

PARISH OF TERMONAMONGAN (AGHYARAN)

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SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER 2020 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

GOSPEL: St Matthew 22:34-40 THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

Most of us will have learned the Ten Commandments by rote, as children in primary school. In our adult faith, it is important for us to understand that, in giving us the Commandments, God did not provide us with a set of rules or laws to restrict us; rather, He provided us with the fundamental principles to guide us in living lives that bring us closer to Him. The first three Commandments are about establishing the right relationship with God; the remaining seven, which establish boundaries defining the right relationship with others, grow out of the *first* Commandment. So, 'keeping the Commandments' is not about being seen by others to obey the law and abide by rules, or about outward appearances of piety: it *is* about a desire of heart and willingness to love and serve God and neighbour in a way that reflects the teachings and example of Jesus. Learning and knowing the Commandments off by heart is one thing, but understanding them as a Gift of Love from God is key to living their values. *Love of God* and *love of neighbour* can, indeed, be described as a summary of the Ten Commandments.

SUNDAY MASS THIS WEEK

(AREA B) (Saturday 7.30pm)

Tullycar Road, -Essan, Tullycar, Meenakeerin, Crilly Park
Ballymongan and Pollytean Road

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 10.00am

Thursday 10.00am

All our Masses continue to be live-streamed: www.castledergparish.com or www.parishofaghyaran.com.

SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – 31st OCTOBER – 1st NOVEMBER 2020

(AREA C) (Saturday 7.30pm)

Aghyaran, Maghernageeragh, Mullinabreen, Scraghey, Segronan & Edenreagh area

AREA D (Sunday 11.00am)

The Laught's, Garvagh and McNally Park

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place here in St. Patrick's Church this Thursday from after 10am Mass to 12noon

THANK YOU for your generosity in last week's collection, which amounted to **£1,203** and the Church Restoration Fund Collection totalled **£545**. Envelopes can continue to be left through the door of the Parochial House, for those not attending Mass

DIOCESAN MASS FOR DECEASED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: The Annual Mass for deceased children and young people will be celebrated in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Sunday 8 November, at 7.00pm. You can join this Mass live on the St Eugene's Cathedral webcam. If you would like to have a child or young person remembered at this Mass, please email the name to lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 7126 4087.

CASTLEDERG LIBRARY - is now back to normal opening hours:

Tuesday 2:00 – 8:00pm - **Wednesday** 10:30 - 5:00pm - **Thursday** 10:30 – 5:00pm

Friday 10.30 – 5:00pm - **Saturday** 10:30 – 1:00pm

NI Executive COVID – 19 Restrictions All libraries will offer a Book and Collect Service and access to the Internet Customers can use the computer for 1 hour and print and photocopy. To get books call the library or call in and books orders will be taken.

Contact details are: 028 8167 1419 |v:6107 4001 |e: Jacqueline.kerrigan@librariesni.org.uk |w: www.librariesni.org.uk

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November it is customary for us to remember our beloved dead relatives and friends. In spite of the ever-changing sets of rules and regulations, I would like to ensure that we remember those who have died in the past year, by acknowledging them by name in a special Mass. We will have this **Mass in Aghyaran on Friday 13th November at 7.30pm.** During this Mass we will light a candle in remembrance of the following, who have died in the past year:

Paddy McLaughlin, Ann McGrory, Michael Gillespie, Noel Moss, John Dolan, Pat Gallagher, Gerard Mongan, Michael Shiels, Tommy McGlinchey, Mary Dolan, Jimmy McGlinchey, Susan Gallagher, Mary Roseleen Byrne, P.J. McAleer, Madge Dolan, Mary Rose McBeth, Mary Daly, Mark McHugh.

Due to the current restrictions we can only allocate one pew in the church for each family. This means a maximum of five or six people. In order to ensure the safety of our community, no-one should travel into the area for this Mass which will, of course, be streamed online and the stream will be recorded. It goes without saying that these arrangements may have to change at short notice in order to comply with instructions from the Public Health Agency.

Since the customary '**Blessing of the Graves**' did not take place this year, I will undertake to bless every grave in all the cemeteries in the parish during the first week of November. Unfortunately, this event will have to take place privately, since we are not allowed to gather in groups of more than 15.

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR OUR CHURCHES (IN NORTHERN IRELAND)

Under the new restrictions announced last week, everyone must wear a face mask when entering and leaving church. It is also strongly recommended that masks are worn while in church. In our parish, I am proud of the way we have responded in our churches and we are all indebted to our stewards and to those who help with the re-sanitising of the spaces after everyone has left church. It remains most important that people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest Covid-19 infection, do not come to Mass.

The new restrictions introduced two weeks ago do not affect numbers for Sunday Mass attendance. **What has changed, however, is the new four-week restriction in the numbers who can attend weddings and funerals. This has been fixed at 25. This number applies also to those attending graveside services.**

The temporary regulations also ban wakes, funeral receptions and wedding receptions from taking place. This piece of legislation is particularly challenging to the traditions of our culture.

I can only assume that the difference in guidelines between Sunday Mass and weddings/funerals, is that, by the nature of those events (weddings and funerals), they lead to greater personal interaction – handshaking, hugging, etc – and this makes social distancing, and the managing of it, more challenging. In addition, people often travel into the area to attend a wake, funeral or wedding, increasing the risk of infection to our local community.

We must keep in our prayers all those who are suffering directly from Covid-19, those who are anxious about the pandemic, those in the medical and caring professions and all frontline workers who take grave risks on our behalf. We pray also for those scientists who are developing treatments and vaccines, that their work will be blessed by Jesus, the Divine Healer.

ST PATRICK'S, AGHYARAN WEEKEND MASS ROTA - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020

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

AREA A

The Corgaries, Ardarver, Trienaongan, Legatonegan and Shanaghey Area
Saturday 14th November

AREA B

Tullycar Road-Essan, Tullycar, Meenakeerin, Crilly Park, Ballymongan and Pullytean Road
Saturday 24th October, Sunday 15th November

AREA C

Aghyaran, Maghernageeragh, Mullinabreen, Scraghey, Segronan and Edenreagh Area
Saturday 31st October, Saturday 21st November

AREA D

The Laught's, Garvagh, McNally Park
Sunday 1st November, Saturday 28th November

AREA E

Carnoughter, Carnoreen, Dreenan, Killeter and Meenamullan
Saturday 7th November, Sunday 29th November.