

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2020

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me (Matt 16:24)

The confusion and uncertainty the disciples experience in their exchanges with Jesus, in the Gospel passage today, are in stark contrast to the positivity and the certainty of the exchanges we heard last Sunday. Peter wants to 'mould' Jesus into his way of thinking. Recognising in Peter the same spirit that tempted Him in the desert, Jesus rebukes the one who, such a short time before, was established by Jesus as the 'Rock of the Church'.

It is easy to see how the disciples felt despondent after the change of atmosphere in their relationship with Jesus. All of us are familiar with experiences of relationships and things in our lives changing – certainty can very quickly become uncertainty and an unexpected turn of events can reverse our best-laid plans. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us on the challenging road of discipleship. Prayer, Scripture and the Eucharist sustain us on our journey. And yet, following God's ways, rather than being driven by our own, is still not easy. In the knowledge that the suffering of Jesus on the Cross was rewarded with eternal glory, we pray that our focus will always be on the reward of discipleship, not the cost.

SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil: Sat 6.00pm Castlederg. Sunday 31 August: 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

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Hilary Lynch, late of 24 Young Crescent, Castlederg

As a parish faith community, we offer our sympathy and our prayerful support to Kathleen, to Margaret, Colm, Maria, Martin, Michael and Julie, and to the grandchildren, sisters, brother and wider family circle and friends of Hilary, whose Funeral Mass and burial took place at Castlederg on Friday. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS to the P7 boys and girls of St Patrick's PS, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday. We pray that the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit will guide and inspire their choices in life.

CONGRATULATIONS to the P4 boys and girls who received First Holy Communion on Saturday. We pray that the Eucharist will remain the focus of their faith journey.

Sincere thanks to the teachers, ancillary staff, parents, grandparents and all who encouraged and helped the children prepare for the sacraments. Thanks also to those who prepared the church so beautifully, to those who provided the lovely music and singing and to the stewards for keeping everyone right. Your help was much appreciated. As always, thank you to John and Seamus for their work.

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 5 & 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG:

Please note that, as from the start of September (next weekend), the weekend Mass schedule is reverting to the 'pre-Covid' schedule, ie: 6.00pm every Saturday and 11.00am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. A revised rota for Castlederg, consisting of four areas, is displayed on the noticeboard of the church and details are also on the reverse of this newsletter. Please take time to check it carefully.

Saturday 5 Sept – 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Castlefin Road, Castlefin Park, Churchtown Park, Hillview Park, Brooke Park, Harpur Park, Willowcrest, Stoney Heights, Priestessagh Road, Freughlough Road

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)

(The next Sunday morning Mass in Castlederg will be on 13 September).

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DRUMNABEY: Sun 6 Sept – 12.30pm: Listymore Park, Oakland, The Crewe, Garvetagh & Lisleen, Coolcreaghy

ST MARY'S, DREGISH: Sun 6 Sept – 9.00am: Dunteague, Glassmullagh, Lisnacreight

Face Masks: Following recent consultations with public health authorities, our 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 this weekend onwards, for the foreseeable future.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to £1,904. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass. **Sincere thanks** for further generous donations towards the heating project in St Patrick's Church, Castlederg: the amounts received this week were £60 and £100.

ST EUGENE'S HALL, DREGISH: The Community Group is organising a few events, taking COVID-19 precautions into consideration: **The 2020 Parish Walk** from St Eugene's Hall to Sliabh Troim - Sunday 20 Sept. Funds raised will go to the Air Ambulance, a great cause, which has been used locally. **A Mental Health course for children - Relaxed Kids** - by Mrs Nuala Grugan, starts on Sat 3 Oct at 1.00pm, in the hall. Cost only £10, thanks to Council Grant. **An adult Irish Language course** for beginners starts on Thurs 17 Sept at 7.30pm. No charge, thanks to Council grant. *These courses are limited to 12 participants. If numbers are greater than 12 then we shall select by lottery.*

WE PRAY God's blessing and protection on all our school children and on the staff of our schools as they prepare to commence the new school year in difficult and uncertain circumstances.

SEASON OF CREATION: 1 September - 4 October Theme: Cultivating Hope

In 2015, Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation, 1 September to 4 October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) alerts us to our duty to care for all of God's creation and offers us an opportunity to renew and rethink our responsibility to our vocation as custodians of creation, entrusted to our care by God our Father.

A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, You are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of Your creatures.

You embrace with Your tenderness all that exists. Pour upon us the power of Your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in Your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards Your infinite light.

We thank You for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

ST PATRICK'S, CASTLEDERG

WEEKEND MASS BOOKING ROTA - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

Please note that, from next weekend, 5/6 September, the Parish Weekend Mass Schedule will return to normal (the 'pre-Covid' rota). This is to ensure that the Masses can be covered by one priest. This is important as we need to have contingency plans in place in case of sickness or to ensure holiday cover. I regret any confusion this change may cause, but I have to make a plan that is sustainable in the long run.

There is no change to Masses at Dregish (9.00am) or Drumnabey (12.30pm). There is no change to Castlederg Vigil Mass (Sat 6.00pm), but 11.00am Mass will be celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of the month only.

With social distancing restrictions in place, the capacity of the church is very limited, so we must maintain the booking system. Priority will be given to parishioners as detailed on the rota below. Parishioners should telephone the parish office on the Thursday or Friday before their weekend Mass and a space will be booked for them: the office hours (for purpose of booking weekend Mass) are **Thursday and Friday 11.00am - 2.00pm**. If there are still spaces available after 2.00pm on Friday, anyone from any of the areas of the parish is free to book a space. It is most useful if these later requests are sent into the parish by email, castledergparish@derrydiocese.org, since this also helps with contact tracing.

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sat 5 September, 6pm Sat 26 September, 6pm Sun 11 October, 11am	Sat 12 September, 6pm Sun 27 September, 11am Sat 17 October, 6pm	Sun 13 September, 11am Sat 3 October, 6pm Sat 24 October, 6pm	Sat 19 September, 6pm Sat 10 October, 6pm Sun 25 October, 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