

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING: GOSPEL: ST MATTHEW 25:31-46

The Church concludes the liturgical year today with the celebration of the kingship of Christ. Jesus' model of kingship does not reflect that which we might normally think of when we hear of a king. His kingship is about serving God through service of others – it is about healing, reconciliation, peace, justice, prayer; it is about trust in and acceptance of God's will. Most of all, it is about Love.

The teachings on discipleship and Christian living in today's Gospel are quite stark. In short, today's Gospel is a clear teaching on seeing the face of Christ in others, especially those in need. To do so, our hearts and minds must allow God, and the teachings and values of the Gospel to permeate everything we do and say. With Christ, our Servant King as our example, we pray that the start of the new liturgical year will mark a new beginning for all of us in seeing the face of Christ in all we encounter in our everyday lives.

MASSES IN OUR PARISH

Unfortunately, as you are probably aware, our churches will be closed for public worship for two weeks, starting with the Vigil Mass in Castlederg next Saturday, 28 November. Next weekend is the start of the new liturgical year, so it is sad for all of us that we have to start the new church year in lockdown. It is hoped, however, that the churches will be open again for the Sunday Masses on the weekend of 12/13 December.

The churches are open for Masses this weekend, as normal:

Vigil: Saturday 21 November 6.00pm Castlederg

Sunday 22 November: 9.00am Dregish, 11.00am Castlederg, 12.30pm Drumnabey

The churches are also open for the weekday Masses this week, as normal:

Castlederg: Monday: 7.30pm, Friday: 10.00am

All Masses in Castlederg (& Aghyaran) continue to be live-streamed: www.castledergparish.com

Mass schedule for the weekend of 28/29 November, when the churches will be closed:

Castlederg: Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday morning, 11.00am

You can participate in these Masses by webcam

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,680. Thank you also for your contributions to the Mission Sunday collection, which amounted to £1,057 and to the Trust Fund for Retired Priests, which amounted to £799. Collection envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House. Sincere thanks also to those who contribute by Standing Order and online.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE: Knock Shrine invites us to join online for a special Mass today (Sunday), at 12noon, as we remember all who have died from COVID-19 on the island of Ireland. This Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam and streamed live at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live. The Mass will also be broadcast at 2.15pm on RTÉ News Now.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: Sadly, this year, we will not be able to enjoy worship and carols together for the switching on of the lights in the Diamond but, not to be defeated, the local clergy got together this week at the Once in Royal David's City garden at St Patrick's, Aghyaran, to record a special service. This will be published on social media from 2pm this Thursday.

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE 2020 Advent Appeal: Boxes will be available at the door of Castlederg and Drumnabey churches from next week onwards. This focus of this year's campaign is building hand washing and sanitation facilities for 700 schools in Tanzania, to help keep up to 80,000 children each year safe from disease.

DREGISH COMMUNITY GROUP intend to have a Covid-19 safe visit by Santa, to St Eugene's Hall, for the local children. Children and parents will remain in their car and Santa will give them (the children!) a gift. To allow the Elves time to make the gifts please let us know before the end of November if you and your child(ren) intend to come along. Contact 07887756084 or dregish@aol.com

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.

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, today, Sunday 22 November, at 7.00pm: www.churchservices.tv/pettigo.

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: WEEKEND MASS BOOKING ROTA - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020 (Christmas Rota not included in this schedule – this will be published closer to Christmas, when we have a clearer idea of where we might stand at Christmas with restrictions)

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sat 21 November, 6pm Sat 5 Dec: Church Closed Sat 26 December, 6pm	Sun 22 November, 11am Sat 12 December, 6pm Sun 27 December, 11am	Sat 28 Nov: Church Closed Sun 13 December, 11am	Sun 29 Nov: Church Closed Sat 19 December, 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, Garvaghan 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

THE NEW CHURCH (LITURGICAL) YEAR starts next Sunday (29 November), on the First Sunday of Advent. It will be Year B in the liturgical calendar. We will listen, most Sundays, to the Gospel of St Mark.

While Mark's Gospel is presented in the Bible as the second of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John), it is believed to be the first written of the four Gospels (thought to have been written between 50 - 70 AD). It is the shortest of the Gospels, with just 16 chapters.

Mark's Gospel tells of the ministry of Jesus, from His baptism by John the Baptist to His death and burial and the discovery of the empty tomb. Presenting Jesus as the Son of God, and the messenger of God, Jesus is pictured by Mark as a man of action and authority. He presents His teachings in a straightforward, vigorous way, with emphasis on what He did, rather than on His words.

Mark (John Mark was his full name) was not one of the first disciples of Jesus, but he was a companion of Peter (Simon Peter) and, although the book was written by Mark, much of it is thought to be the eye-witness accounts of Peter during Peter's ministry with Jesus.

Most importantly, Mark's Gospel gives us a vivid portrayal of authentic discipleship and, as the disciples of today, we are called to apply it to our lives in a practical manner.

*'And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you into fishers of men."
And at once they left their nets and followed him.'* Mark 1:17-18

NEXT SUNDAY, 29 November, the first day of the new Church year, is the First Sunday of Advent. The Gospel we will listen to is St Mark 13:33-37, "*Stay Awake*". As we start the new liturgical year, you may wish to familiarise yourself with the Word of God before hearing it at Sunday Mass, to give yourself an opportunity to better understand what God is saying to us in the Sunday Scriptures. If you are interested in looking at the Scripture Readings in advance of Sunday Mass, you can access them on website: www.catholicbishops.ie/readings. (The weekday readings are also available on this site).

**Eternal rest grant on to them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.**