

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 OCTOBER 2020

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL: St Matthew 22:34-40 THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

Most of us will have learned the Ten Commandments by rote, as children in primary school. In our adult faith, it is important for us to understand that, in giving us the Commandments, God did not provide us with a set of rules or laws to restrict us; rather, He provided us with the fundamental principles to guide us in living lives that bring us closer to Him. The first three Commandments are about establishing the right relationship with God; the remaining seven, which establish boundaries defining the right relationship with others, grow out of the *first* Commandment. So, 'keeping the Commandments' is not about being seen by others to obey the law and abide by rules, or about outward appearances of piety: it *is* about a desire of heart and willingness to love and serve God and neighbour in a way that reflects the teachings and example of Jesus. Learning and knowing the Commandments off by heart is one thing, but understanding them as a Gift of Love from God is key to living their values. *Love of God* and *love of neighbour* can, indeed, be described as a summary of the Ten Commandments.

SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil: Saturday 6.00pm Castlederg. Sunday: 9.00am Dregish, 11.00am Castlederg, 12.30pm Drumnabey
Mass in Castlederg on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month (25 October, 8 & 22 November)

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: 7.30pm, Castlederg, Friday: 10.00am, Castlederg

All Masses in Castlederg continue to be live-streamed: www.castledergparish.com or www.parishofaghyan.com

SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE DETAILS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 31 OCTOBER & 1 NOVEMBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Saturday 31 October – 6.00pm Vigil: Group **A**. (Details of the 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 1 November – 12.30pm: Listymore Park, Oakland, The Crewe, Garvetagh & Lisleen, Coolcreaghy.

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sunday 1 November – 9.00am: Dunteague, Glassmullagh, Lisnacraight



Patsy Boyle, late of Omagh, and formerly Castlederg

As a parish faith community we offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to Patsy's wife, Sarah, his children, Joe, Nichola, Julie and Sarah Louise, grandchildren, sisters, Margaret (Hospital Road) and Grace, brothers, John and Tommy and wider family circle and friends. Patsy's burial took place in Castlederg on Saturday, following Funeral Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh. May he rest in peace.

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR OUR CHURCHES (IN NORTHERN IRELAND)

Under the new restrictions announced last week, everyone must wear a face mask when entering and leaving church. It is also strongly recommended that masks are worn while in church. In our parish, I am proud of the way we have responded in our churches and we are all indebted to our stewards and to those who help with the re-sanitising of the spaces after everyone has left 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.

The new restrictions introduced two weeks ago do not affect Sunday Mass attendance. In our parish, the booking system in Castlederg and the rota in Dregish and Drumnabey will continue to be used for the time being. **What has changed, however, is the new four-week restriction in the numbers who can attend weddings and funerals. This has been fixed at 25. This number applies also to those attending graveside services.**

The temporary regulations also ban wakes, funeral receptions and wedding receptions from taking place. This piece of legislation is particularly challenging to the traditions of our culture.

I can only assume that the difference in guidelines between Sunday Mass and weddings/funerals, is that, by the nature of those events (weddings and funerals), they lead to greater personal interaction - handshaking, hugging, etc - and this makes social distancing, and the managing of it, more challenging. In addition, people often travel into the area to attend a wake, funeral or wedding, increasing the risk of infection to our local community.

We must keep in our prayers all those who are suffering directly from Covid-19, those who are anxious about the pandemic, those in the medical and caring professions and all frontline workers who take grave risks on our behalf. We pray also for those scientists who are developing treatments and vaccines, that their work will be blessed by Jesus, the Divine Healer.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,594. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass.

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November it is customary for us to remember our beloved dead relatives and friends. In spite of the ever-changing sets of rules and regulations, I would like to ensure that we remember those who have died in the past year, by acknowledging them by name in a special Mass. We will have this **Mass in Castlederg** on **Friday 6 November at 7.30pm**. During this Mass we will light a candle in remembrance of the following, who have died in the past year:

***Daniel Morris, Anna Kinloch, Kitty McGoldrick, Phyllis Irwin,
Seamus Mannion, Bob Smith, Tony Harper, Finola Brook, Margaret Collins, Martin Arkinson,
Canon Bernard Devine, Agnes Doherty, Bernie Anderson, Teresa Gallen, Eamon Loughrey,
David Bonner, Reba Carlin, Ann Ramsey, Keith McLaughlin, Maureen Gilchrist, Hilary Lynch,
Kathleen Hewitt, Paddy McGoldrick, Patsy McAleer, Nolie Hilley, Kathleen Connolly.***

Due to the current restrictions we can only allocate one pew in the church for each family. This means a maximum of five/ six people. In order to ensure the safety of our community, no-one should travel into the area for this Mass which will, of course, be streamed online and the stream will be recorded. Of course, these arrangements may have to change at short notice in order to comply with instructions from the Public Health Agency.

Since the customary 'Blessing of the Graves' did not take place this year, I will undertake to bless every grave in all the cemeteries in the parish during the first week of November. Unfortunately, this event will have to take place privately, since we are not allowed to gather in groups of more than 15.

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

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sat 31 October, 6pm Sat 21 November, 6pm	Sat 7 November, 6pm Sun 22 November, 11am	Sun 8 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 Strabane Rd Lower Strabane Rd Castleview Tce Mount Bernard Drive Derg Fold Castlegore Cashel Road Ganvaghan Road Drumquin Road Castlebane Road	Killeter Road Dergview Park Alexander Park Ashburn Park Kilclean Road Ashleigh Court Oakleigh Grove Kilcroagh Road Cavan Road Whiterock Park Mucklehill View Kilcurragh Park Greystone Avenue Moneygal Road Pollyarnon Road	Lurganbuoy Road Lurganbuoy Park Garag Hill Burnside Villas Young Crescent Hawthorn Park Crockett Park Hospital Road Breezemount Park

CARLO ACUTIS, 1991 - 2006

Beatified by the Church on 10 October 2020 in Assisi, Italy

Carlo Acutis, born in London, moved to Milan, Italy, with his parents, where, at the tender age of 15, he died from leukaemia. Carlo was an ordinary young boy who shared the interests of other young people and, in particular, he had a great interest and skill in using internet. He is described as an amateur computer programmer. In addition to his hobbies, however, Carlo was a boy of remarkable faith, who from a very early age believed that real happiness is found by putting God first in everything. He loved prayer and, in particular, praying the Rosary. He believed in helping others in any way he could, especially the disadvantaged, and he loved to help out in his parish. Above all, Carlo recognised the presence of Jesus in his everyday life and loved attending Mass. Receiving the Eucharist regularly was paramount in Carlo's life. Such was his belief in the Real Presence, that Carlo researched Eucharistic miracles through history and, using the internet skills with which he was gifted, created a website on which he researched and catalogued each reported Eucharistic miracle in history. He completed his Eucharistic miracle exhibition, which is now of international fame, in 2005, having started cataloguing at the age of 11.

Carlo embraced his illness with bravery, offering up his suffering "for the Pope and for the Church". He died on 12 October 2006. Carlo's mother, still a young woman, is in the unique position, this month, of having attended her son's beatification. Fr Paul Farren was privileged this month to interview Carlo's mother, Antonia, about Carlo's life and about his beatification. The interview can be seen on our parish Facebook.

Our young parishioners, in particular, are encouraged to take the time to research, on internet, the life, work and legacy of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

NEXT SUNDAY, 1 November, is All Saints Day. In the Gospel of St Matthew 5:1-12a, Jesus teaches the Beatitudes. You can view the Readings in advance on www.catholicbishops.ie/readings