

**PARISH OF TERMONAMONGAN (AGHYARAN)**

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**Diocesan Website: [www.derrydiocese.org](http://www.derrydiocese.org)**

**SAFEGUARDING:**

The Derry Diocesan Liaison Person, to whom any safeguarding concerns or allegations should be communicated is: Ms Marie Gormley, Email

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**SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2021**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

**GOSPEL: ST LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36: 'STAY AWAKE AND STAND READY'**

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tuesday 10.00am and Thursday 10.00am

Masses in Castlederg are also livestreamed on [www.parishofcastlederg.com](http://www.parishofcastlederg.com)

Monday, 7.30pm and Friday, 10.00am

**WEEKEND MASSES NEXT WEEKEND (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December)**

**AREA B: (4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm)**

The Laughts, Garvagh, McNally Park, Mournebeg, Carnoughter, Carndreen, Dreenan Killeter, Meenamullan, Scraghey, Segronan and Edenreagh areas

**AREA A: (5<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am)**

The Corgaries, Ardarver, Tullycar Road, Essan Road, Tullycar, Meenakeerin Crilly Park, Ballymongan, Pollytean Road, Shanaghey, Trienamongan, Legatonegan, Aghyaran, Maghernageeragh and Mullinabreen

All Masses are available via our parish webcam, [www.aghyaranparish.com](http://www.aghyaranparish.com)

**St Patrick's, Castlederg**

Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00pm

*(Masses in Castlederg are livestreamed on [www.castledergparish.com](http://www.castledergparish.com))*

Since September 2019, the frequency of Masses in our parish has been reduced, with just two weekday Masses being celebrated, on Monday and Friday. On Wednesday of this week, 1st December, there will be a Communion Service here in St Patrick's, Aghyaran, at 10.00am. This will be led by Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. This allows parishioners to be nourished by the Word of God and by Holy Communion on a day when there is no priest in the parish. It also offers us the chance to prepare parishioners to take on a leadership role in public prayer as a support to the local priest in these challenging times. I am very grateful to those who have accepted the invitation to take on this responsibility.

**THANK YOU** for your generosity in last week's collection which amounted to **£1,289** and the Church Restoration Collection totalled **£782** The annual Propagation of the Faith Collection totalled **£792.69** (including euro) Envelopes can continue to be left at the Parochial House or can be brought to the church by those attending for Mass

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will take place every Thursday, starting after 10.00am Mass and finishing at 12.00noon.

**AN ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER BOOKLET** to facilitate family prayer at home during the season of Advent can be downloaded on: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/advent>. The booklet contains a Gospel reading for each of the four Sundays of Advent, accompanied by a family activity, prayers and a reflection. We are encouraged to make use of this resource in our homes as part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas

- ♦ The Season of Advent begins this weekend. The Advent liturgy is an invitation to journey in hope, allowing ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God. The key scriptural figures are Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph. These were four people who trusted completely in God amid circumstances that were challenging in the extreme. In the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we are living in new and challenging times: the church as an institution has lost much of its prestige and power for a variety of reasons (the abuse scandals, increasing secularisation, etc); in addition, there are fewer vocations to the priesthood and the religious life and the number of ordained clergy has diminished rapidly.
- ♦ Today's Gospel calls us to read the signs of the times that we face as Church. In recent decades many things have changed. This is not just a time of change but a *change of time*. Pope Francis proposes that we develop ways of discovering together God's way forward in a new time and place.
- ♦ To help us move forward, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis has called for a Synod of Bishops to take place in October 2023. This marks a significant step forward for the Church, and all the people of God are invited to contribute to the conversation, to take part in the journey.
- ♦ In our parish, we will take part in the conversation, with a time of local listening to one another in January / February; our parish conversations, along with those of the 50 parishes of the diocese, will be submitted to the diocese, leading towards a diocesan submission to an Irish national response. I hope that as many people as possible will take part in this process. Further information on the opportunities for sharing and listening will be advised in the coming weeks.
- ♦ This is the beginning of a new way of being Church. It is not just a passing initiative. It is facing the future together, open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph all played vital roles in the plan of God, and each one of us has a part to play in this same plan as we move forward as a church, towards the synod and towards the future.

### **SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

***The Advent Wreath draws us to focus on the advent (coming) of the Light of Christ into the world.***

- ♦ ***The wreath is made of evergreens, signifying everlasting life.***
- ♦ ***The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, unending love, the immortality of the soul, and the promise of everlasting life in Christ.***
  - ♦ ***Cones and berries can be used to decorate the wreath, and are symbolic of the fruits of salvation.***
  - ♦ ***The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent:  
(1. Hope, 2. Peace, 3. Joy and 4. Love).***  
***They are lit gradually – one each week – drawing us out of darkness into light.  
This symbolises not only the First Coming of Christ into the world,  
but His Second Coming at the end of history.***
  - ♦ ***Three candles are purple, the penitential colour used in Advent (and Lent).  
One candle is rose; it is lit on the third Sunday of Advent,  
known as Gaudete Sunday, (Gaudete meaning Rejoice),  
symbolising our joyful expectation of the imminent coming of the Light of Christ.***
  - ♦ ***The white candle in the middle represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Day***

**“The Angelus Fund”** has been set up by local people to raise money for the poor. All donations big or small are very much appreciated. Any money raised will be split between Fr Joe McMenemy's Parish Project Zambia, Street Children in Asia, India and South America. We are currently collecting scrap, so have a look round your property and let us know if you can help! Any items no matter how big or small will be accepted. Please see “The Angelus Fund” Facebook page for details or message Annemarie.

### **ST. DAVOG'S CLUB:**

Sympathy: The committee and members of St Davog's offer their condolences to the McGoldrick family on the passing of William James, Tullycar. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him.