

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2020 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

Peter – The Rock on which the Church was built: St Matthew's Gospel 16:13-20

Today's Gospel passage is a pivotal and revealing moment in Jesus' ministry. It is a key moment in the witness of the Apostles and, in particular, a defining one in the discipleship of Simon Peter.

Despite the positive, dramatic and transforming exchange and declarations that we hear today, subsequent events will indicate that the Apostles, including Peter (meaning 'rock'), still have doubts and fears and lack understanding of their role and responsibilities in discipleship and proclaiming the kingdom of God.

Like the Apostles, while we too sometimes feel close to Jesus and have moments of inexplicable enlightenment and grace, there are times when we do not understand or take up the full implications of being Christ's followers. Our actions and words may not always present us as rocks of faith. Jesus gave to His Apostles the privilege of building His kingdom, through a Church based on the Rock of Peter. We, the disciples of our generation, have been given that privilege too.

We thank God for the gift of those who, by their example and witness, encouraged us to get to know the House of God, to gather together in faith to share the love of Christ in His everlasting gift to us, the Eucharist.

SUNDAY MASSES: Vigil: Sat 6.00pm Castlederg. Sun: 9.00am Dregish, 11.00am Castlederg, 12.30pm Drumnabey

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

CONFIRMATION: St Patrick's Church, Castlederg, **Friday 28 August, at 5.00pm:**

There will be an **Information Meeting** for parents of the Confirmation children in St Patrick's Church on Thursday morning (27th) at 11.00. One parent of each child is asked to attend this meeting.

The P7 'Leavers Assembly' will be held in the church at 12.00noon on Thursday. Parents are invited to attend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Saturday 29 August, 12noon and 2.00pm: Mass for the children in Mrs Smith's class will be at 12noon and Mass for the children in Mr Keenan's class will be at 2.00pm.

There will be an **Information Meeting** for parents of the First Communion children in St Patrick's Church on Tuesday morning (25th) at 11.00. One parent of each child is asked to attend this meeting.

Stewards will be in attendance at both ceremonies to help us, and everyone is asked to co-operate in following their directions. Both celebrations will be live-streamed and recorded. Please keep the children in your prayer this week.



Maureen Gilchrist, late of 41 Moneygal Road, Castlederg

As a parish faith community, we offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to Valerie, Tony and Colm, grandchildren and wider family circle and friends of Maureen, whose Funeral Mass took place in Castlederg on Wednesday, with burial at Carncorn. May she rest in peace.

Cathal Lynch, late of Tallaght, Dublin and Castlederg

We offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to Cathal's children Rian, Fionn and Keeley, his parents Alice and Charles (Young Crescent), his wife Carmel, his brothers and sisters and the wider family circle. Cathal's Funeral Mass took place in St Martin de Porres Church, Aylesbury on Friday. May he rest in peace.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,656. 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 and to those who make online payments. Standing Orders and online payments for July amounted to £1,360.

Sincere thanks for further generous donations towards the heating project in St Patrick's Church, Castlederg: the amounts received this week were £200 and £200.

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 29 & 30 AUGUST 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Phone Parochial House, between 11am & 2pm on Thurs or Fri, to book a place

Saturday 29 August – 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Killeter Rd, Dergview Pk, Alexander Pk, Ashburn Pk, Millbrook Gardens

Sunday 30 August – 11.00am Mass: Cavan Rd, Whiterock Pk, Mucklehill View, Kilcurragh Pk, Greystone Avenue, Moneygal Rd, Pullyarnon Rd

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DRUMNABEY: Sunday 30 August – 12.30pm: Castlebane, Drumnabey Road, Scarvagherin, Goland, Drumnabey Park, Gamble Park

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sun 30 August – 9.00am: Drumlegagh, Baronscourt, Letterbin, Envagh, Leglands, Tullymuck

Face Masks: Following recent consultations with public health authorities, church leaders strongly recommend that, with the exception of those who are exempt from wearing them, everyone should wear a face mask in church from next weekend onwards.