

PARISH OF TERMONAMONGAN (AGHYARAN)

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SUNDAY 2nd MAY 2021 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOSPEL: ST JOHN 15:1-8 THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

As the weeks of the celebration of the Paschal Mystery progress, the Scriptures draw us towards discipleship in the context of the Ascension of Jesus to His Father in heaven and the sending of the Holy Spirit to dwell within God's people. Today's Gospel passage is taken from St John's account of Jesus' discourse with the apostles on the night of the Last Supper: Jesus is preparing His apostles for the day He will no longer be physically present amongst them. Jesus uses the connection of *branches to the vine* to illustrate the two-way relationship with Him: the Vine provides the life-giving bond that enables the branches, in turn, to bear fruit and serve the God of love. Baptised into the Holy Trinity, we, the branches of God's love, are given the opportunity to bear fruit. We cannot do so on our own but, with the Holy Spirit to guide us, the Scriptures to enlighten us and the Eucharist to nourish us, we can stay close to the Vine, spread the gift and joy of faith and draw others back to the Vine, thereby bearing the fruit of God's love.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 10.00am and Thursday 10.00am

Masses in Castlederg are also livestreamed on www.parishofcastlederg.com

Monday, 7.30pm and Friday 10.00am

WEEKEND MASS NEXT WEEKEND

AREA A: 7.30PM

The Corgaries, Ardarver, Tullycar Road, Essan Road, Tullycar, Meenakeerin,
Crilly Park, Ballymongan, Pollytean Road and Shanaghey

All Masses are available via our parish webcam, www.aghyaranparish.com

St Patrick's, Castlederg

Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 11.00am

(Masses in Castlederg are livestreamed on www.castledergparish.com)

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to **£807** and the Church Restoration Fund Collection totalled **£613** Envelopes can continue to be left at the Parochial House or can be brought to the church by those attending for Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Adoration will take place every Thursday from after 10.00am Mass to 12noon.

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, Thursday 6th May: *The New Life* - Bishop McKeown will be the speaker.

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 31st May. Submit your comments, questions and suggestions to Patricia McCormack by: Email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com Telephone/text: 077 1190 0420 Facebook: Laudatosiderry

The Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation – Summer 2021

The public health situation in the North remains unpredictable. As already announced, I am expecting that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on the P7 children in Aghyaran on **Saturday 5th June at 2pm**. Each child will be able to invite a maximum of six people, and these should all be from the same social 'bubble'. I would encourage parents to act responsibly in relation to the celebrations they arrange. You will be aware of the current rate of spread of Covid among our young population and we want to ensure that the children are kept free from infection and are able to return to school on Monday 7th June without posing a risk to the rest of the school community.

Bishop McKeown circulated an email yesterday (26th April), advising that First Holy Communion ceremonies could proceed in the Summer Term, providing the Principal and Teachers were confident that the children would be suitably prepared. Following a discussion with Mrs Ellis and Mrs Maguire, I have decided to schedule the ceremony to take place on **Saturday 12th June at 2pm**. Again, each child will be permitted to invite six guests from the same social 'bubble'. The same public health concerns arise and I would again appeal to parents to do all they can to reduce the risk to our school and to the wider community.

In preparation for these celebrations **the children and their parents** are invited to attend Mass as follows:

P4 – Friday 7th May at 7.30pm
P7 – Thursday 6th May at 7.30pm

At these Masses you will be given important information about the way in which we intend to celebrate safely these special days in the lives of your children and of our parish. As part of their preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation it is expected that each family will make a special effort to attend Mass on the weekends in keeping with the rota that is currently in place.

Thank you for your cooperation during these unpredictable times! I assure you that I will do everything possible to proceed with the arrangements described above. In spite of this, we must all be mindful of the fact that the situation could change at short notice.

Wishing you and your families every blessing.
Fr Paul Fraser

MAY – MONTH OF MARY

May is a 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.

MARY'S MEALS – PRAY IN MAY

In this month of devotion to Our Lady, Mary's Meals invites us to join in their prayer campaign for their work. Mary's Meals provides chronically hungry children with a daily meal in their place of education, currently reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal, in 19 countries, every school day. This meets their immediate need for food but also gives them hope of a brighter future. Those who are directly involved with the charity work of Mary's Meals pray in thanksgiving for each little act of love that makes this work possible and also pray for God's continued blessing on their mission so that, through His providence, it will always flourish enabling us them to reach more hungry children. Prayer resources and further information can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay