

PARISH OF TERMONAMONGAN (AGHYARAN)

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SUNDAY 14th MARCH 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

GOSPEL: ST JOHN 3:14-21 JESUS' ENCOUNTER WITH NICODEMUS – FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is *Laetare* Sunday. The Latin word *laetare* means "rejoice". (*Laetare* Sunday parallels with Gaudete Sunday in Advent). *Laetare* Sunday is the mid-point in our Lenten journey where, while we continue with our Lenten observances, we are called to look forward with hope and anticipation to the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses in St Patrick's, Aghyaran

Vigil 7.30pm (every Saturday)

Sunday morning 11.00am (21st March)

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 10.00am, Wednesday 10.00am, (St. Patrick's Day) Thursday 10.00am.

You are invited to participate in these masses on the parish webcam

via webcam: www.parishofaghyaran.com

Weekend Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg will be as follows: Vigil 6.00pm. Sunday 11.00am
Weekday Masses in St Patrick's, Castlederg: Monday, 7.30pm, Wednesday 7.30pm (St. Patrick's Day)

Friday 10.00am, (Feast of St. Joseph) Saturday 10.00am (Lent only)

via webcam: www.castledergparish.com

Our church continues to remain open for private prayer.

Please continue to pray for one another and especially, for those who are sick

You are welcome to light a candle for your prayer intentions

WALKING THE VIA DOLOROSA (WAY OF THE CROSS) WITH JESUS: This Friday evening, (19th) at 7.30pm, will be live-streamed here from St Patrick's, Aghyaran. This Friday is the *Feast Day of St Joseph*, and the focus of our Via Dolorosa liturgy on Friday evening will be "*Walking with Joseph*". Please join me on the webcam for this time of prayer.

This year (8 Dec 2020 – 8 Dec 2021) was proclaimed by Pope Francis as *Year of St Joseph*, marking the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. In quoting St Joseph as, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence" who, nonetheless, played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation," Pope Francis encouraged us to pray this Prayer to St Joseph, which we will pray together at Mass on Friday morning and during Friday evening's liturgy:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES: Please note that our Penitential Services in preparation for Easter will now take place during Holy Week. Details of the dates and times will be published in next week's newsletter.

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to **£522** and the Church Restoration Fund Collection totalled **£447**. Envelopes can continue to be left at the Parochial House.

CLERICAL EDUCATION & ONGOING FORMATION collection: There is an envelope in your envelope box for this collection, which is normally taken up at our Masses on St Patrick's Day. This collection is used for the education and formation costs of seminarians of the Derry Diocese and the ongoing formation of clergy of the diocese. There are currently five students of the diocese studying for priesthood.

MINI-LENTEN RETREAT IN PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK: In preparation for the Easter Triduum, 'The Hook of Faith' is happy to offer a 'Mini-Lenten Retreat', by Zoom, on Tue 23, Wed 24 and Thurs 25 March, at 8pm. The Retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan. The three evenings will anticipate the Triduum, focusing on the Eucharist (Tue 23); the Cross and the Mystery of Suffering (Wed 24); the Resurrection, Joy and Hope (Thurs 25). To take part, email: thehookoffaith@gmail.com. All are welcome.

MOTHERS' DAY: Today we celebrate Mothering Sunday. We thank God for the love and blessings that mothers bring to our families and homes. As we honour our mothers in a special way today, we pray:

Mothers' Day Prayer *(from the Family Prayer Book)*

Thank you, Lord, for all mothers. On this day let us think of them, whether they are with us or gone to their heavenly reward. We think of their kindness, their compassion, their care for us and, above all, their unconditional love. We pray that you will watch over them and support them in the joys and struggles of their daily lives. This we ask through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ST PATRICK'S DAY: On Wednesday of this week we celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St Patrick. Mass for the Feast Day will be at 10.00am and this will be live-streamed. For the second year in a row we regret that we are unable to call people to gather at St Patrick's Well, Magherakeel for the Rosary. However, this celebration has been recorded and the recording **will be made available from Wednesday at 12noon** on Facebook and on the churchservices.tv/aghyaran website (scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see a link to this recording). Hopefully next year we will be able to gather again as a community.

It is a day when we celebrate in a special way our Catholic faith, conveyed to us in the fifth century by our Patron Saint. We thank God for the gift of faith in our lives and for the witness of generations of people who, through their example and encouragement, handed on the gift of faith. As the disciples of our time, we pray that we too will proclaim the Gospel, and draw others to Jesus, through our example, words and actions.

St Patrick's Day is also one when we remember in a special way all who have emigrated, especially our own family members, friends and members of our parish community and our country. We pray, through the intercession of St Patrick, that the experiences of all our emigrants will be positive and joyful. We remember especially those for whom emigration is or has been a challenging or lonely experience, for whatever reason and, especially, those who may not be in a position to return to their homeland.

We also remember our immigrants at this time – those who have travelled from other lands to make Ireland their home, especially the immigrants in our own parish community. Just as we would hope and pray that our family members would be warmly welcomed wherever they go, we pray too that those who have travelled here from other lands will always be warmly welcomed amongst us.

Prayer for Emigrants

Loving God, we pray for those whom we love but who are absent from us.

Keep them safe from all harm, evil and danger.

Bless them with peace, friends, laughter, wisdom, love and joy.

Grant that we may be reunited in the fullness of love: in Christ's name we pray, Amen

St Patrick, pray for us.

ST. DAVOG'S CLUB

Draw: Many thanks as always to everyone who supported our draw in 2020 as this is the club's main fundraiser. There's still an opportunity in the next few weeks for newcomers to join. The monthly 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. If you would like to join the draw please get in contact with any club committee member. The next monthly draw will take place on Saturday March 27th

Last Person Standing: Last person standing returned this weekend with £1,000 to the winner (Proceeds in aid of our training pitch fund), Players, Committee and Club Members please push this as our target is 300!!

Ladies: Good Luck to our senior ladies with their first week over them having covered an amazing 222 miles on foot of the 1,000 miles challenge in the month of March. All in aid of two amazing charities Neonatal intensive Care Unit Altnagelvin Hospital & Castledearg Terminally Ill Comfort Fund, All donations are greatly appreciated.

Sympathy: The committee and members of Aghyaran St Davog's would like to send our deepest condolences to the entire Dolan and Mc Hugh families on the death of Maureen Dolan and to the McCann family, Augher on the death of former Tyrone Senior team coach/ trainer Fergal McCann. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for them.

CENSUS 2021: Churches have been asked to encourage households to complete the upcoming Census 2021. All households will (will have) receive(d) a census pack with details on how to complete. The pack will contain an access code. The census can be completed online or you can request a paper questionnaire. To find out more, visit www.census.gov.uk/ni or call free on 0800 328 2021.