

# PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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## SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020

### THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

#### GOSPEL: ST MATTHEW 25:14-30 THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

The Gospel today teaches us, in the Parable of the Talents, to be good stewards of the blessings God has given us. God gives us the greatest gifts that we will ever receive – the gift of life, the gift of His unconditional love, in the person of Jesus, His only Son. God gives us the gift of faith. However, faith does not spread if it is buried or hidden: it needs to be nurtured, promoted and shared with others through actions and words that reflect the example of Jesus. The Parable of the Talents challenges us to look at how we use the blessings that God has bestowed on each of us. Are we responsible stewards, who use and share our gifts and talents in the service of others, encouraging them in their faith journey? Do we use them to serve well the faith-life of our parish community and our own families? Perhaps we take our gifts and talents for granted, but today's Gospel reminds us that these are not our personal possessions, to do with what we will; rather, we are called to share them so that they will multiply, enabling ourselves and others to one day enter into the joy of the Master.

#### SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil: Saturday 6.00pm Castlederg. Sunday: 9.00am Dregish, 11.00am Castlederg, 12.30pm Drumnabey.  
Mass in Castlederg on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month (8 & 22 Nov + 29 Nov – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

#### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Castlederg: Monday: 7.30pm, Friday: 10.00am

All Masses in Castlederg continue to be live-streamed: [www.castledergparish.com](http://www.castledergparish.com) or [www.parihofaghyaran.com](http://www.parihofaghyaran.com)

### SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE DETAILS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 21 & 22 NOVEMBER 2020

**ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG:** Saturday 21 November – 6.00pm Vigil: Group A. Sunday 22 November – 11.00am: Group B. (*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 22 November – 12.30pm: Castlebane, Drumnabey Road, Scarvagherin, Goland, Drumnabey Park, Gamble Park.

**ST MARY'S, DREGISH:** Sunday 22 November – 9.00am: Drumlegagh, Baronscourt, Letterbin, Envagh, Leglands, Tullymuck.

#### 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. We continue to pray for the protection of everyone at this time of pandemic.

**THANK YOU** for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £2,035. Cemetery Sunday collection to date amounts to £655. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass. Sincere thanks to those contribute by Standing Order and online. Standing Orders and online contributions for the month of October amounted to £1,448.

**MASS** for deceased pilgrims, staff and friends of the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be celebrated in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry, on Wednesday 18 November, at 7.30pm. Numbers attending will be restricted in keeping with Covid-19 restrictions. This Mass will be livestreamed on [steelstownparish.com/webcam.htm](http://steelstownparish.com/webcam.htm).

**THE NET:** The November edition of The Net is now available online, on [www.derrydiocese.org](http://www.derrydiocese.org). As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. It includes the thoughts of a number of young people from different parishes on the beatification of Carlo Acutis, who died in 2006 at the age of 15, from leukaemia. Carlo was beatified by the Church last month.

## NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

**'REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER':** Those whose names you place in your Sacred Space in your home and those whose names you place in the Sacred Space in the church will be remembered each time we celebrate Mass during the month of November. (In compliance with Covid precautions, no facility will be in place within the church this year for you to write the names, so you should write them out in advance of coming to the church). You might also like to light a candle in the church in memory of your loved ones.

**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. To view all the available resources, visit [www.catecheticalcentre.org](http://www.catecheticalcentre.org)

**NOVEMBER FAMILY PRAYER BOOK:** An online version of this booklet can be downloaded 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, next Sunday, 22 November, at 7.00pm: [www.churchservices.tv/pettigo](http://www.churchservices.tv/pettigo). To enrol a loved one, email: [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org) / Tel 0035371 9861518.

**WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2020:** The Church celebrates World Day of the Poor today, the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Pope Francis established the commemoration in 2017 at the end of the Year of Mercy. The theme this year, **"Stretch forth your hand to the poor"**, is drawn from the Old Testament Book of Sirach, with the Pope stating in his Message for the Day that, "these words are a sacred rule to be followed in life; today these words remain as timely as ever. They help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference. Poverty always appears in a variety of guises, and calls for attention to each particular situation. In all of these, we have an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus, who has revealed himself as present in the least of his brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40)."

The Pope goes on to say in his Message that the current worldwide pandemic "arrived suddenly and caught us unprepared, sparking a powerful sense of bewilderment and helplessness. Yet hands never stopped reaching out to the poor. This has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help.....The present experience has challenged many of our assumptions. We feel poorer and less self-sufficient because we have come to sense our limitations and the restriction of our freedom. The loss of employment, and of opportunities to be close to our loved ones and our regular acquaintances, suddenly opened our eyes to horizons that we had long since taken for granted. Our spiritual and material resources were called into question and we found ourselves experiencing fear. In the silence of our homes, we rediscovered the importance of simplicity and of keeping our eyes fixed on the essentials".

*The full text of Pope Francis' Message can be accessed on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)*

**St Vincent de Paul, pray for us.**

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

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sat 21 November, 6pm	Sun 22 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**, 22 November, is Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year. The Gospel we will listen to is St Matthew 25:31-46, *'Seeing the face of Christ in others'*. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the Scripture Readings in advance. You can access them on [www.catholicbishops.ie/readings](http://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.**