

PARISH OF TERMONAMONGAN (AGHYARAN)

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SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2021 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39 The healing ministry of Jesus

In 'Ordinary Time' of the liturgical year, the Sunday Gospels focus our attention on the public ministry of Jesus. A focal point of Jesus' ministry was the healing of the sick. The Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for the Sick each year on 11 February, which is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes (Thursday of this week). Pope Francis, in his Message for World Day of the Sick, states that a society is truly human when it cares effectively for the sick and suffering in a spirit of communal love, emphasising that we must strive to make sure "no-one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned".

Prayer was, of course, central to Jesus's ministry – Scripture tells us that He sometimes prayed alone and sometimes prayed with others. As a parish community, for the most part, we are confined to praying in our own homes at this time, rather than joining together in our churches for prayer. We are, nonetheless, very much united in prayer this week, for the sick, in our *Novena*: with trust in God's will, we pray, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, for the healing hand of Jesus to bring consolation to all who suffer from any form of sickness.

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE for World Day of Prayer for the Sick can be accessed on www.catholicbishops.ie or on www.vatican.ie/messages. You are encouraged to read in in these coming days.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses in St Patrick's, Aghyaran

Vigil 7.30pm (every Saturday)

Sunday morning 11.00am (7th and 21st February).

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 10.00am, Thursday 10.00am.

On Wednesday evening of this week, at 7.30pm, as part of our Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes, the Rosary and Novena Prayer will be prayed in St Patrick's, Castlederg.

You are invited to participate in these masses (and on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm)

via webcam: www.parishofaghyaran.com or www.castledergparish.com

Weekend Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg will be as follows: Vigil 6.00pm (every Saturday)

Weekday Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg: Monday, 7.30pm, Friday, 10.00am

Our churches continue to remain open for private prayer. You are welcome to call in and to light a candle.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to **£925** and the Church Restoration Fund Collection totalled **£810** Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House

PARISH ENVELOPES The envelope boxes for the new tax year (starting 6 April) are being ordered now. If there is anyone who has not previously contributed to the collection and is now in a position to start contributing or, perhaps, contributed previously to the 'loose plate' collection at Sunday Mass, but would like to start contributing by envelope, please let me know and I will include your name in the order.

TROCAIRE GLOBAL GIFTS Trocaire would like to thank you – the parishioners of Aghyaran for the generous support shown in this year's Global Gift sale and acknowledge the sum of **£2345** (including euros) received from Bernie McGuire. Some of the funds donated will be used to provide irrigation systems to help families grow fruit, grains and vegetables and give communities the skills and equipment needed to fix and maintain wells that have fallen into disrepair. Many thanks also to Bernie McGuire for her effort and commitment.

ST. DAVOGS CLUB

The final club members monthly draw for 2020 took place last Saturday night. The winners were: £250 (No 406) Martin Dolan, £100 (No 232) Anna Logue, £100 (No 418) Mickey Doherty Aghamore Road, £100 (No 302) Kerrie Falls, £50 (No 64) Ian Mc Sorley, £50 (No 311) Fiona & Martin Baird, £50 (No 347) Hugo Browne. Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks as always to everyone who supports our draw. With the members monthly draw for 2021 beginning on Saturday 27th February the next few weeks provides an opportunity for newcomers to join. This draw is a vital fundraiser for our club and helps us provide the services that we give to the young and old of our parish as best we can. So if you feel you would like to join the draw then please get in contact with any club committee member within the next 3 weeks.

Please note, I will 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

We continue this week in praying our Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes, which finishes on Thursday 11th February - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

On Wednesday evening at 7.30pm I will pray the Rosary and the Novena Prayer in St. Patrick's Church, Castlederg. Please join via webcam.

Day 4 - Saturday 6th February:

For all who have a terminal illness at this time

Day 5 - Sunday 7th February:

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

Day 6 - Monday 8th February:

For all who struggle with addiction

Day 7 - Tuesday 9th 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 10th February:

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

The Rosary and Novena Prayer will be prayed at 7.30pm in St Patrick's, Castlederg

Day 9 - Thursday 11th February:

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

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.

LENT begins on Wednesday of *next* week, 17th February. I will celebrate Mass on that day but, unfortunately, we will not be able to have the distribution of Ashes this year. This is a diocesan-wide decision, taken in the interests of everyone's safety and in keeping with the current restrictions. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. The main focus of our almsgiving during Lent is the Trócaire Lenten Campaign. Trócaire was established in 1973 as the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Despite all the difficulties we encountered in our lives in 2020, the people of Ireland remained united in their solidarity with people facing poverty and injustice, responding generously, as always, to the Lenten Campaign. The focus of this year's Campaign is South Sudan: resources will be available in the weeks of Lent giving up to date information on the work of Trócaire and, in particular, its 2021 projects. Trócaire remains conscious of the focus that the Trócaire Box in our homes during Lent draws to the need for our support in helping to alleviate the plight of those desperately in need. So, despite the churches being closed at this time, Trócaire Boxes will be distributed to our churches in the coming days, where they can be picked up at your convenience.

In aid of Air Ambulance - Anne Gallen will be doing her annual fundraiser and if anyone would like to make a donation please contact Anne on 028 8167 1561.