

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Second Sunday of Christmas [Year C] (2nd January, 2022)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the New Year: 'When the carols have been stilled, when the star-topped tree is taken down, when family and friends are gone home, when we are back to our schedules the work of Christmas begins: To welcome the refugee, to heal a broken planet, to feed the hungry, to build bridges of trust, not walls of fear, to share our gifts, to seek justice and peace for all people, to bring Christ's light to the world.'

By Michael Dougherty, a variation on Howard Thurman's 'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'

Saturday 1st January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Mickey 'Neilly' McCullagh (7 th Ann.) Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Sunday 2nd January	Our Lady of Wayside	11.30am	Mass Second Sunday of Christmas [Year C]
Wednesday 5th January	St. Patrick's	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Adoration St. Charles of Mount Argus, Dublin (priest)
Thursday 6th January	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass Feast of the Epiphany
	Our Lady of Wayside	7.30pm	Mass
Friday 7th January	St. Patrick's	7.30pm	Mass: Maureen Morris (11 th Anniversary)
Saturday 8th January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass: John Tuohey Snr. (17 th Anniversary)
Sunday 9th January	St. Patrick's	11.30am	Mass: Pete McCullagh (1 st Anniversary) Feast of the Baptism of the Lord [Year C]

Remembering Our Dead: We remember especially the happy repose of the souls of **Mickey 'Neilly' McCullagh (7th), Tessie McElhatton (3rd), Pete McCullagh (1st), Maureen Morris (11th) and all parishioners, family members, and friends** who died during 2021. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

Parish Office Opening Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11.00am to 3.00pm
Tel: (028) 8164 8203 **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com
All bookings to be done through the Parish Office please

The Diocesan Vocations Committee – Holy Hour for Vocations:
 Friday 7th January from 8.00pm to 9.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Creggan. Everyone is welcome, especially those who may be considering a religious vocation. Members of the Diocesan Vocations Committee will be present and will be willing to hear Confessions or talk with those who wish to discuss their vocation with them.

Northern Ireland Adoption and Foster Care:
 With an increase in children and young people needing foster homes across Northern Ireland, we need you now. Every child deserves to have a happy, loving and safe home where they'll feel cared for, valued and supported.
 It's always the right time for fostering.
 Call us on 0800 0720 137 or visit adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net
 #HSCNIFosterCare #FosterForYourCommunity #CouldYouFoster

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992

Pope Francis' Intention for January (please remember this in your personal prayers)
For True Human Paternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 • Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-39, R/ v 1 • Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 • Lectionary 1:185 **Sunday [Year C]** • **Weekday [Year 1]**

January Townland Rota

Saturday 1st January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Formil, Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
Sunday 2nd January	Our Lady of Wayside	11.30am	Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy
Saturday 8th January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Teebane East, Aughascribba, Muninamale, Aughminacrorry, Alworries, Coneyglen
Sunday 9th January	St. Patrick's	11.30am	Sheskinshule, Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy

Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal: It would be much appreciated if you could kindly return your donations for this year's Advent Appeal focussing on the suffering children in Ethiopia.
Please bring your Donation Envelopes along with your Parish Envelopes and leave in the usual places, thanks

Disciples of Jesus – Filled with Joy! Monday 10th to Friday 14th January, 10.00am to 12.00am
Catechetical Centre Webcam Preparation Programme in January 2022, to support parents, schools and parishes as they prepare the children in this very important stage of their faith journey.
Preparation Programme Linking with Filled with Joy, pupil workbook and Disciples of Jesus, parent booklet (available from the Diocesan Catechetical Centre) the programme will consist of

- Four sessions, 10.00am to 12.00am on the catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/
- Support pack for the four sessions to be emailed to schools and available on the Catechetical Centre Website

Short Video reflections on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the impact Confirmation has made on different people

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 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.
Wednesday 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 5th January, 1893. St. Charles was canonised on Sunday 3rd June, 2007.
Thursday 6th January – Solemnity of the Epiphany Commemorates the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee.

New Year's Prayer

We Pray...

For healing...prepare us for surprises.
 For strength...prepare us for surprises.
 For vision...prepare us for surprises.
 For transformation...prepare us for surprises.
 For messengers and messages...prepare us for surprises.
 For community...prepare us for surprises.
 For acceptance - of ourselves and others...prepare us for surprises.
 For making room at our tables...prepare us for surprises
 For Truth-seeking...prepare us for surprises
 For support...prepare us for surprises
 For Common Ground...prepare us for surprises

Walk beside us, O Holy One, as we question and welcome, as we challenge and invite, as we discover and understand, as we see, touch, taste, smell, and listen for the Newness awaiting us in 2022. May we, Your Holy People, walk forward together side by side. *Amen*

The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". *Pope St. John Paul II*

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 entrance

Epilepsy Action NI: Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury?

Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

A Prayer for Now: God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

Prayer for the End of the Virus: Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an end of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities, that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. *Amen*

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

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Our Faith – Developing What We Were Taught in School:

- Was RE just a subject in school? Would you like to really to understand it in practice?
- Are you open to deepening your understanding of your Catholic Faith?
- Do you want to better understand the Mass - the celebration to the Eucharist?
- Would you like to explore, discuss and reflect upon issues and questions of faith, the Church, and how to link faith to your everyday life?

The Pathways Adult Faith Programme by Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, addresses these questions and more. This two-year faith development programme, delivered one Saturday per month from October to June is available either in-house at Drumalis or by Zoom video-conferencing. *More info, enrolment visit drumalis.co.uk/pathways*

Prayer for Synod on Synodality (2021 – 2023)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. *Amen*

Radio Maria Ireland: An Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies based at St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. If you are not already a follower of the station Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family!

Prayer / song requests welcome. "A Catholic voice in your home". Fr Eamonn McCarthy is Director.

You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:

Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210 / Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)

Download FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"

Streaming on radiomarie.ie (subscribe and donate here also)

'Listen Live Radio' link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)

Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? 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) 9094 1690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Although mindful of all the uncertainties we face at this time, the Pilgrimage Director and staff have begun planning for a return to Lourdes in early summer of 2022. While it is still too early to provide details, it is intended that the date and duration will be as in recent years and hopefully these will be confirmed and announced by the end of 2021. We ask for the prayers of the people of the diocese so that, by the grace of God and intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, we may return to Lourdes once more.

Accord Counselling Services: Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Red Cross: Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.
Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration
12noon – 1.00pm Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life
1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage
2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people
4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth
6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.
Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk

What is Spiritual Communion? It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

Barnardo's NI – Can You Foster? Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support.
To learn more call (028) 9065 2288 or visit barnardos.org.uk/foster

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@jecon.ie

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel: John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. This prologue to John's Gospel is a piece of poetry. Like all poetry one of the ways to enter into it is to read it a few times slowly and let the words and images speak to you.
2. The prologue proclaims Jesus as the true light come into the world. How has Jesus, and the message of Jesus, been a light for you in your life?
3. The prologue also affirms the transforming power of faith: 'to all who received him ... he gave power to become children of God'. How would you describe the difference it makes to you to have faith as part of your life?
4. In Jesus we get a glimpse of God and of the love of God. But as 'Jesus people' in the world today we also are called to be witnesses to the light. Who has been a witness to you? To whom have you been a witness?

Mid Ulster Agewell: Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.
For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Deanery of Tyrone Statistics
17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.
8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000
6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people
3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people
The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics
7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?
In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.
The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.
Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s
The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

Rural Support: We could help you with financial stress by
Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt
Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action
Email: info@ruralsupport.org.uk **Website:** ruralsupport.org.uk
To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):
Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies
Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)