

# Parish of Urney and Castlefin

Parish Website: [www.urneyandcastlefinparish.com](http://www.urneyandcastlefinparish.com) E-mail Address: [urneyparish@eircom.net](mailto:urneyparish@eircom.net)

PP: Rev. Michael Porter,  
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Doneyloop.  
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PIR: Rev. Oliver Crilly,  
St Mary's Church,  
Castlefin.  
074 9146251.

## Third Sunday of Advent (13<sup>th</sup> Dec)

Castlefin – 6.30pm; Doneyloop – 7.30pm.  
Doneyloop – 9.30am; Castlefin – 11.30am.

## Daily Mass This Week:

**Doneyloop:** Mon, & Thurs – 10am; Tues – 9am; Wed & Fri – 7.30pm; Sat – 11am.

**Castlefin:** Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri – 10am; Thurs – 7.30pm; Sat – no morning Mass.

**Flood Crisis:** for the second time in three weeks our parish community has been devastated by flooding. Family homes and businesses have been destroyed and lives thrown into turmoil. The parish community rallied around and did the best they could to help but the individual families and businesses affected will suffer the consequences for a long time. We extend our heartfelt concern to them. Bishop Donal McKeown joins us this evening to celebrate Mass and to offer his prayers and support to all those affected by this unfortunate occurrence. We welcome him to the parish and thank him for his consideration.

As part of the diocesan celebrations for the Holy Year of Mercy, Bishop McKeown has established four Centres of Mercy in the diocese. The four centres are: St Eugene's Cathedral, Sacred Heart Church, Omagh, St Mary's, Maghera, The Oratory, Buncrana. The first Day of Mercy in these centres will be held on Saturday 19 December when Confessions will be heard in these churches continuously from 10.30am – 6.00pm with visiting priests. You are welcome to come and experience the mercy of God as we begin our celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy.

## Penance Service/Confessions for Christmas

A Communal Penance Service will be held in the following parishes on the following dates:-

Melmount: – Sunday 20 December at 6pm;

Murlog: – Monday 21 December at 7pm;

Urney & Castlefin: – Tuesday 22 December at 7pm (St Mary's Church).

A Holy Hour for the month of December will be held in St Columba's Church, Doneyloop on Sunday 20 December from 5pm – 6pm. During this Holy Hour individual Confessions will be heard.

**Christmas Youth Mass:** Please join us to celebrate our first Parish Youth Mass this Christmas on Sat 19 Dec in St Mary's Church at 6:30pm. Christmas jumpers welcome! Any young singers or musicians, who would like to participate in the Mass, please attend a practice on Wednesday 16 December from 7-8pm in St Mary's Church.



**St Columba's Church Choir:** practice on Saturday next, December 19 at 6.30pm. All members are asked to attend. New voices welcome.

**Parish Fundraising Committee:** Our Big Christmas Draw takes place on Monday 14 December during the Bingo in Doneyloop. We thank you for your support and co-operation. To be included in this draw any person whose tickets have not yet been returned can leave them in the Parish Office before 1pm or in the SVP Thrift Shop before 3pm on Monday 14.

**Eucharistic Ministers –Castlefin:** there will be a meeting in St Anthony's Chapel after the 7:30pm Mass on Thursday next, 16 Dec. This is to agree arrangements for Christmas Masses and rota for next year.

**St Vincent de Paul: Annual Collection** takes place this weekend. We would appreciate your usual generosity as we seek to respond to the many needs of the families within our area. **Christmas Assistance Programme:** if you feel you should be considered for help at this time with bills, heating toys etc. please contact any member or call 074-9146726 to have your request considered.

**Christmas Lights Committee: Silver Circle: Sun 20 Dec:** cards and lines are now available and we hope all businesses will take at least one card. Lines: €5 and we appeal for your usual loyal support.

**History Club:** A limited number of our book "Visions of the Past" is available to buy in the St Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop. This may be a lovely present for Christmas.

**Robert Emmets: Monster Christmas Bazaar** - due to the enforced cancellation of the Bazaar last Sunday this has now been rescheduled for Saturday 19 December in St Mary's Hall commencing 7.30pm. Once again we appeal for your support. **Lotto:** Jackpot is €4,350; **Bingo:** Snowball is €4,180.

**Doneyloop Youth Club** will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 13 December in Doneyloop Community Centre at 3.00pm. Loads of great prizes to be won: including an Xbox One, Tablets, TV, Microwave, Hampers and loads more. Please turn out to support your local Club.

**Ruby Druce - 100th Birthday Celebrations:** Ruby will be 100 on 31 December (New Year's Eve). There will be a special Mass to celebrate the occasion in St. Mary's Church at 2:00pm followed by tea and light refreshments in the Parochial Hall until 5:00pm for anyone who wants to speak to her. Ruby is adamant that she wants no presents of any kind; she will be delighted to simply share her very special day with all her Castlefin friends!

**St Columba's College, Stranorlar, Parents Council Table Quiz** in aid of school funds on Wed 16 Dec in Ballybofey and Stranorlar Golf Club at 9.30pm. Everyone welcome, please come along and support!

**Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group** Christmas meeting, with two 1st class relics, will be held on Tues 15 Dec in the Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, starting with Mass at 7.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

**Strabane History Society** meets on Thurs 17 Dec at 7pm in The Strabane Community Library, Abercorn Square. This meeting will be on Beltony Stone Circle, Raphoe which dates back 5,000 years and is of major religious and cultural significance to Ireland. The speaker will be local expert Mary Harte.

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - 1 to 6 July 2016:** Lourdes has been designated as one of the international places of pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy. Application forms are available from Rosemary at 71260293 or Theresa at 07517965751. Gift vouchers for any amount are available for purchase.

**Trip to the Holy Land:** Thornhill Ministries will lead an 8-Day Retreat Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 15 to 23 September 2016. For further details, contact Sr Perpetua at 028 71351233 or e-mail [thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org](mailto:thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org).