

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

REV PAUL FRASER PP, 16 CASTLEFIN ROAD, CASTLEDERG, CO TYRONE, BT81 7BT

Tel: 028 816 71393 Email: castledergparish@derrydiocese.org

Website: www.castledergparish.com. Facebook: Parish of Ardstraw West & Castlederg

SUNDAY 9 MAY 2021 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOSPEL: ST JOHN 15:9-17 CALLED TO LOVE

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus used the relationship of *branches to the vine* to illustrate our relationship with Him. Today's Gospel follows on from that, enlarging on the implications of that life-giving link. The word *love (or loved)* is used *nine* times in today's Gospel passage, leaving us in no doubt as to the message of Jesus. He tells His disciples, "This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you" (Vs 12). 'Commandment' seems a strong term to use in relation to love but, in effect, Jesus is commissioning His disciples and giving them direction on how love must be at the heart of everything they do and say, when they take up His work. Love is about imitating Jesus' ways, as taught to us in the Scriptures. It is about living out the virtues of the Beatitudes – having an internal attitude that influences everything we think, say and do. In our human weakness, we don't always get it right, but God, who is Love, in His boundless mercy, is always waiting to welcome us with His love when we have strayed from His ways.

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Patrick's, Castlederg: Monday, 7.30pm and Friday, 10.00am

Friday, 7.30pm – Mass for the P4 children and their parents

Weekday Masses in Aghyaran: Tue and Thurs, 10.00am, are livestreamed on www.parihofaghyaran.com:

SUNDAY MASSES

St Patrick's, Castlederg:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm, & 11.00am on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month (9 & 23 May and 30th May (5th Sun)

Attendance at the Sunday Masses is by booking only:

please ring the parish office between 11.00am and 2.00pm on Thursday or Friday (028 816 71393)

or email at any time (castledergparish@derrydiocese.org)

All Masses in Castlederg continue to be available via our parish webcam, www.castledergparish.com

St Mary's, Dregish: 9.00am

Open to the Baronscourt, Drumlegagh, Letterbin, Envagh & Tullymuck areas on Sunday 16 May

St Francis of Assisi, Drumnabey: 12.30pm

Attendance at the Drumnabey Mass each week is now open to both areas.

Masses in Dregish and Drumnabey can be viewed via the parish webcam:

www.castledergparish.com: click the 'mobile' button

+

Philomena Doherty (nee Slevin), late of 2 Burnside Villas, Castlederg

As a parish faith community, we offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to Sammy, Maria and the wider family circle and friends of Philomena, whose Funeral Mass took place in Castlederg on Saturday. May she rest in peace.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to £2,210. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House or can be brought to the church by those attending for Mass. Clerical Education & Ongoing Formation collection amounted to £1,068. Thank you for your faithfulness to the collections.

TRÓCAIRE COLLECTION was sent off to Trócaire this week and amounted to an amazing £12,928. This is an excellent response and, with our money being submitted in time for the UK matched-funding scheme, the figure will be doubled. In addition, £2,720 of this was Gift Aided, which adds another £680 to the total. I know as well that some parishioners sent money directly to Trócaire this year.

As you know, South Sudan is the focus of this year's Lenten campaign. On the Trocaire box, we were introduced to Awut and Ajak who, having lost their homes and loved ones to the conflict in South Sudan, are shining examples of resilience, friendship and solidarity in the face of unimaginable challenges, including poverty, hunger, injustice, war, conflict and, of course, Covid. It is our compassion and generosity that will help change the lives of so many people facing challenges similar to that of Awut and Ajak. Constant themes of Jesus' ministry and teachings are love, compassion and reaching out to the poor and vulnerable. Our response to Trócaire this Lent well matches these virtues.

DIOCESAN PURPOSES COLLECTION: There is an envelope in your envelope boxes for this collection for next Sunday, 16 May. This collection goes towards the administration costs of the diocesan curia.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in St Patrick's, Castleberg, will resume this Friday (14 May), starting after 10.00am Mass and finishing at 12.00noon (please note the earlier than usual finishing time). If you are free and able to come along to the church for half an hour between 10.30am and 12.00noon, you would be most welcome to come along and spend some time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

SACRAMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS – FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION for the children of St Patrick's PS, Castleberg, will take place on **Saturday 26 June at 1pm and 3pm**. The pupils will be divided into two groups, so that each child will be able to invite a maximum of six people, who should all be from the same social 'bubble'.

Parents are asked to note that, as part of a support programme provided by the Diocesan Catechetical Centre, four *Preparation Sessions* with the theme, '*Disciples of Jesus - Filled With Joy*', will be presented by webcam: catecheticalcentre.org/webcam, on **17, 18, 19, 20 May, 10am-12noon**, for the Confirmation children and their parents. Each day the sessions will include catechesis on different aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation, prayer, creative activities and music. The children will participate each day in school. Parents are encouraged to tune into these live presentations, if at all possible, in support of their children's preparation for this important step in their faith journey.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: for the children of St Patrick's PS will take place on **Saturday 3 July, at 1pm and 3pm**. Again, the children will be divided into two groups, so that each child will be able to invite six guests from the same social 'bubble'.

In preparation for both sacraments, **the children and their parents** are invited to attend Mass in St Patrick's Church as follows:

P4 – this Friday, 14 May, at 7.30pm

P7 – Thursday 27 May at 7.30pm

At these Masses, important information will be disseminated about the way in which we intend to celebrate safely these special days in the lives of the children and of our parish. In addition to attending this Mass, as part of the children's preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation it is expected that each family will make a special effort to attend Mass at the weekends, remembering that you need to book by email: castlebergparish@derrydiocese.org. In your email you should indicate how many people will be in your group and also state clearly which Mass you would like to attend. Weekend Masses in Castleberg are:

6pm – every Saturday

11am – Sunday 9, 23 and 30 May; Sunday 13 and 27 June

Thank you for your cooperation during these unpredictable times! Mindful that the public health situation remains unpredictable, I assure you that I will do everything possible to proceed with the arrangements as above. In spite of this, we must all be aware of the fact that the situation could change at short notice.

SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE OF DERRY:

Ms Marie Gormley has been appointed as the new *Diocesan Liaison Person* for the Diocese of Derry. The *Diocesan Liaison Person* is the person to contact with any safeguarding concern or allegation. Marie's contact details are: **Email: marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org Tel: 07596 500 793.**

Ms Briega O'Neill has been appointed as the new *Safeguarding Co-ordinator* for the diocese. The *Safeguarding Co-ordinator* develops safeguarding policy and procedures in the diocese, and coordinates training and diocesan safeguarding audits. Briega is based in the Safeguarding Office in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry.

Briega's contact details are: **Email: safeguarding@derrydiocese.org Tel: (028) 71362475.**

NAOMH EOGHAN GAC: The sum of £1,000 has been presented to the Chairman of Omagh Friends of Marie Curie, from the *Townlands Challenge*. Sincere thanks to all who supported the Challenge in any way.

MONTH OF MAY: Traditionally recited at 12.00noon and 6.00pm, we are invited to make special effort to pray the Angelus in our homes during the month of May:

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary....

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy Word. Hail Mary....

And the Word was made flesh: And dwelt among us. Hail Mary....

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.