

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOSPEL: ST JOHN 10:11-18: *'I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own sheep my own know me'*

This Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**, is a worldwide **Day of Prayer for Vocations**,

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Focussing on St Joseph as an example of faithful service, below are the three aspects of Joseph's journey in life that Pope Francis reflects on in his Message for Vocations Sunday, in this Year of St Joseph.

Dreams ♦ Service ♦ Fidelity

Dreams: Joseph's own plans in life were far from the plans that God had for him, but Pope Francis tells us that, "through the dreams that God inspired in him, he made of his life a gift."

Joseph's vocation in life was a positive response to God's will for him. We ask ourselves today, how do we respond to God's plans for us, especially when they differ from the dreams and plans that we have in place for ourselves?

Service: Pope Francis tells us that, "The Gospels show how Joseph lived entirely for others and never for himself" and, in the service of God, "he welcomed life's frequent and often unexpected journeys."

We ask St Joseph to intercede for us today so that, with God's help, we will live out our vocation in life to the best of our ability, ready to accept with open heart the challenges that a life of service to a vocation presents on our journey.

Fidelity: The first words that Joseph heard in a dream were an invitation not to be afraid, because God remains ever faithful to his promises: Pope Francis tells us that, "a vocation - like life itself - matures only through daily fidelity". We pray today for the courage not to be afraid to remain faithful to our vocation in life and we thank God for the people in our lives who nurture fidelity and inspire us in remaining faithful to our vocation in life.

Pope Francis' Message for World day of Prayer for Vocations can be accessed on www.vatican.va. The link to it is also on our parish Facebook page. You are invited to take time to read it in these coming days

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Patrick's, Castlederg: Monday, 7.30pm and Friday, 10.00am

Weekday Masses in Aghyaran: Tuesday 10.00am, Thursday 10.00am:

Masses in Aghyaran are livestreamed on www.parishofaghyan.com:

SUNDAY MASSES

St Patrick's, Castlederg:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm, and 11.00am on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month (9 & 23 May)

Attendance at the Sunday Masses is by booking only:

please ring the parish office between 11.00am and 2.00pm on Thursday or Friday (028 816 71393)

or email at any time (castledergparish@derrydiocese.org)

All Masses in Castlederg continue to be available via our parish webcam, www.castledergparish.com

St Mary's, Dregish:

9.00am

Open to the Drumlegagh, Baronscourt, Letterbin, Envagh, Leglands Tullymuck areas on Sunday 2 May

St Francis of Assisi, Drumnabey:

12.30pm

Attendance at the Drumnabey Mass each week is now open to both areas.

Masses in Dregish and Drumnabey can be viewed via the parish webcam:

www.castledergparish.com: click the 'mobile' button

FEAST DAY OF ST JOSEPH, THE WORKER is celebrated next Saturday, 1 May. The Feast Day was instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to increase devotion to the saint as a model worker and patron of workers. On this date many countries celebrate the dignity of human labour.

There are no words of Joseph quoted in the bible, but we know that he was an ordinary, humble, hard-working carpenter, entrusted by God with an extraordinary vocation in the ordinariness of his life.

St Joseph, patron of all workers, intercede for us, that God, who is Love, will always be at the centre of the work of our hearts, hands and minds.

MAY - MONTH OF MARY

On Saturday of this week we enter into the month of May, month of special devotion to Our Lady. It is a tradition of our faith that we express in some way the importance of Mary, model in faith, in our homes during May. We can honour Mary in a variety of ways in our homes, for example:

- ♦ by making special effort to pray the Family Rosary each evening
- ♦ praying short Marian prayers or Aspirations, especially with children, at some stage of the day, eg : O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee
- ♦ Creating a May Altar in a sacred space in your home

The May Altar is a great way for children to become actively involved in honouring Our Lady at home. They can help with choosing the sacred space, picking flowers, creating the altar. May Altars can be created very simply, with a clean white cloth, a statue of Our Lady, Rosary beads, holy water and some flowers. Family members can place written prayer petitions in a bowl on the May Altar and to pray through the intercession of Our Lady for these intentions; again, parents are encouraged to involve their children in this practice.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to £1,798 and €15. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House or can be brought to the church by those attending for Mass. Sincere thanks for donation received this week of £2,000.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE LEGION OF MARY: Mass will be celebrated in St Theresa's Church, Sion Mills, this Wednesday evening, 28 April, at 7.00pm, You are invited to participate online, on: <http://melmountparish.com/sionwebcam.html> . The Rosary and Legion of Mary Prayers will be recited.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT Seminar in Omagh continues in the Sacred Heart Church, each Thursday evening, at 7.30pm. Please join via the parish webcam: <http://www.drumraghparish.com/webcam.html>. This week, 29 April, Fr Joe Gormley will be the speaker: theme – Salvation.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY – DIOCESE OF DERRY: *Invitation to Respond*: The Derry Diocesan Laudato Si Group has launched a consultative plan about climate change and the environment and is inviting everyone within the diocese to read, engage and respond to it. The plan identifies actions and behaviours that support rather than destroy the environment. The suggestions cover such areas as land, buildings, energy, food, travel and waste. A draft of the Environmental Strategy has been posted on <https://www.derrydiocese.org/diocese/environmental-strategy> to view or download. You are asked to: 1) read the draft Strategy document and give feedback on aspects that you feel could be supplemented/improved and 2) begin to implement any aspect(s) of it that you feel can be put into practice quickly and easily. Submission deadline is Monday, 31 May. Submit your comments, questions and suggestions to Patricia McCormack by:

Email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com Telephone/text: 077 1190 0420 Facebook: Laudatosiderry Thank you!

MASTERS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. **An information session via ZOOM will be held on Monday 7 June at 3.30pm.** If you are interested in attending this session or require any further information, please contact Therese Ferry on 028 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org.

DERRY DIOCESAN VOCATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, gentle Shepherd, You know Your sheep and You know how to reach their hearts.

Give to the people of the parishes of the Diocese of Derry hearts that are open to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Speak to the hearts of the young men of our diocese that they may hear Your call to follow You and serve Your people as priests. Awaken in them the courage to answer: 'Here I am, Lord, Send me.'

St Patrick, pray for us. St Francis of Assisi, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. St John Vianney, pray for us.