

PARISH OF ARDSTRAW WEST AND CASTLEDERG

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

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SUNDAY 31 JANUARY 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL: MARK 1:21-28 He taught them with Authority

Today we hear St Mark's account of Jesus' first reported day in public life. It contains all the main characteristics of Jesus' ministry. Mark very powerfully presents the impact that Jesus makes, introducing us to the astounded reaction of the ordinary people, who look on Him as a person of authority. Jesus' mission to build the kingdom of God was revealed through His authoritative preaching, teaching, healing and praying. Key to His ministry was to engage disciples who would serve the mission. In effect, He was empowering people to build God's kingdom. That is what we are called to do – to build God's kingdom. Guided by the Holy Spirit, enriched by the Scriptures, nourished by the Eucharist and strengthened by prayer, we are called through our witness and example, to be beacons of light, encouraging others in their faith journey, and thereby build God's kingdom here on earth.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg

Vigil 6.00pm (every Saturday)

Sunday 11.00am (2nd & 4th Sundays of the month - 14 & 28 February)

Weekday Masses:

Monday, 1 February: Feast of St Brigid, Patroness of Ireland: 7.30pm:

For those who make St Brigid's crosses, please have them available in your home for blessing.

With Tuesday being Candlemas Day, candles will also be blessed at Monday evening's Mass.

*These can be distributed at a later time, when it is safe to do so,
to those who wish to have blessed candles in their home.*

First Friday, 5 February: 10.00am

You are invited to participate in our Masses on the parish webcam: www.castledergparish.com

Masses in Aghyaran are also livestreamed on www.parishofaghyaran.com:

Sunday Masses: Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday morning 11.00am (31 Jan, 7 Feb & 21 Feb).

Weekday Masses in Aghyaran :

Tuesday, Presentation of the Lord in the Temple – Candlemas Day: 10.00am, Thursday 10.00am.

As we now know, the churches will not reopen on 6 February as had been hoped, and the revised date at this stage is 6 March, with a further review to take place in February. Our churches continue to remain open, however, for private prayer. You are welcome to call in and to light a candle. We continue to remember each other in prayer in these very worrying times, especially those who are sick.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to £851. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House. Thank you to those who contribute by Standing Order. Standing Order Mandates are available to download on www.castledergparish.com or pick up at Parochial House.

ONLINE PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE: Preparing for Marriage? Catholic Engaged Encounter is hosting a 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation Course on 27 - 28 March 2021. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage aimed at enabling you to discover ways of enriching your future relationship. For further information or bookings, email marriageencounter.ie or telephone 028 276 385 12.

PART-TIME CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Primary), with Online Delivery: St Angela's College, Sligo, is inviting applications for this course, which is beginning in Autumn 2021. It is open to: qualified primary school teachers and qualified post-primary teachers, as well as parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education. Closing date for Applications is Friday 14 May. Contact Mary Kearns, Senior Adm, School of Education, St. Angela's College, Sligo. Email: mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie or visit website, www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Next Sunday, 7 February, is the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel we will listen to is St Mark 1:29-39: 'The Healing Ministry of Jesus'. You can access the Readings on: www.catholicbishops.ie/readings - or in your bible!

Please note, I continue to be available at the Parochial House, as normal. Please feel free to contact me. While there will be no routine visitation of the sick, I can do house calls, by arrangement, in the case of an emergency or where there is a particular worry or concern.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES 3 - 11 FEBRUARY

I invite you to join with me in praying our Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes for the Sick: it will start this **Wednesday, 3 February**, in **St Patrick's, Castlederg**, with the **Rosary and Novena Prayer, at 7.30pm**. You can join by webcam. The Novena will finish on 11 February, which is Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and is World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Each day we will have a different prayer intention, as below:

Day 1 - Wednesday 3 February

(the Rosary & Novena Prayer will be prayed at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church, at 7.30pm):

For all who are suffering from Covid-19, especially those in hospital and in intensive care at this time

Day 2 - Thursday 4 February:

For all who are awaiting surgery or test results, and for all who are worried about their health

Day 3 - Friday 5 February:

For the sick and housebound in our parish, including those in our care homes and those who are normally visited as part of the First Friday visitation

Day 4 - Saturday 6 February:

For all who have a terminal illness at this time

Day 5 - Sunday 7 February:

For the elderly, especially those who, through poor health, are no longer able to care for themselves

Day 6 - Monday 8 February:

For all who struggle with addiction

Day 7 - Tuesday 9 February:

For all in the caring profession - doctors, nurses, paramedics and ambulance staff, care assistants, other support workers in our hospitals and care homes, all who care for sick family members at home

Day 8 - Wednesday 10 February

(the Rosary & Novena Prayer will be prayed at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church, at 7.30pm):

For all who suffer from poor mental health
and those who are worried about their own mental health or that of a loved one at this time

Day 9 - 11 February:

For sick children, especially children who suffer long term illnesses, for their parents and all who care for them

The Novena Prayer will be published on our parish Facebook page and the prayer intention will also be published on the Facebook page each day. The Novena Prayer will be prayed each time I celebrate Mass - you can participate online, and/or you can pray it in your home, perhaps with family members or, if it suits you, you can come along to the church to pray it at a time that suits you.

In particular, I ask that you bring this Novena of Prayer for the Sick to the attention of anyone you may know who is suffering from any form of sickness, so that they may have the opportunity to participate in these special days of prayer for the sick in our parish. Thank you.

NOVENA PRAYER

**Loving Mother Mary,
you declared yourself at Lourdes as the Immaculate Conception.**

**Help me to imitate your example of trust
and always say Yes to the will of God, especially in times of difficulty.**

**Through your loving intercession,
I come before you today with my prayer request.....**

(Pause for silent prayer).

**I ask you to bring it before your Son, Jesus, our merciful Lord and Saviour.
In return, help me to bear witness to the message of His holy Word each day,
by the example of my life.**

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. St Bernadette, pray for us.