

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
 Baptism of the Lord [Year A] (8th January, 2017)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474

Thought on Baptism: "The rediscovery of the value of one's baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian, because we see in the Gospel that he who lets himself be fascinated by Christ cannot do without witnessing the joy of following in his footsteps... we understand even more that, in virtue of baptism, we have an inherent missionary vocation."
Pope Benedict XVI

Liturgy Schedule for the First Week in Ordinary Time [Year A] (8th January – 15th January, 2017)

Saturday 7th January St. Raymond Penafort (priest)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Maureen Morris (6 th Anniversary)
Sunday 8th January Baptism of the Lord [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass
Monday 9th January First Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 10th January First Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 11th January First Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass: Bernard Keenan (3 rd Anniversary)
Thursday 12th January First Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 13th January St. Hilary (bishop and doctor of Church)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday 14th January First Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Nellie Tracey (4 th Anniversary)
Sunday 15th January 2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass

Weekly Collection Amount: £1,830

If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more

We offer congratulations and prayerful support from our parish community to
Colum Tracey (Greencastle) and Mary Smith (Donagheady) Thursday 29th December
Michael Kelly (Termonmaguirc) and Maureen Teague (Greencastle) Saturday 31st December
 They recently committed themselves to each other in the sacrament of Christian Marriage.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Harry Donaghy** of 8 Maryville who was buried during the week and for comfort and consolation for his family circle. We also pray for the repose of the souls of **John Tuohey, Nellie Tracey, Maureen Morris** and **Bernard Keenan** whose anniversaries occur now.

Baptism Congratulations: We congratulate the family of Baby **Grace Maria Callan** who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Friday 30th December in St. Patrick's Church.

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*

The Holy Family Padre Pio prayer group – Monthly Meeting: Monday 9th January in the Holy Family church, Ballymagroarty, Derry starting with Mass at 7.15pm. *There will be two 1st class relics at the meeting • All welcome*

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

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 • Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10, R/ vv 8, 9 • 1 Corinthians 1:1-13
 John 1:29-34 • Lectionary 1:641 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 7 th January The family of Danielle Gumley	Offertory Gift Rota Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	9.00am Sunday Morning 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

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 on request after Mass
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass on request after Mass.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council: ASPIRE Employability Programme is starting FREE NVQ Level 1 Qualifications, CSR Card, Forklift Licence, as well as their 'Classroom Support Programme'. Offered alongside wider package of support into paid employment. Immediate starts. *Omagh (028) 8224 6535 / Enniskillen (028) 6632 6478*

Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour: Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers.
Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com

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.

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE: Website: childrenincrossfire.org • Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org • Tel: (028) 7126 9898
The Advent box donations will be collected over this weekend and next weekend. Please leave the box or envelope in the parish collection basket on either 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*

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

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

Strule Arts Centre – Irish Language Activities: Resumes Wednesday 18th January: Sean-nós Dancing 6.00pm-7pm; Singing in Irish 7-8pm and Irish classes for 3 levels 8-9:30pm. *Information from kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com or (028) 8225 6220*

Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Classes: For info call Bridie on 07591 047 556, 07847 459 428 or (028) 8164 8706
Pilates: Tuesday 17th January. Morning Classes at 10.00am and Evening Classes at 7.00pm.
Free Computers Classes Level 1: Wednesday 11th January at 7.00pm. Must have a basic knowledge of computers.
Boot Camp with Dalan McCullagh: Monday 16th January at 7.30pm and Saturday morning at 8.30am. Two classes per week for £55 for 6 weeks or £5 per class

2016 Parish Statistics		
Baptisms (18) 7 Boys 11 Girls	First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (16) 10 Boys 6 Girls	Confirmations (21) 10 Boys 11 Girls
Marriages (16) 7 within parish 9 outside parish	Funerals (10) 8 within parish 2 outside parish	Station Masses in October 8

Events The death of retired Bishop of Derry Most Rev. Dr. Edward Daly is announced on Monday 8th August
 Mass with Padre Pio Relic Celebrated in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday 5th October

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.mcmenamin@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

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

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 prayer 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*

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 Craighbane 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

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Matthew 3:13-17: John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. The Baptism of Jesus marks a turning point in his life and the start of his public ministry. Recall moments when your life changed and you moved into a new phase.
2. The experience was one in which Jesus had a new sense of his own identity. What have been the experiences which have helped shaped your sense of who you are?
3. How have you come to an awareness of being a child of God, beloved by God, and one on whom rests the grace of God?
4. It is surprising that Jesus, the Saviour of the world, asks to be baptised by John. The request symbolises his desire to identify with us. At the same time he is filled with the Holy Spirit. That step of identifying with us is an important element in his being able to help us. Have you ever found that when someone identifies with you, it is easier for him/her to help you? Has your ability to identify with others had any impact on your effectiveness in helping others?

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

The Baptism of Christ is a painting by fifteenth-century Italian artist Piero della Francesca. It is in the National Gallery in London. It is remarkable for its light quality. Its lightness of tone reflects a time when baptisms were concluded at dawn and the newly baptised, once washed in the font, were dressed in white robes. A dawn light suffuses the figure of Christ, including sky, landscape and water. Piero worked on a white gesso surface which had a marble-like finish and his paints were tempered with egg to create translucency and a whiteness relevant to the theme of Baptism. The setting for the painting is Italy of his time, not ancient Jordan. As Christ is being baptised delegates are arriving from the east to negotiate a healing of the Churches East and West. A trio of angels have gathered in a conciliatory circle.

When we honour Christ's Baptism on this day we are reminded to work on our own disunities

The Deep End: Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

How can we enter into the mystery of Jesus' humble self-abasement and Baptism? Gregory of Nazianzus, a fourth-century Church father tells us: 'Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him.' Do you want to see changes in your life? And do you want to become a more effective instrument of the Gospel? Examine Jesus' humility and ask the Holy Spirit to forge this same attitude in your heart. As you do, heaven will open for you as well. The Lord is ever ready to renew us in his Spirit and to anoint us for mission. We are called to be 'light' and 'salt' to those around us. The Lord wants his love and truth to shine through us that others may see the goodness and truth of God's message of salvation. Ask the Lord to fill you with his Holy Spirit that you may radiate the joy of the Gospel to those around you.

Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit and inflame my heart with the joy of the Gospel. May I find joy in seeking to please you just as you found joy in seeking to please your Father.

Don Schwager

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

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

Friday 13th January – *St. Hilary (bishop and doctor of the Church) [c.315-c.367]* Elected bishop of Poitiers c.358 and distinguished himself by his stand against Arianism. In exile (356-359) by order of Emperor Constantine, he used the time to write. His major works include *De Trinitate*, a study of the Trinity.

Sunday 15th January – *St. Ita (virgin)* Was one of the early Irish women saints whose name is remembered in many place-names. A native of Co. Waterford, in the 6th century she founded a monastery in Killeedy, Co. Limerick. She was given the title 'foster-mother of the saints of Ireland.' Died in 570. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]