

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT (Matthew 18:21-35)

Jesus' teaching on mercy and forgiveness through the *Parable of the Unmerciful Servant* conveys a stark message which tells us that, when it comes to showing mercy and forgiveness towards others, it is not about 'picking and choosing' or about setting limits beyond which we will not move. When we do that, we are missing the point of Christian living. In the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus left us, He said, *'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'* We pray the Lord's Prayer today for ourselves and for others, that we will always be humble enough to open our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to help us to experience the transforming power of forgiving, of reconciliation and of God's loving and merciful ways. *Our Father, who art in heaven*

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.parishofaghyaran.com

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 19 & 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG:

Saturday 19 September – 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Group D - Lurganbuoy Road, Lurganbuoy Park, Garag Hill, Burnside Villas, Young Crescent, Hawthorn Park, Crockett Park, Hospital Road, Breezemount Park

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 20 September – 12.30pm: Listymore Park, Oakland, The Crewe, Garvetagh & Lisleen, Coolcreaghy

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sun 20 September – 9.00am: Dunteague, Glassmullagh, Lisnacreight.

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.



Kathleen Hewitt, late of Park View Court, Castlederg

As a parish faith community, we offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to the sons and daughters, Daniel, John, Mary and Kathleen, grandchildren and the wider family circle and friends of Kathleen, whose Funeral Mass and burial took place at Castlederg on Thursday. May she rest in peace.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,445. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass. Thank you also to those who contribute by Standing Order. Standing Orders for the month of August amounted to £1,285.

TRUST FUND FOR RETIRED PRIESTS Collection – In addition to the weekly contribution envelope, there is an envelope in your envelope box for the annual Trust Fund for Retired Priests collection next Sunday.

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE 2020 at Knock Shrine will be broadcast live today, Sunday 13th, 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 **2020 Parish Walk** from St Eugene's Hall to Sliabh Troim (Bessy Bell) will take place next Sunday, 20 September. Funds raised will go to the Air Ambulance. A **Mental Health course for children - Relaxed Kids** - by Mrs Nuala Grugan, starts on Saturday 3 October at 1.00pm, in the hall. Cost only £10, thanks to Council Grant. An **adult Irish Language course** for beginners starts this Thursday (17th), 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 some ways, the current pandemic has led us to rediscover simpler and sustainable lifestyles. The crisis, in a sense, has given us a chance to develop new ways of living. Already we can see how the earth can recover if we allow it to rest: the air becomes cleaner, the waters clearer, and animals have returned to many places from where they had previously disappeared. The pandemic has brought us to a crossroads. We must use this decisive moment to end our superfluous and destructive goals and activities, and to cultivate values, connections and activities that are life-giving. We must examine our habits of energy usage, consumption, transportation, and diet. We must eliminate the superfluous and destructive aspects of our economies, and nurture life-giving ways to trade, produce, and transport goods." *Excerpt from the Message of Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.*

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. Earlier this month, 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 your 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