all of His creation. Reforming himself by repenting of his pride and materialism, and surrendering his whole life to the providence, will and purpose of God, Francis publicly lived in radical detachment from the goods of the world. He cared for the poor and sick, he embraced poverty and simplicity of life. Rather than 'coming to Christ out of love for the poor', Francis is known to have 'come to the poor out of love for Christ'. We are told that, such was his love and awe of all God's creation, he preached sermons to the animals and birds and praised all creatures as brothers and sisters under God. Francis redefined authority, away from power and towards service; he put into action Christ's command to "love one another".

Blessed in our parish to have the only church in our diocese dedicated to St Francis of Assisi, we pray his prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, where there is sadness, joy:

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love:

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

OCTOBER is a month of special devotion to Our Lady and, in particular, to praying the Rosary. The Rosary invites us to reflect on the great mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, whose Mother, Mary, said 'Yes' to God's will and, in so doing, became a model in faith for all of us. You are encouraged to make special effort to recite the Family Rosary in your homes during this month. Parents, in particular, are encouraged to teach and pray the Rosary, or a decade of the Rosary, with their children. *Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.*

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

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sun 11 October, 11am	Sat 17 October, 6pm	Sat 3 October, 6pm Sat 24 October, 6pm	Sat 10 October, 6pm Sun 25 October, 11am
Castlefin Road Castlefin Park Churchtown Park Hillview Park Brooke Park Harpur Park Willowcrest Stoney Heights Priestessagh Road Freughlough Road	Town Centre Ferguson Crescent Main Street Upper Strabane Rd Lower Strabane Rd Castleview Tce Mount Bernard Drive Derg Fold Castlegore Cashel Road Ganvaghan Road Drumquin Road Castlebane Road	Killeter Road Dergview Park Alexander Park Ashburn Park Kilclean Road Ashleigh Court Oakleigh Grove Kilcroagh Road Cavan Road Whiterock Park Mucklehill View Kilcurragh Park Greystone Avenue Moneygal Road Pollyarnon Road	Lurganbuoy Road Lurganbuoy Park Garag Hill Burnside Villas Young Crescent Hawthorn Park Crockett Park Hospital Road Breezemount Park

NEXT SUNDAY is the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A). The Gospel we will listen to is St Matthew: 22:1-14: In the Parable of the Wedding Banquet, 'Many are called but few are chosen'. You can access the Scripture Readings in advance of Sunday Mass on www.catholicbishops.ie/readings.