

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

On this first Sunday of Christmas we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We entrust all our families to their patronage. We give thanks for our family of origin and pray for the stability of family life today.

SUNDAY MASSES

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG: Vigil, Saturday: 6.00pm, Sunday Morning: 11.00am, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (27 Dec, 10 Jan, 24 Jan & 31 Jan – 5th Sun)

Attendance at our Masses in Castlederg is open to all the areas. This week, parishioners should phone or email the Parochial House, between 11am & 2pm on **Monday or Tuesday**, to book a place. If you are emailing, please include the number of people that hope to attend and, remember, a 'space' can hold up to three people.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DRUMNABEY: Sun 3 January – 12.30pm: Castlebane, Drumnabey Road, Scarvagherin, Goland, Drumnabey Park, Gamble Park.

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sun 3 January – 9.00am: Drumlegagh, Baronscourt, Letterbin, Envagh, Leglands, Tullymuck.

WEEKDAY MASSES – ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG:

Monday, 28 December: **6.00pm**; Friday, 1 January, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: 10.00am

All our Masses in Castlederg are live-streamed on our parish webcam: www.castledergparish.com



Damien Connolly, late of 77 Lurganbuoy Road, Castlederg

As a parish faith community, we offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to the daughters and son, Shannon, Clodagh and Kelvin, sisters, brothers and wider family circle and friends of Damien, whose Funeral Mass took place at Castlederg on Wednesday. May he rest in peace.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE is celebrated by the Church on 1 January. "A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace" is the theme chosen by Pope Francis. The full text of the Pope's Message can be accessed on catholicbishops.ie

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to £1,652. Thank you also to all who contribute by Standing Order/online. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House.

SPECIAL THANKS to those who decorated our churches so beautifully for Christmas. Thank you also to our stewards, sacristans, cleaners, singers & musicians, Scripture readers and Eucharistic Ministers. Your help has been invaluable.

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE 2020 Advent Appeal: Boxes can be returned to the Parochial House in the coming weeks.

NEXT SUNDAY, 3 January, the Second Sunday of Christmas, the Gospel we will listen to is St John 1:1:18: *The Word made Flesh, the Word the True Light*. You can access the Readings on catholicbishops.ie/readings

Prayer for Families (from the Family Prayer Book)

Lord, You chose to enter the world as a member of a family. Take care of all families.

May they be sources of love and security for all family members, where each person is valued and all are given a chance to reach their full potential. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO ALL PARISHIONERS

I take this opportunity to offer you and your families every good wish and blessing for the New Year and throughout 2021. I pray that, as the new year unfolds, we will all enter better and brighter times. In particular, my thoughts, hopes and prayers are with our children and young people, who have been exemplary in their patience and co-operation with all the disruption to their young lives this past year.

Thank you for your support of our parish throughout this difficult year. Despite all the disruption to so many aspects of your lives and families, you have continued to be most generous in your support of the parish and, as always, not least in your financial support. To all who have given generously of their time and talents throughout the year to the liturgical, pastoral, administrative and 'practical' life of the parish, thank you very much. Your ongoing commitment, willingness, guidance and support is very much appreciated. Thank you also to our parish staff, for their loyalty and good work.

On a personal note, your good wishes and generosity to me at Christmas are very much appreciated. Thank you and, in return, I promise to keep you all in my prayers each day.

May God bless us all as we journey together in faith and embrace the challenges and opportunities of the coming year. I ask that you stay safe and continue to care for one another. Most of all, please continue to pray that, in 2021, the deaths, sickness, dangers and fears of the past year, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, will cease. As always, keep those in the caring profession in your prayers.

May God bless you all. Fr Paul.