

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

GOSPEL: ST MATTHEW 24:42-44 PARABLE OF THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS

In this month of November, when we remember in a special way those who have gone before us in faith, and we approach the end of the Liturgical Year, the Scripture Readings make reference to end times, with teaching on being watchful and being prepared.

In the parable that we hear today, the bridegroom represents Jesus and the bridesmaids in the parable, in effect, represent all of us! It is important that we do not rest our focus on five of the bridesmaids being sensible and five foolish and, perhaps, comparing ourselves to one half of them. The ten did not set out as 'five and five' – all ten set out as one, as invited guests of the bridegroom. In the same way, all of us are 'invited guests' in God's kingdom. The parable, therefore, speaks to all of us. We are all invited to be prudent in our response to God's calling each day, and in our individual responsibility to 'be ready', to 'be prepared'. Essentially, this means following the light of Christ, witnessing to the virtues of the Gospel in our daily lives, in the hope that, when our time comes to be called to God, we will be welcomed into His heavenly banquet.

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 (8 & 22 Nov + 29 Nov – 5th Sunday)

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Castlederg: Monday: 7.30pm, Friday: 10.00am

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

SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE DETAILS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 14 & 15 NOVEMBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Saturday 14 November – 6.00pm Vigil: Group D. (*Details of Groups on reverse*).
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: Sunday 15 November – 12.30pm: Listymore Park, Oakland, Crewe, Garvetagh & Lisleen, Coolcreaghy.

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sunday 15 November – 9.00am: Dunteague, Glassmullagh, Lisnacraight.

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR OUR CHURCHES (IN NORTHERN IRELAND)

Under the current restrictions, everyone must wear a face mask when entering and leaving church. It is also strongly recommended that masks are worn while in church. It remains most important that people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest Covid-19 infection, do not come to Mass.

†

Raymond Shiels, late of 9B, Kilclean Road, Castlederg

As a parish faith community, we offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to Olwyn, Kieran and Tracey, to the grandchildren, George, Olivia, Sophie and Ben, and to the brother, Frankie, and wider family circle and friends of Raymond, whose Funeral Mass took place at Castlederg on Saturday.

Martin Gallen, late of 34 Ashleigh Court, Castlederg

We offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to Kelly and Tiernan, and to the brothers and sisters and wider family circle and friends of Martin, whose Funeral Mass is taking place today (Sunday) in Castlederg.

May they rest in peace.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,629. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass.

Sincere thanks also for donation of £200 towards the heating project in Castlederg.

SANTA SUNDAY – The Dregish Community Group is organising this event for Sunday 13 December, at 3.30pm. Keep the date free! Fully details are available on the Group's Facebook page.

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

'REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER' SACRED SPACE IN OUR HOMES: You are invited to create a Sacred Space in your home for November in memory of your deceased family members and friends. Your Sacred Space might include some of the following: photographs or memorial cards, a little box or basket with the names of those you would like remembered in prayer, a crucifix, sacred picture or rosary beads, holy water, a candle (*taking care with it, of course!*). Autumn leaves might be gathered and perhaps some purple material (if you have some readily available) could be used to help create and adorn your Sacred Space. Parents, in particular, are asked to involve their children in creating Sacred Space in the home for November. Those whose names you place on your sacred space will be included in the Prayer of the Faithful at our Masses in the parish throughout the month of November.

We also have a Sacred Space in each of our churches for November. You are invited to write out the names of your deceased relatives and friends, and place these in the baskets that you will find in the Sacred Space. (In compliance with Covid precautions, no facility will be in place within the church this year for you to write the names). You might also like to light a candle in the church in memory of your loved ones.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES: During this past week I blessed the graves in our parish graveyards. We hope and pray that next year you will once again be able to attend the graves of your loved ones for this event.

NOVEMBER PLEDGE The Pioneer Association is promoting the November' Pledge as a sacrificial act in honour of the Holy Souls. If you would like to take up the *Pledge for November*, log into website: www.pioneerassociation.ie to enrol.

CEMETERY COLLECTION: There is a special envelope in your envelope box for this annual collection, which is due to take place today. This collection goes towards the substantial and ongoing costs of the upkeep of our four graveyards. **Thank you** to all who maintain our graveyards to such a high standard throughout the year. Your hard work and dedication to this job is much appreciated. Thank you also to everyone for keeping your graves so well, and special thanks to those who care for graves where there is no-one to look after them.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR DECEASED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: The Annual Mass for deceased children and young people will be celebrated in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, this evening, Sunday 8 November, at 7.00pm. You can join this Mass live on the St Eugene's Cathedral webcam. If you would like to have a child or young person remembered at this Mass, you can do so by emailing (as early as possible) the name to: lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

PRAYER RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES FOR NOVEMBER: The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre has created a range of prayer resources for families to use at home during November in memory of loved ones who have died. These include practical ways to pray together at home, prayers you can use and tips on creating a sacred space for prayer. *'World Drawing God Day'* is a great way to engage children for hours in creative drawing. Drawings can be shared online and you can take an online tour of the Drawing God Museum. To view all the available resources, visit www.catecheticalcentre.org

NOVEMBER FAMILY PRAYER BOOK: An online version of this booklet (*the printed version of which can be collected in our churches*) is available on <https://derrydiocese.org/images/november/november-a-month-to-remember.pdf>

LOUGH DERG Memorial Service for deceased pilgrims and benefactors. Live via webcam, St Mary's, Pettigo, Sunday 22 November, at 7pm: www.churchservices.tv/pettigo. To enrol a loved one, email: info@loughderg.org / Tel 0035371 9861518.

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

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sat 21 November, 6pm	Sat 7 November, 6pm Sun 22 November, 11am	Sun 8 November, 11am Sat 28 November, 6pm	Sat 14 November, 6pm Sun 29 November, 11am
Castlefin Road Castlefin Park Churchtown Park Hillview Park Brooke Park Harpur Park Willowcrest Stoney Heights Priestsessagh Road Freughlough Road	Town Centre Ferguson Crescent Main Street Upper & Lower Strabane Rd Castleview Tce Mount Bernard Drive Derg Fold, Castlegore Cashel Rd, Ganvaghan Rd Drumquin Road Castlebane Road	Killeter Rd, Dergview Park Alexander Park Ashburn Pk, Kilclean Road Ashleigh Court Oakleigh Grove Kilcroagh Rd, Cavan Road Whiterock Pk, Mucklehill View Kilcurragh Park Greystone Avenue Moneygal Rd, Pollyarnon Rd	Lurganbuoy Road Lurganbuoy Park Garag Hill Burnside Villas Young Crescent Hawthorn Park Crockett Park Hospital Road Breezemount Park

NEXT SUNDAY, 15 November, is the Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. The Gospel we will listen to is St Matthew 24:42-44, *the Parable of the Talents*. You can view the Scripture Readings in advance on www.catholicbishops.ie/readings

**Eternal rest grant on to them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.**