



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (11th February, 2018)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474

Thought for Ash Wednesday: "Remember that Lent and Ash Wednesday is not just about putting away the bad things. It is about creating good things and helping the poor and the needy, being kind to people and much more." *Jacob Winters*

Liturgy Schedule for Sixth Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (Sunday 11th February – Sunday 18th February)

Saturday 10th February St. Scholastica (virgin)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass <i>Do This in Memory Programme (Week 6)</i>
Sunday 11th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am 11.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass
Please note that there will be NO MASS on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th February			
Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Lourdes PS Our Lady of Wayside	6.45am 11.00am 8.00pm	Mass • 10.00am Mass Distribution of Ashes Mass
Thursday 15th February	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Friday 16th February	St. Patrick's	6.45am 10.00am 7.30pm	Mass Mass followed by Stations of Cross Mass: Peter Leo McCullagh (Month's Mind)
Saturday 17th February St. Fintan (abbot)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 18th February First Sunday of Lent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am 11.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass

Weekly Collection: £1,115 *Thank you for your generosity*
This weekend the Lourdes Hospitalite Collection will be taken up as a second collection, please give as generously as you can
Ash Wednesday Collection: This will be taken up to support the work of the Church in the Holy Land

Baptisms: We welcome into God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism **Katie Anne Small** and **Leah Cait McCullagh**, the celebrations of which took place on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th February in St. Patrick's Church respectively.
We congratulate their parents, godparents and family circles at this time

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the repose of the soul of **Peter Leo McCullagh** whose Month's Mind Mass takes place on Friday. We also pray for **Pauline Montague (10th)** whose anniversary occurs at this time and the souls of the recently deceased and enrolled in the Derry Diocesan Society **Mary Rose McCullagh, John McCullagh, Laura McGuigan, Barney McCrory** and **Peter Leo McCullagh**

Children in Crossfire Advent Campaign: Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Advent Campaign. Together Greencastle Parish have raised an amazing **£1,158.92**. This money will go a long way. Providing vital Health care, Education, Nutrition and Safe Water for young children living in extreme conditions both in Tanzania and Ethiopia

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 free sessions are offered
Website: towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@iecon.ie

Vocations Information Day – Information Evening: Bishop Donal invites men to an information evening offering an opportunity to explore the call to Diocesan Priesthood on Tuesday 27th February from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.
Address: Parochial House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP
 Enquiries can be made via the Diocesan Vocations Director: Fr Paul Farren
Tel: (028) 71264087 • **Email:** ddcc@derrydiocese.org • Fr Gallagher would be happy to provide transport for anyone interested

Padre Pio Devotions: Wednesday 21st February immediately after 7.30pm mass in St Patrick's Church.

St. Joseph's Church, Kileenan – Evening of Gospel and Spiritual Music: Sunday 18th February at 7.00pm **Tickets: £20 PP**

Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.
If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

Accord Marriage Preparation Course (2018 / 2019): 11th and 12th May • 1st and 2nd June • 22nd and 23rd June *accord-ni.co.uk*

Next Week's Readings: Genesis 9:8-15 • Psalm 24:4-9, R/ cf. v 10 • 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:12-15 • Lectionary 1:205 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 2]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 10 th February • Michael McElduff	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 11 th February • Lennon Mayton
Saturday 17 th February • Cailum McKenna	First Sunday of Lent	Sunday 18 th February • Matthew McGlinchey

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented

Volunteers for World Meeting of Families – The Gospel of the Family: Joy to the World:

Tuesday 21st to Sunday 26th August in Dublin'. Organisers require several thousand volunteers for this historic event for those interested in being part of it. Madeleine Frissung (Volunteer Outreach co-ordinator), will be holding an information session on Saturday 24th February from 10.00am in Ardmore Parish Centre, Derry.

If you wish to attend Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ
 register using the following: **Tel:** (028) 7136 2475 • **Email:** safeguarding@derrydiocese.org

Cursillo – 3-Day Residential Weekends at the Carmelite Retreat Centre in Termonbacca, Derry

Men: Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th February • **Women:** Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th March

For more information call 07708 066 939 or 07841 100 174

Precious Life – Rally to "Save the 8th": Saturday 10th March. Join thousands from across Ireland in support of the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution that protects unborn babies. Coaches will be travelling to the rally from towns across NI.
For more info call the Rally for Life Committee on (028) 9027 8484 or click on rallyforlife.net

Camowen Farmers Ltd. – Business Seminar: Monday 12th February at 8.00pm in Milestone Centre, Carrickmore.

Guest Speakers: Cavanagh Kelly Accountants, a solicitor from Agriculture Law Society & Rural Support **Topics:** Business planning, succession issues, risk management, taxation, financial budgeting, forecasting, impact of market volatility. This important meeting is organised by DAERA and a brilliant opportunity for farm families to access important information from experts (free of charge) which could be invaluable for the sustainability of the family farm. Everyone welcome. tea served.

Clanabogan Drama Circle – Tom, Dick and Harry (a comedy by Ray and Michael Cooney):

Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th February in St. Joseph's Hall, Omagh, curtains up at 8.00pm • Programme is £1.00

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events: *For more info call Tom Blee on 07704 526 870*

Music Classes There will be NO classes on Monday 12th February, classes resume Monday 19th February
Monthly Seisiun Friday 16th February in Glens Cottage, Lislap (adjacent to History Park on Gortin / Omagh Road)
 Everyone welcome • Admission free • Supper served

Cherish the Ladies Concert Friday 28th September in Mellon Country Hotel. **Tickets (£5)**

An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg – Indoor Gaelic Training Session: For boys and girls in Play School (P5 in the community centre). These will begin in February and take place on Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 11.00am for those in playschool to P2 and 11.00am to 12 noon for P3 to P5s. *Cannot go ahead without help of parents, please help out as much as possible*

Fun with Fitness – Upcoming Classes: *1 class (£25) 2 classes (£45) 3 classes (£60)*

Registration is Thursday 15th February and classes begin Sunday 18th February in Greencastle GAC
Monday Legs, Bums and Turns – 7.00pm to 7.30pm **Thursday** Spin – 6.50pm to 7.30pm and 7.30pm to 8.10pm
Sunday Running Group – 8.00am to 9.00am

Green Elves Playgroup – Bingo Club: Every Wednesday at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.30pm).

Greencastle Community Association – Annual General Meeting: Rescheduled for Thursday 22nd February.

Greencastle Community Centre – Cleaner Required: If interested email greencastlecommunity@gmail.com. *4 hours per week*

Rouskey Community Centre *For more info call Bridie on 07591 047 556*

Chest Heart and Stroke Support Group: Wednesday 14th February at 2.00pm. We have a local reflexologist coming to talk about benefits of reflexology about health conditions. *New members always welcome*

Rouskey Hearing Loss – Free Drop-in Support Sessions: Tuesday 13th February from 10.00am to 11.00am. Includes new batteries and ear mould tubing for NHS hearing aids, information on how to use and clean your hearing aids, information on hearing loss and all the services that can help you. *For more info call Mary Cruickshank on (028) 7132 0167*

Sean-Nós Dancing Classes with Paul Cassidy: Starts Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm. *£16 for 4 weeks*
Card Making Workshop with Angela Rafferty: Tuesday 27th February. Make your own personal cards for any celebration coming up. includes 3 cards and guidance of the tutor. *£10*

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):

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 • Please join our growing faith family!

World Meeting of Families 2018 Prayer: God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray [PAUSE TO REMEMBER FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHERS BY NAME]. Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen. Mary, mother and guide, pray for us. St. Joseph, father and protector, pray for us. Sts Joachim and Anne, pray for us. Sts Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us

<p>Pope Francis' Intention for February (please remember this in your personal prayers) Universal – Say “No” to Corruption: That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption</p>
<p>Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends Saturday 10th March at 3.00pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry <i>If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Communion at this Mass please contact the Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087</i></p>
<p>South West College – Open Days: Come along to learn about the excellent courses on offer. Meet with the lecturers, talk to current students and view the brilliant facilities and equipment on site. <i>Both are Tuesdays from 2.00pm to 8.00pm</i> Enniskillen Campus 27th February • Dungannon Campus 27th March</p>
<p>Beginning Experience – Weekend Away for a Lifetime of Change: The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th March in Drumalis, Larne. The Support group continues Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm in St. Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast. <i>To find out more call Phil on (028) 9020 7645, Marie on 07896 119 669 or email bebelfast@hotmail.com</i></p>
<p>Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: Sunday 1st to Friday 6th July. Led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Cost £669 Address: 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ • Email: derrypilgrim@outlook.com • Tel: (028) 7126 0293 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 11.00am to 1.00pm from Saturday 3rd February</p>
<p>String Instrument Music Lessons: Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent Beginners: 6.00pm to 6.45pm • Advanced: 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>Family Care Adoption Services: We are seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children For a free information pack contact us using any of the following details Tel: (028) 9069 1133 / (028) 7136 8592 • Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • Online: familycaresociety.co.uk</p>
<p>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. <i>Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011</i></p>
<p>St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992</p>
<p>ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week. Omagh Office: (028) 8224 6535 • Enniskillen Office: (028) 6632 6478 • Facebook: Aspire Employability Programme <i>The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy</i></p>
<p>Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre – Traditional Music and Singing Classes: Every Tuesday night. Why not learn an instrument or a song or two in 2018? <i>For details and booking call (028) 8224 2777 or visit dunuladh.ie</i></p>
<p>ASPIRE: Kickstart your career for the new year with the launch of new learning and training opportunities. ASPIRE provide assistance to anyone aged 16 years old and over who is currently unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week and is seeking paid work. The ASPIRE programme is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy. <i>For further information on the ASPIRE Programme, please contact the Omagh Office on (028) 8224 6535 or the Enniskillen Office on (028) 6632 6478. Alternatively, you can find us on Facebook</i></p>

Parish Liturgy for February, 2018	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Joann McCullagh	Mary Clarke	Martina McBride
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Shona McKenna	Rachel Clarke	Caoileann Maguire
Collectors	John Bradley Colm Devlin	Colm Keenan Michael Clarke	Brian Donnelly Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Alice Keenan, Anne Donnelly and Anne Tuohey		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley
<p>Institute of Irish Leadership – Upcoming Events Email: kathleenburnsill@gmail.com • Tel: (028) 8775 7800 International Tuesday 6th / Thursday 8th March at 10 30am. Second-hand books, old magazines, cuttings from local newspapers and old music tapes / LP's wanted. Volunteers wanted for reading groups etc. Women's Day: Walking Group: Meet every Monday in Pomeroy Forest Car Park, 11.00am-12.00pm Month's Mind Masses: Now taking bookings for light refreshments afterwards</p>			
<p>Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages: 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service <i>To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com</i></p>			
<p>Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues: All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness <i>For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com</i></p>			
<p>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. <i>An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com</i></p>			
<p>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. <i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i></p>			
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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. <p>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. <i>From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</i></p>			
<p>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. <i>See poster at entrance</i></p>			

DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2018

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday	Saturday 17th March St. Patrick's Day
Thursday 8th March at 7.00pm First Confession (Primary 4 Children and Families)	Sunday 1st April Easter Sunday Sunday 22nd April at 2.00pm Confirmation
Saturday 19th May at 12 noon First Holy Communion	Tuesday 21st to Sunday 26th August in Dublin World Meeting of Families
Saturday 30th June at 6.00pm in St. Patrick's Cemetery Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead	
Sunday 1st July at 11.00am Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead followed by Broughdery Old Cemetery	

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

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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 11th February – Our Lady of Lourdes On this day in 1858, Our Lady first appeared to the fourteen year-old Bernadette Soubirous. Later Bernadette was to learn that the mysterious lady was the Blessed Virgin and to hear from her lips, 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. In 1992 Pope John Paul II instituted the World Day of Prayer of the Sick to be held on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

St. Gobnait One of the best loved saints in west Cork but only traditions concerning her life survive. The main part of her life was spent in Ballyvaurey, Co. Cork, where there has always been a deep devotion to her, and which is a place of pilgrimage on this day and on Pentecost. Her gifts of caring for and curing the sick have been a significant part of her cult through the centuries. Happily, her memorial coincides with the World Day for the Sick.

Wednesday 14th February – St. Cyril (monk) [826-869] and St. Methodius (bishop) [815-885] (both Patrons of Europe) Brothers from Thessalonica in Greece. They preached the gospel in Moravia using their own translation of the Scriptures and the liturgy in the local language. These translations into Slavonic were in an alphabet, now called Cyrillic, which they devised. They are honoured as apostles of the Slavic peoples and in 1980 Pope John Paul II declared them Patrons of Europe.

Saturday 17th February – St. Fintan (abbot) Born in Leinster, he received his religious formation in Terryglass, Co. Tipperary under the abbot Colum and was deeply influenced by his penitential practices and the severity of the Rule. Fintan made his own foundation in Clonenagh, Co. Laois. He died in 603.

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (religious) In the early 13th century seven young merchants of Florence decided to help one another live more perfect Christian lives. As the result of a vision they became known as the 'Servants of Mary' and followed the Rule of St. Augustine.

2017 PARISH STATISTICS

Baptisms (26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls	First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	Confirmations (15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls
Marriages (5) 2 within parish • 3 outside parish	Funerals (12) 11 within parish • 1 outside parish	
April: Parishioners and pupils of Dean Maguire College took part in Holy Thursday mass in RTE Studio in Dublin on Thursday 13 th April		
December: Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began 13 th December in St Patrick's Church		

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Mark 1:40-45: John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. Jesus' compassion for people suffering was an outstanding characteristic of his ministry. We see the healing power of God at work through him. Recall times when the compassion of others has had a healing effect on you. Remember also when your compassion towards someone in trouble brought them hope, healing or strength.
2. 'If you choose, you can make me clean'. Our choice is a key factor in how we affect others. We cannot choose to have no impact on the people in our lives. Even a choice to do nothing has an effect. When have you been particularly aware of the importance of your choice to be a positive influence on another?
3. Lepers were forced to live away from others. The leper's cure meant that he was also readmitted to contact with the community. Perhaps you recall people who were once ostracized being brought back into family or community. Who was the Jesus person who helped this healing to take place?
4. The joy of the leper on being healed was such that he could not keep the good news to himself. Bring to mind occasions when you were so filled with good news that you could not keep it to yourself?

Musings: Fr. Pat Collins (*Encountering Jesus: New Evangelisation in Practice*)

[in the parable of the Prodigal Son] The younger son represented the poor who failed to keep the law, and the elder son represented the Pharisees who tried to abide by the law. The younger son felt he was under a curse because he had failed to observe the law. The elder son believed that he had earned his father's favour by being dutiful and observing the law at all times. However, Jesus said that both sons were mistaken. They presumed that the father's (i.e. God's) love was conditional and had to be earned by good behaviour, whereas in actual fact it was a free, unmerited gift. Both sons were invited to the kind of conversion that leads to a change in their thinking about their father and to trust in the offer of his unconditional mercy and love. Whereas the younger son was able to change his image of his father, the elder son seemed to be unable to do so.

The Deep End – Stretched Out His Hand: Jane Mellett ([mellettj@gmail.com](mailto:melletj@gmail.com))

Jesus, in today's gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society, and still today there are many people in our own society who are completely alienated and stigmatised. Jesus is moved with pity for this man. What moves you with pity? Who do you pity? What alienates you from others? Who is alienated in our communities? Who is it that we need to reach out to? Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. It is the religious of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing, Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love.

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he would be shouting from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will compile evidence but, for now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

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

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.

If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office
Email: t.mcmenamain@derrydiocese.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

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

Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure: If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.

If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting derryyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

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

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

Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday

Sean-Nós and Set Dancing 6.00pm to 7.00pm • **Singing in Irish** 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels 8.00pm to 9.30pm

Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** 07747 899 249