

PARISH OF TERMONAMONGAN (AGHYARAN)

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SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOSPEL: JOHN 1: 6-8, 19-28 - JOHN THE BAPTIST, A WITNESS TO SPEAK FOR THE LIGHT

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete Sunday*, *Gaudete* meaning *Rejoice!* Today we rejoice in the imminent celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, our Redeemer. We light the rose-coloured candle on our Advent wreath today, to symbolise our hope and joyful expectation. (*Gaudete Sunday* in Advent parallels *Laetare Sunday* in Lent).

John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, is again the focus of today's Gospel passage. Sometimes described as the 'bridge' between the Old Testament and the New Testament, John's mission was to point us towards the coming of Christ our Light. John the Baptist was a faithful and loyal witness, unwavering in his faith in the coming Messiah. We are the witnesses of our time. We pray today that our faith will reflect that of John the Baptist and that, in the darkness of our lives, we will see the light of Christ in others and, through the joy of faith, be a beacon of hope to others, especially in their dark and uncertain times.

SUNDAY MASS THIS WEEKEND:

Vigil, Saturday 12th December 7.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES FOR THIS INCOMING WEEK

Monday 10.00am (St Caireall's PS), Tuesday 10.00am and Thursday 10.00am

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – (19th and 20th December)

(AREA A) Saturday 7.30pm

The Corgaries, Ardarver, Tullucar Road, Essan, Tullycar, Meenakeerin, Crilly Park.
Ballymongan, Pullytean Road, and Shanaghey

(AREA B) Sunday 11.00am

Trienamongan, Legatonegan, Aghyaran, Maghernageeragh, Mullinabreen, Scraghey
Segronan and Edenreagh area

(Please see overleaf for revised Mass Rota)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place here in St. Patrick's Church this Thursday from after Mass until 12 noon.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to **£302** and the Church Restoration Fund Collection totalled **£201**. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY, BLESSING OF THE CHRIST CHILD

Gaudete Sunday has, for many years, been the day when the children of Rome bring the figurines of Baby Jesus from their family cribs to St Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope during the Angelus. The Day, instituted by St Pope John Paul II during his Papacy, is affectionately known as 'Bambinelli Sunday'. Parishes around the world now join in the celebration, encouraging young children to make the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local church where they worship each weekend. This year, unfortunately, with things being as they are, we are unable to celebrate Bambinelli Sunday in the normal way. In your own home, therefore, a family member is invited to sprinkle Holy Water on the Baby Jesus figurine and on the other family members, and then say this prayer together as a family:

**God our Father, you loved us so much that you sent us your only Son, Jesus,
born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you. We pray that, with your blessing,
this image of Jesus might be a sign of your presence and love in our homes.**

**Open our hearts, that we might receive Jesus in joy, do always what he asks of us,
and see him in those who need our love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son,
who came to give peace to the world. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.**

You are invited to then wrap the Baby Jesus figurine in Christmas wrapping and place Him under your Christmas tree, to be opened on Christmas morning (by the youngest member of the family if there are children in the house), as the first gift of Christmas, and place the Baby Jesus in your crib with the rest of the Holy Family.

CHRISTMAS MASS ANNOUNCEMENT

After the challenges of Lent and Easter I am very glad that we are able to have a congregation present at Mass this Christmas. As always, however, the safety and health of everyone continues to be paramount, and we must also work within the current guidelines from Public Health. In order to reduce the risk of spreading infection, we must adhere to the capacity limits of our individual churches.

As part of our risk assessment before reopening in July, we identified the number of 'spaces' in each Church. **A 'space' can accommodate up to three people from the same household or 'bubble'** so, for example, a family of five would require two spaces (i.e. a full pew in the church). Our capacity limit is 50 spaces.

The Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows

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| CHRISTMAS EVE | 6.00pm and 7.30pm |
| CHRISTMAS DAY | 9.00am and 11.00am |

Stewards will take bookings for Christmas Mass at Mass this weekend and next weekend. One ticket will be allocated to each available 'space' (*remembering that a space holds up to three people*). Please do not make a booking on behalf of another family or group and, if you have booked and realised you cannot attend, you should return your ticket to the Parish Office. This is important, both to ensure the fair allocation of spaces and to enable contact tracing information to be recorded accurately.

In addition to the bookings which will be taken at Masses, you may also email or telephone the Parochial House to request a space, on Monday or Tuesday 14/15 or 21/22 December, between 11am and 6pm. Email: aghyaranparish@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 8167 1393. If emailing, you should indicate the Mass time that you prefer. However, it is advisable to make more than one choice of Mass time in case your first choice is unavailable. You should not come to the church unless you have booked a space as, regrettably, we can only accommodate those who are on the contact tracing list. As always, the Masses from Aghyaran will be live-streamed for the benefit of parishioners who are vulnerable, symptomatic or unable to book a space at Mass.

At the end of each of our Masses, the church will be thoroughly sanitised and ventilated. I deeply regret having to place these limits on our celebration, but I hope you will appreciate that the health and safety of parishioners is my guiding principle.

Christmas Masses will be shorter than normal this year, since we must minimise the amount of time people spend in the church. I encourage you, however, to return to the church, if you can, at a quieter time over the Christmas Season to pray at the Crib. A booklet with prayer resources suitable for the Christmas Season (similar to that provided for November and Advent), entitled *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, will also be available at Christmas for you to pick up in our churches, to facilitate prayer, scripture and reflection in your home, with family, or during quiet time in the church.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Since it is not possible for us to provide individual confession in preparation for Christmas, I invite you to take part in an Advent Penitential Service. This will be live-streamed from St Patrick's, Aghyaran, next **Tuesday, 22nd December, at 7.00pm.**

ST PATRICK'S, AGHYARAN WEEKEND MASS ROTA - DECEMBER 2020

(Saturday Vigil Masses 7.30pm - Sunday Morning Mass 11am)

AREA C The Laughts, Garvagh, McNally Park, Carnoughter, Carndreen, Dreenan, Killeter & Meenamullan
Saturday 12th December, Saturday 26th December

AREA A *The Corgaries, Ardarver,* Tullycar Road, Essan, Tullycar, Meenakeerin, Crilly Park,
Ballymongan, Pullytean Road and Shanaghey
Saturday 19th December Sunday 27th December

AREA B *Trienamongan Legatonegan* Aghyaran, Maghernageeragh, Mullinabreen, Scraghey,
Segronan and Edenreagh Area
Sunday 20th December

ST. DAVOG'S CLUB

Christmas Draw The big Christmas club members draw will now take place in the club rooms on Saturday 19th December where a total of £7,000 will be paid out. on the night and one lucky winner picking up the top prize to £3,000! We urge all draw members to make sure they are fully paid to permit them to be enter into the draw.

AGM: Aghyaran St Davog's GAC Annual General Meeting will take place in the club rooms on Friday 18th December Please note due to the current restrictions the clubrooms and club Gym will remain closed next week.

Sympathy: The committee and members of Aghyaran St Davog's offer their condolences to Joe Hegarty (Owen Roes - referee) and to the extended Hegarty family on the passing of their mother Mary Hegarty (RIP) Strabane. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for her.