

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God [Year A] (1st January, 2017)
 World Day of Prayer for Peace
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474

Thought for the New Year: New Year's Day is a perfect time for reflection. Today we look to the year ahead. What do you need? What do you hope for? What do you want to work on? Don't just focus on your physique, but consider your psyche. Scour your spirit! reflect on these things in your heart, like Mary did and ask the Lord to guide you in the year ahead.

Liturgy Schedule [Year A] (1st January – 7th January, 2016)

Saturday 31st December St. Sylvester (pope)	St. Patrick's	12 noon Wedding Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass:
Sunday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass
Monday 2nd January St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianen	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Mickey Neily McCullagh (2 nd Anniversary)
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON TUESDAY 3rd AND WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY		
Thursday 5th January St. Charles of Mount Argus, Dublin (priest)	Our Lady of the Wayside	8.00pm Vigil Mass of the Epiphany
Friday 6th January Solemnity of the Epiphany	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass
Saturday 7th January St. Raymond Penyaforat (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00am (confessions available)
Sunday 8th January Baptism of the Lord [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	6.00pm Vigil Mass 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass

Weekly Collection Amount: £1,995 • Fr. Gallagher would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the Christmas and Weekly Parish Collections last weekend and for their generosity to the parish throughout the year

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the repose of the souls of **Harry Donaghy (8 Maryville)** and **Fr. George Doherty** who was CC Greencastle from 1954 to 1957 and PP of Donagheady (Donemana and Auhabrack) for 21 years. We also pray for the repose of the soul of **Mickey Neily McCullagh** whose anniversary occurs around this time and also as we begin this New Year we remember all our deceased relatives, parishioners and friends who died during 2016.

Special Charity Concert in Memory of the Late Bishop Daly: Saturday 4th February in St. Columb's Hall. All proceeds from the concert will go to Bishop Daly's chosen charities of Children in Crossfire, Foyle Hospice and Foyle Search and Rescue. Hosted by renowned comedian Gene Fitzpatrick, the evening will include entertainment from a variety of well-known local artists. *Tickets can be purchased by calling (028) 7126 4455*

Pilgrimage to Medugorje: Wednesday 6th to Wednesday 13th September
 £619 for half-board • *Price increase due to falling rate of sterling*
 Contact Maria ASAP on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Application Forms: Now available for pupils born between Monday 2nd July, 2012 and Monday 1st July, 2013 (inclusive) who are due to start in September.
Please call the school for a form on (028) 8164 8732 if you haven't received one from the Green Elves Playgroup

Cruse Bereavement Care: Applications to the Awareness in Childhood Bereavement Care volunteer training course running over 4 weekends in Spring 2017
 Email: maria.mcentee@cruse.org.uk • Tel: (028) 9079 2419 • **Deadline:** Tuesday 10th January

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 42:1-4 • Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10, R/ v 11 • Acts 10:34-38
 Matthew 3:13-17 • Lectionary 1:179 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 31 st December The family of Lee Coyle	Offertory Gift Rota Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 1 st January The family of Nicole Cahill
Saturday 7 th January The family of Danielle Gumley	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	Sunday 8 th January The family of Niamh Clarke
Saturday 14 th January The family of Katelyn Gumley	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 15 th January The family of Aoibhin Coyle
Saturday 21 st January* The family of Laurance McCrory	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 22 nd January The family of Cara Brogan
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented *Do This In Memory Programme (Week 5) We need new volunteers in every aspect of life		

Christmas and New Year's Thanks: I would like to take this opportunity as 2016 concludes and 2017 begins to firstly thank everyone who made our Christmas ceremonies so special this year. I thank all who in any way participated in the liturgies or prepared the church – thank you very much.
 I also wish to acknowledge all those many parishioners who contribute to the life of the parish and who ensure that this is the lively and active one that it is. I pray that as we mark the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of our parish with Greencastle Parish 125 and events at different times throughout the year, we may continue to grow as a parish and ensure the Good News of God's love is proclaimed in this beautiful corner of the Lord's vineyard.
 Fr. Edward Gallagher PP

World Meeting of Families: As you pray at the crib this Christmas time please take some time to pray the Prayer to the Holy Family which we will pray in preparation for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August, 2018 at which it is hoped Pope Francis will be present. There is a bookmark copy of the prayer beside the crib which you are encouraged to take home and place near your family crib and pray each day until the World Meeting of Families takes place.

Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Classes:

Computers Level 1: Begins in January. Must have a basic knowledge of computers. *Classes are free*

Low impact Dance Exercise: Begins Friday 13th January at 10.30am. Rebecca instructor from Hollywood Fitness will be taking the class. Dance fit is a dance and fitness programme put to a variety of music. Rebecca will adjust for all different abilities in the class and it's a fun way to keep fit. *£20 for 4 weeks*

Bridie: 07591 047 556 / 07847459428 / (028) 8164 8706 • **Clare Ann:** 07798 941 452
 Email: rouskeycommunity@yahoo.com

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE: Website: childrenincrossfire.org • Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org • Tel: (028) 7126 9898

Advent Appeal: Children in Crossfire would like to wish everyone in the Parish a happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. The Advent box donations will be collected over the weekends of 7th and 8th January and 14th and 15th January. Please leave the box or envelope in the parish collection basket on any of those Sundays. We thank you in advance as your support will make a huge impact on the lives of children and families living in Ethiopia.

Camino De Santiago Walking Challenge: Thursday 30th March to Tuesday 4th April. Walk the way of St. James. *Places are limited*

The Net – January Edition: Now on sale, with coverage including:

Maghera pupils prepare for School Aid Romania venture • St. Cecilia's College, Derry launches House System
 Templemore JAM programme • Ballinascreen music ministry • Pope Francis signs Derry youth's t-shirt
 COR Derry celebrate Nativity • Celebration of Eucharistic Adoration in Craigbane and Claudy
 Iskaheen trip to IOSAS Trail • Burt Church fundraiser • Ardmore 'Love in the Family' talks
 Moneyneena Christmas cake baking • Desertmartin SVP Party • Urney and Castletinn pilgrim walk
 Steelstown ladies keep retreat tradition alive • Cathedral music night raises over £3,000 for Aleppo
 Emery Celtic Cross on Inishowen calendar • SPRED catechists commended for creating sacred space
 Moville parishioner's faith story • Newtownstewart Divine Mercy image unveiled • Carndonagh Pioneers
 Bethlehem came to Thornhill, Culmore • Charismatic Renewal gathering in Omagh
 Archbishop Eamon re-imagines parish and diocese in Bellaghy talk
 Centuries of Change at Mysterious Mamore • Children's Catechism Club

For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call/text 07809 292 852

Pope Francis' Intention for January (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Christian Unity: That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:
Tel: (028) 90941690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership: In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.
For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme of emigration.
If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office
Email: t.mcmenamini@derrydiocese.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

ACCORD – Relationship Counseling: A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.
An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows.
St. Patrick's: Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass
 First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding
 Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass

Drink Wise Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?
For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240

Family Care Society: We are presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children.
 For more information contact us via the following details (offices open weekdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm)
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The Apostolate prayer card offers us a special opportunity to spend ten minutes each day in pray for a priest.
 The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are: *prayerforpriests.com*
Rosemary Johnson 07810 387 825 - brendan_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk • **Ethna Hill** 07528 249 838 - ethna776@yahoo.com
Siobhan Sweeney 07880 588 041 - siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk • **Eamon Cassidy** 077435 02165 - e_cassidy@hotmail.com

Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm: If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.
Address: IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal
Tel: (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • **Website:** celticprayergarden.com • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas): Find out if you're missing out on benefits, services or grants by booking your FREE home visit. Referrals can be made for benefits checks, home safety visits, occupational therapy assessments as well as others. You'll also receive a FREE bag containing £25 worth of items to help keep you warm this winter.
Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book

Parish Liturgy for January, 2017	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Roisin Hood	Siobhan McKenna	Sean Clarke
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	Maeve McCullagh	Lauryn Hollywood	Cara-Rose Brogan
Collectors	Mary Bradley Raymond Bradley	Colm Keenan Michael Clarke	Brian Gillen Pat McGuigan
Altar Society	Mary Conway and Paula Meenan		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory

Family Care Society – Interested in Adoption? We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.
Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • **Julie or Brian (Derry Office):** (028) 7136 8592
Email: email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children – Use of Photography and Video:
 The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.

Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of all to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.
From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Child Safeguarding: If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI / Local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively, if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities. *See poster at entrances*

Towards Peace: A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free.
Website: towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@iecon.ie

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Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 2:15-1:*John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)*

1. The story tells us that the shepherds helped Mary to realize the significance of the child born to her. She treasured their words and pondered their meaning. Who have been the people who have helped you to understand the meaning of significant events in your life? Remember them gratefully.
2. We are told that Mary 'pondered these things in her heart'. What part has prayerful reflection on life played for you? How has it been helpful to you in deepening your appreciation for the gift of life?
3. When the shepherds realized that they had been witnesses to a wonderful manifestation of God's love for his people, they glorified and praised God. Recall ways in which you have been made aware of God's love for you. How have you expressed your gratitude?

Musings:*Fr. David O'Riordan (Ladysbridge and Ballymacoda, Diocese of Cloyne)*

The Judgement of the Nations – When the poet Rilke came to Paris he found work as secretary to the sculptor Rodin. His desire was to write a poem as robust as the great sculptures of his employer. To do so he was told to go to the Louvre and study the works of Ancient Greece. There he was taken by a sculpture of the torso of Apollo which had been damaged – its head was missing. So impressed was Rilke by this work that he succeeded in writing his poem. The poem is a prayer. Rilke's close observation of the statue led him to a sense that he was being observed by a godlike presence. And so he ends his poem with this realisation: you must change your life. Today's Gospel is similar. It tells you what it is for a Christian to be before God, sheep or goat. You must change your life.

The Deep End – Treasure and Ponder:*Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

If you're anything like me, you sometimes have to make a deliberate effort to slow down. Life can be so busy that sometimes there is little time left to think. Even our downtime can be full of activities and noise, whether we're into sports; video games; sitting down with a good book, movie or box set; or networking on social media. It can sometimes be difficult to remember the last time we sat down by ourselves in a quiet room.

In today's Gospel, Mary stands in contrast to the shepherds who hurried and talked and spread the word and praised God. Of course, there is a time for these things, and the excitement of the shepherds is palpable – they had found their Saviour. No doubt Mary and Joseph shared in their joyful enthusiasm. But when things quietened down again, we are told that Mary 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'.

Mary sets a good example for us, taking time to meditate on all that is happening. As we start a new year afresh, we could do a lot worse than take Mary as our model. In our hectic world, we need to take time to sit quietly, to treasure and ponder, and to allow ourselves to delve deep into the mysteries of life.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 1st January – *Mary, the Mother of God* At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer. *Lumen Gentium (52)*

Monday 2nd January – *St. Basil the Great (bishop and Doctor of the Church) [330-379]* Bishop of Caesarea, a brilliant preacher who lived an ascetic life, establishing norms for Monastic life. Implemented the decrees of the Council of Nicaea. Patron Saint of Russia.

St. Gregory Nazianzen (bishop and Doctor of the Church) [330-379] Bishop of Constantinople. He was known as the 'Theologian' because of his wisdom and skill in defending orthodox doctrine.

Tuesday 3rd January – *Epiphany of the Lord* Celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. Western Christians commemorate principally (but not solely) the visit Of the Magi to the Baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. Eastern Christians commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God.

Thursday 5th January – *St. Charles of Mount Argus, Dublin (priest) [1821-1893]* Born in Holland. Took vows as a Passionist in 1846 and came to Mount Argus in 1857, it was there he spent most of his priestly life. His ministry in the confessional was renowned and the poor of Dublin found in him a strong support. Died on 5th January, 1893. St. Charles was canonised on Sunday 3rd June, 2007.

Saturday 7th January – *St. Raymond Penyafort (priest) [1175-1275]* A very brilliant lawyer when at the age of 47 he became a Dominican. Later he became Master General of the Dominicans and Archbishop of Tarragona.

Sunday 8th January – *Baptism of the Lord* Commemorates baptism of Jesus in Jordan River by John the Baptist.