

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

GOSPEL: ST JOHN 2:13-25 'THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE'

In St John's account of the Cleansing of the Temple today, Jesus confronts those who are abusing the sanctity of His Father's house – those who are selfishly using it as a place for uncharitable dealings, rather than for prayer, holiness and acts of righteousness.

In our homes this Lent we have created Sacred Spaces to help us in focussing on this penitential season. With our churches closed for public worship, our 'domestic church' settings for worship are indeed an opportunity that, in 'ordinary times', we might not consider or take up. Our homes are indeed the 'temple' where our faith journey starts and is, hopefully, nourished. We talk of 'handing on the faith' but, essentially, this means that, through the example of faith well lived, others might be inspired to mirror the virtues of the Gospel in their day to day lives and remain faithful to the sacraments. We ask God today for the grace to use well the Sacred Space in our homes, to create time and space for prayer and, more importantly, to listen to what God is saying to us so that our thoughts, words and actions will reflect the sanctity of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit and cleanse us in heart and mind.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg:

Vigil 6.00pm (every Saturday)

Sunday 11.00am (2nd & 4th Sundays of the month - 14 March & 28 March)

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 7.30pm, Friday: 10.00am, Saturday (Lent only): 10.00am

You are invited to participate via our parish webcam:

www.castledergparish.com

Masses in Aghyaran are also livestreamed on www.parihofaghyaran.com:

Sunday Masses: Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday morning 11.00am (1st & 3rd Sundays of the month - 7 & 21 March).

Weekday Masses in Aghyaran:

Tuesday: 10.00am, Wednesday (Lent only): 10.00am, Thursday: 10.00am

Our churches continue to remain open for private prayer.

Please continue to pray for one another and, especially, for those who are sick.

You are welcome to light a candle for your prayer intentions.

WALKING THE VIA DOLOROSA (WAY OF THE CROSS) WITH JESUS: Friday evening, at 7.30pm, live-streamed this week from St Patrick's, Aghyaran. The theme of this Friday evening's liturgy will be "*The trial before Pilate.*" Please join me on the webcam for this time of prayer. You can view or download the Participant's Prayer Leaflet in advance, during the week, on our parish website, www.castledergparish.com

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES: Since it is not possible for us to provide individual Confessions in preparation for Easter, two Penitential Services will be held, one on Friday 19 March, live-streamed from St Patrick's, Castlederg, and one on Friday 26 March, live-streamed from St Patrick's, Aghyaran. These Penitential Services will form part of the 7.30pm Walking the Via Dolorosa liturgies on these two evenings.

THE PARTICIPANT'S PRAYER LEAFLET for the Via Dolorosa Liturgies is published each week on our parish website, for your convenience. It is published early in the week, to enable you to access it at a time that might suit you during the week.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to £2,590 and €61. Your ongoing financial support of the parish is very much appreciated. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House. If you have not previously had an envelope or contributed to the collection and you are now in a position to commence contributing, please contact me at the Parochial House and I will arrange for you to have an envelope box when the new boxes are being put together in the coming weeks.

TRÓCAIRE: If you haven't yet picked up your Trócaire Box, there are boxes available at the back of the church and also in Dinny's shop. It can form part of the Sacred Space in our homes this Lent, reminding us of our duty to be generous to those less fortunate than ourselves. South Sudan is the focus of this year's campaign.

KNOCK SHRINE – ONLINE LENTEN PROGRAMME: a series of online discussions on the Thursday nights of Lent, at 8.30pm. Under the title 'Living Christian Faith – Lenten Conversations', these conversations are well worth tuning in to! Join in on Knock Shrine Facebook or on website, www.knockshrine.ie

MASTERS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers this post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic school system. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 028 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org.

CENSUS 2021: Churches have been asked to encourage households to complete the upcoming Census 2021. All households will (will have) receive(d) a census pack with details on how to complete. The pack will contain an access code. The census can be completed online or you can request a paper questionnaire. To find out more, visit www.census.gov.uk/ni or call free on 0800 328 2021.

RADIO MARIA IRELAND, based at St Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22, is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies. If you are not already a follower of the station, Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family! You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:

- *Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210/ Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)*
- *Download FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"*
- *Streaming on website, www.radiomaria.ie (subscribe and donate here also)*
- *'Listen Live Radio' link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)*
- *Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).*

Prayer and song requests welcome. "A Catholic voice in your home". Fr Eamonn McCarthy is Director.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Next Sunday, 14 March, is the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The Gospel we will listen to is St John 3:14-21, 'Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus.' You can access the Readings in the Missalette, which is available in our churches or on our parish website, www.castledergparish.com – or in your bible!

Each day of Lent everyone is encouraged to pray the Diocesan Lenten Prayer.

Loving Father,

**To prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world
Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert.
In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit,
to a place of renewal in my heart and mind,
so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer,
personal sacrifices and acts of kindness.
With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the
passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

South Sudan is the focus of this year's Trócaire campaign. South Sudan is the world's newest country, having gained independence from Sudan in 2011 after many years of conflict. It is a diverse country, with sixty languages spoken by dozens of ethnic groups in a population of around eleven million. Each community/village belongs to an ethnic group. There were hopes that people in the world's newest country could finally put war behind them and move towards a brighter future. These hopes were dashed, however, in December 2013 when a civil war broke out between rival political factions. Almost four hundred thousand people were killed during this conflict. A peace agreement was signed in September 2018, but fighting continues in many parts of the country. About 3.8 million people in South Sudan - one in every three people - fled their homes and remain displaced within South Sudan or are living as refugees in neighbouring countries to this day.

This Prayer for Peace was written by Fr James Oyet Latansio, General Secretary of the South Sudan Council of Churches:

*As we move through the Lenten time, the time when we contemplate Jesus in the desert,
pray for us the people of South Sudan and pray for peace here.*

Accompany us, hold our hands, hold the hands of the Church in South Sudan.

Hold the hands of our brothers and sisters in South Sudan, walk with us during this Lenten time.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.