

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2020

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

GOSPEL: St Matthew 22:1-14: PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET: 'Many are called but few are chosen'

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a royal wedding banquet. Just as there are invited guests to the banquet in the parable, we, God's children, are invited guests in His kingdom, through the sacrament of Baptism. We are all familiar with receiving invitations of one sort or another. An invitation is not a demand: we can accept or decline. Even in accepting, we can make a choice – to accept half-heartedly or to enter into the spirit, purpose and joy of it. Today's parable calls us to reflect on the *quality* of our response to God's invitation to us: does it reflect a positive yes to the building of His kingdom? Is it sometimes half-hearted, reflecting the response of the man in the second part of today's parable, who attended the wedding banquet but did not wear a wedding garment?

We pray today that the quality of our 'yes' to God's invitation will be such that it will inspire others in their response and, one day, having played an active part in building His kingdom, we will be invited guests in God's 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 (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.parishofaghyaran.com

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 17 & 18 OCTOBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Saturday 10 October – 6.00pm Vigil: Group B. (Details of the 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 18 October – 12.30pm: Listymore Park, Oakland, The Crewe, Garvetagh & Lisleen, Coolcreaghy

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sunday 18 October – 9.00am: Dunteague, Glassmullagh, Lisnacreight

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.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,815. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass.

Thank you also to all who contribute by Standing Order or online. Standing Orders and online payments for the month of September amounted to £1,725. Your ongoing generosity is much appreciated. If anyone would like to start contributing by Standing Order, a Standing Order Mandate is available to download on the parish website, www.castledergparish.com. Alternatively, you can collect one at the Parochial House, by prior arrangement.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE will hold two blood donation sessions in St Patrick's Hall, Castlederg, tomorrow, 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. By appointment only: Tel 08085 534 653 to book.

THE NET: The October edition of The Net is now available online, on www.derrydiocese.org. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. There is a 'Remembering Sr Genevieve' article in this edition of The Net, by Fr Damian Bresnahan. Many of you will have known Sr Genevieve Mullarkey over the years, a Loreto Sister who taught for many years in the Loreto Convent School in Omagh. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

DROMANTINE RETREAT CENTRE, Newry, intends to host the following events in November. Offering a safe welcome back, numbers will be restricted, with social distancing and all NHS and Executive directives being adhered to:

'Broken Open': How difficult times can help us grow - a workshop that will explore the potential for discovering courage, compassion and wisdom even in the most painful of life circumstances. Presented by Fr Hugh Lagan SMA: Monday 2 November, 9.30am – Tuesday 3 November, 5.00pm. Full cost £115.

'Loss and Recovery': This seminar will explore loss in its many facets and how it is also an invitation to wholeness. "While the heart grieves for what it has lost, the Spirit dances for that which it has found." Presented by Fr Jim Cogley: Saturday 14 November, 9.30am – 5.00pm. Full cost £35.

To book for either event, or for further enquiries, Tel 028 3082 1964 or email sma.dromantine@sma.ie

OCTOBER - MONTH OF MISSION

'TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE' (Theme for Mission Sunday 2020, which we celebrate next Sunday, 18 October)

"Understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic represents a challenge for the Church's mission. Illness, suffering, fear and isolation challenge us. The poverty of those who die alone, the abandoned, those who have lost their jobs and income, the homeless and those who lack food challenge us. Being forced to observe social distancing and to stay at home invites us to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God.....And prayer, in which God touches and moves our hearts, should make us ever more open to the need of our brothers and sisters for dignity and freedom, as well as our responsibility to care for all creation. The impossibility of gathering as a Church to celebrate the Eucharist has led us to share the experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday. In all of this, God's question: "Whom shall I send?" is addressed once more to us and awaits a generous and convincing response: "Here am I, send me!" (Is 6:8)." **Extract from Pope Francis' Message for Mission Sunday 2020 'Here am I, send me'**. The full text of the Pope's Message can be seen on the World Missions Ireland website, www.wmi.ie

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH (MISSION SUNDAY) COLLECTION: There is a special envelope in your box for this collection which is due next Sunday. The proceeds of the Mission Sunday collection are channelled through World Missions Ireland, which is the official support organisation for the overseas mission of the Irish Catholic Church, bringing the prayers, solidarity and financial help of the Church in Ireland to Christian communities in countries in other parts of the world, who are in much need of our help.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for us. St Francis Xavier, pray for us.

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 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 Priestsessagh 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

PRAYER FOR OUR PROTECTION IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC:

In these increasingly worrying and uncertain times for everyone, we pray God's protection for ourselves, our families, our parish community, our school community, those who are lonely or anxious, and those who are sick or concerned about their health. We pray too for all frontline workers, all who help to provide essential services and all who place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of others:

From Saint Patrick's Breastplate

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.**

NEXT SUNDAY is the **Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**. It is also **Mission Sunday** and the Scripture Readings will be special Readings for Mission Sunday. The Gospel we will listen to will be St John 17:11, 17-23. If you would like to look at the Readings in advance of Sunday Mass, you can visit them on www.catholicbishops.ie/readings.