

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

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY 2021 – SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – ST JOHN 1:35-42

A fundamental and life-long element of discipleship is growing in knowledge of and relationship with Jesus and handing on the faith to others. We can deepen our knowledge and relationship with Him through prayer, through Scripture and through the Eucharist; we can share the Good News with others through our words, attitudes, actions and example. The two disciples in St John's Gospel today wanted to spend time with Jesus, to get to know Him better, and they then told others of what they had witnessed. We are the disciples of our time. Jesus' invitation to "Come and see" – to get to know Him better and to spread the Word is offered to all of us. We ask God today for the grace to be courageous in our discipleship and ever-aware of and open to the invitation of Jesus.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF JANUARY:

Weekend Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg

Vigil 6.00pm (every Saturday):

Sunday 11.00am (2nd & 4th Sundays of the month - 10 and 24 January)

Weekday Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg: Monday, 7.30pm, Friday, 10.00am

You are invited to participate in these Masses by webcam: www.castledergparish.com

Masses in Aghyaran are also livestreamed on www.parishofaghyaran.com:

Sunday Masses: Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday morning 11.00am (17 and 31 January).

Weekday Masses: Tuesday 10.00am, Thursday 10.00am.

Our churches remain open for private prayer. You are welcome to call in and to light a candle. We continue to remember each other in prayer in these very worrying times, especially the sick.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to £686. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House. Standing Orders for the month of December amounted to £2,021. Standing Order is a particularly efficient way to contribute in these Covid-times and if anyone would like to start contributing by Standing Order, a Mandate is available to download from the parish website, www.castledergparish.com, or you can pick one up at the Parochial House. If you are starting to contribute by Standing Order, it would be very helpful, for administration purposes, if you would give me a quick ring to let me know, or drop me an email. Thank you very much.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, OMAGH – Message to all P6 and P7 pupils and their parents: Open the door to your future! Your journey begins online on Friday 22 January. Visit www.shcomagh.co.uk or Facebook page. For further information contact the school office on 028 82 242717 or email info@shc.omagh.ni.sch.uk

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Next, 24 January, is the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel we will listen to is St Mark 1:14-20: 'Follow me'. You can access the Readings on: www.catholicbishops.ie/readings

Please note, I continue to be available at the Parochial House, as normal. Please feel free to contact me. While there will be no routine visitation of the sick, I can do house calls, by arrangement, in the case of an emergency or where there is a particular worry or concern.

SINCERE THANKS for your good wishes and generosity to me at Christmas. It is very much appreciated. Thank you also for your ongoing support in these challenging times. Particular thanks for your prayers. Be assured that I continue to include you all in my daily prayers. May God bless you all in this coming year. Fr Paul.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18 - 25 JANUARY: THEME, 'ABIDING IN CHRIST'

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is based on John 15:1-17, "*Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit*". The materials this year have been prepared by the ecumenical Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, which has fifty Sisters, women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents.

"Our spiritual well-being is as important as our physical well-being. In the past year, both of these have been seriously challenged: the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to be careful about our own health. Some of us have been ill or have lost someone close to us. Meanwhile the working lives of many have been disrupted and families kept apart, often at huge personal cost. Perhaps it has made us all more anxious about our health and more aware of our vulnerability. At the same time church buildings have been closed and worship has been taking place online. Opportunities to worship and pray together have been seriously curtailed. We may well be feeling a sense of isolation from God as well as our neighbour. The period of lockdown that we have lived through has caused us to take a step back to think again about our priorities and the things and people that we value, that make our lives whole. As Church life was to a large extent paused for the first time for most people, what does it mean to be part of the one Church, the Body of Christ, when all we see of our sisters and brothers are on the screen of a laptop? Come with us in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and enter into a place of community and blessing. Simply "be" in this place and be carried by the prayer and the reality that it is God, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, who carries us and accompanies us." *Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*