

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

'Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them' (Matthew 18:20)

Sometimes we think that we know other people and their life story well, but we realise all too well from our own lives that many of the 'invisible' crosses people carry are known only to themselves or perhaps to close family members. However, whatever our crosses are, whatever our weaknesses, wherever we are on our journey, we are a community blessed with faith. When we come to Mass, each of us comes with our own joys and blessings, our own worries, our own crosses, weaknesses and failings, but all of us, while on our own individual faith journey, gather together as a community of believers, with one voice, to praise the Lord and to share in the Eucharist.

We pray today for everyone in our parish community, especially for those who struggle with their faith, those for whom God may seem distant, those who feel excluded from our love or from God's love. In the knowledge that God's House is a place of welcome for all, may each of us be a person of welcome, support and encouragement for others at all times.

SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil: Sat 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 (13 and 27 September)

WEEKDAY MASSES:

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

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

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 12 & 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG:

Please note that the weekend Mass schedule has now reverted to the 'pre-Covid' schedule, ie: 6.00pm every Saturday and 11.00am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. A revised rota for St Patrick's, Castlederg, consisting of four areas, is displayed on the noticeboard of the church and details are also on the reverse of this newsletter. Please take time to check it carefully.

Saturday 12 Sept – 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Town Centre, Ferguson Crescent, Main St, Upper & Lower Strabane Rd, Castleview Tce, Mount Bernard Drive, Derg Fold, Castlegore, Cashel Rd. Ganvaghan Rd, Drumquinn Rd. Castlebane Rd

Sun 13 Sept – 11.00am: Killeter Rd, Dergview Pk, Alexander Pk, Ashburn Pk, Kilclean Rd, Ashleigh Court, Oakleigh Grove, Kilcroagh Rd, Cavan Rd, Whiterock Pk, Mucklehill View, Kilcurragh Pk, Greystone Ave, Moneygal Rd, Pollyarnon Rd

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 13 Sept – 12.30pm: Castlebane, Drumnabey Road, Scarvagherin, Goland, Drumnabey Park, Gamble Park

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sun 13 Sept – 9.00am: Drumlegagh, Baronscourt, Letterbin, Envagh, Leglands, Tullymuck

Face Masks:

It is strongly recommended that, with the exception of those who are exempt from wearing them, everyone should wear a face mask in church, for the foreseeable future.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,617. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass.

Your ongoing contributions towards the cost of the heating project in Castlederg are very much appreciated: thank you sincere thanks for donations received this week - £100, £100, £100, £500.

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE 2020 at Knock Shrine will be broadcast live on Sunday 13 September at 3.00pm from the Basilica. Grandparents and their families are invited to join online at www.knockshrine.ie/watch

ST EUGENE'S HALL, DREGISH: The Community Group is organising a few events, taking COVID-19 precautions into consideration: **The 2020 Parish Walk** from St Eugene's Hall to Sliabh Troim - Sunday 20 Sept. Funds raised will go to the Air Ambulance, a great cause, which has been used locally. **A Mental Health course for children - Relaxed Kids** - by Mrs Nuala Grugan, starts on Sat 3 Oct at 1.00pm, in the hall. Cost only £10, thanks to Council Grant. **An adult Irish Language course** for beginners starts on Thurs 17 Sept at 7.30pm. No charge, thanks to Council grant. *These courses are limited to 12 participants. If numbers are greater than 12 then we shall select by lottery.*

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

In his message for the first week of the Season of Creation, Bishop McKeown explains how the Season of Creation is based, not on some secular agenda or new-age form of worship, but on three core Christian principles:

Love of God & Love of neighbour; The gifts of the Holy Spirit; 3. Simplicity of life.

The short video of the bishop's message can be viewed on Diocese of Derry Facebook.

ROUTINE PASTORAL VISITATION OF THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Those who are visited as part of the "First Friday" Visitation of the Sick and Housebound will know that, since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, this has not taken place. In the past week, Bishop McKeown issued the following guidelines to the priests of the diocese, in respect of the **routine** monthly visitation, for the coming months. See excerpt below:

"I have concluded that the routine visitation of the sick and housebound should not take place, at the moment, due to the following factors:

- 1. The sick and housebound are disproportionately elderly, a group which is especially vulnerable to serious COVID-19 infection; this group is also more likely to have significant comorbidities, which may also make them more susceptible;**
- 2. Routine visitation involves moving from one house to another, which risks infection being spread to multiple households;**
- 3. Daily infection rates, both north and south, are trending upwards, after the relatively low number of infections during the summer."**

As many parishioners already know, I am very happy to make home visits to parishioners who are seriously ill. I am also visiting the housebound on a more 'casual basis', calling at one house each day whenever possible. It goes without saying that I make hygiene and safety my number one priority. I fully endorse the guidelines and factors as stated by the bishop (above) at this time. As such, I will not be doing the routine house-to-house calls for the time being.

However, please do not hesitate to ask me to call if you have reason to be concerned.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

In a separate communication, Bishop McKeown advised the priests of the diocese last week that parish clergy may **not** visit WHSCT hospitals or care homes during the current crisis. Bishop McKeown writes:

"Hospital chaplains are permitted to visit patients, when called in emergency, wearing PPE, in the use of which they have been trained, and can visit patients in a more 'routine' manner, wearing scrubs and appropriate levels of PPE. The hospital is not open to routine visits by non-chaplain clergy. Whilst this may be a limitation on usual pastoral practice, given the increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks it is an understandable limitation, with the risk of unwittingly bringing infection to patients who may not be able to fight it off. I understand that the same restrictions apply to Waterside Hospital, the Omagh hospitals and to other Trust-run properties."

While hospital visitation cannot take place at this time, I would, nonetheless, be glad to know if a parishioner is in hospital so that I can remember them in prayer and at Mass.

These ongoing restrictions are regrettable, but are in place for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. I am grateful for your understanding as we continue to embrace these challenging times. Please do get in touch with me if there is anything I can do for you or for your families.

Please keep the sick and housebound, and all who are feeling lonely, isolated or anxious in your prayer.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. St Bernadette, pray for us

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

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sat 5 September, 6pm Sat 26 September, 6pm Sun 11 October, 11am	Sat 12 September, 6pm Sun 27 September, 11am Sat 17 October, 6pm	Sun 13 September, 11am Sat 3 October, 6pm Sat 24 October, 6pm	Sat 19 September, 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