



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Second Sunday of Lent [Year C] (17th March, 2019)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

A happy and blessed St. Patrick's Day to all Greencastle parishioners both here at home and abroad

Lenten Pastoral Letter 2019 – People Fit for Mission

"In every generation and country, the Church has had to change in order to preach the Gospel effectively. The Church in Ireland and in the Diocese of Derry faces a new set of challenges if we are to bring the Gospel of mercy and forgiveness to the people of our time. Some 40 years ago, Pope John Paul II said that every generation is like a new continent to be conquered for Christ. We are called to be salt to the earth and light to the world in the circumstances of our time and place. The new continent to be conquered for Christ is at our doorstep. Pope Francis has invited us all to see, not our way forward but, the Lord's way for us. He has proposed that we use a three-stage approach to becoming fit for mission in the Church of today, an approach which helps us in Derry. He proposes that we See, Judge, Act." *Bishop Donal McKeown*

Liturgy Schedule for Second Week of Lent [Year C] (17th March, 2019 – 24th March, 2019)

Saturday 16th March	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	St. Patrick's Day Vigil Mass: John Tuohy Snr. (11 th Anniversary)
Sunday 17th March St. Patrick's Day [Year C]	Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Monday 18th March	St. Patrick's	11.00am	Mass
Tuesday 19th March Solemnity of St Joseph	St. Patrick's	6.30am	Mass 10.00am Mass
Wednesday 20th March	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass
Thursday 21st March	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.15pm	Adoration 7.30pm Mass
Friday 22nd March	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Saturday 23rd March	St. Patrick's	6.30am	Mass
Sunday 24th March Third Sunday of Lent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	10.00am	Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
Saturday 23rd March	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass: <i>Do This in Memory (week 6)</i> Margaret and Willie Joe Morris (7 th and 12 th Anniversaries)
Sunday 24th March	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sunday 24th March	Our Lady of the Wayside	11.00am	Mass

St Patrick's Day Masses: Please note as St Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday there will be three masses celebrated this year. The Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 6.00pm on Saturday 16th March. Masses on St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated at 9.00am in Our Lady of the Wayside and at 11.00am in St. Patrick's. *You are also invited by the football club to come along to the Community Centre for a St. Patrick's Day breakfast*

Weekly Collection: £785

Thank you for your generosity

Wedding: Our best wishes and prayers go to **Sarah-Louise McKenna (Greencastle)** and **David Lenagh (Armagh)** who shared the Sacrament of Matrimony with each other on Saturday 9th September in Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **John Tuohy Snr. (11th), Margaret Morris (7th) and Willie Joe Morris (12th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Irish Language Collection: After each mass this weekend. This money will go towards helping our local children and adults with the cost of attending the summer Gaeltacht Colleges to learn Irish. We have a long tradition of the Irish language in our area and this is a great way to continue this tradition. *For info on scholarships or to register your child or yourself to be eligible call Sinead Warnock on 07849 394 001*

Life in the Spirit Seminars: Thursday 28th February to Thursday 11th April in conjunction with 7.30pm Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh.

Speakers: 21st March: Bishop McKeown • 28th March: Fr. Eamon Kelly
4th April: Fr. Colum Curry • 11th April: Archbishop Eamon Martin

Next Week's Readings: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 • Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 11, R/ v 8 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9 • Lectionary 1:255 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil

Offertory Gift Rota

9.00am Sunday Morning

16 th March • Jamie McGuigan	Second Sunday of Lent	17 th March • Michael McAleer
23 rd March (DTiM week 6) • Caoimhe Coney	Third Sunday of Lent	24 th March • Myles McElduff
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented		

Annual Youth Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick: Friday 5th April. For young people aged between 16 and 25. The price of the trip is £30, which includes food and transport. Buses will be leaving from Derry and Strabane. The Registration Form can be found on the Diocesan website at derrydiocese.org. Completed registration forms should be returned to the Catechetical Centre, 2 Francis Street, Derry, BT48 7DS by Friday 29th March.
For more information please email padraig.delargy@derrydiocese.org or call Padraig on (028) 7126 4087.

ACCORD NI Catholic Marriage Care Service – Recruiting Counsellors and Facilitators in the Omagh area:

If you are interested in joining ACCORD please come along to our information evening in the ACCORD centre on Monday 25th March at 8.00 pm in Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street, Omagh. Experienced facilitators and counsellors will be available to talk you through everything and answer any questions. *Alternatively contact the Omagh centre on (028) 82242439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Monica Retreat Day: Saturday 6th April, 10.30am to 3.30pm in St. Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher. A time of prayer and an opportunity to move to a place of peace with feelings of sadness, loss or disappointment when faith practices are not sustained by, nor sustaining, for a new generation. Facilitators are Fr. Paschal O'Donnell OFM and Sr. Perpetua McNulty RSM. £20 (inclusive of light lunch) • (028) 8224 3375 • info@cappaghparish.com

The Iona Institute NI – The Future of Conscience in an Age of Intolerance: Saturday 30th March in Wellington Park Hotel, Malone Road, Belfast BT 9 6RU from 10.00am to 1.30pm (registration opens 9.30am) £10 Adults £5 student (includes tea/coffee/scones). Speakers include Nuala O'Loan (DBE), Dr. Helen Watt (Anscombe Bioethics Centre Oxford) Benedict Ó'Flóinn SC, and David Smyth (Evangelical Alliance). *To book or to request further information email ionainstitute@gmail.com or call (028) 9264 6861*

Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends

Saturday 13th April at 2.00pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry. Bishop Mc Keown will celebrate. *If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Communion at this Mass please call the Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email ddcc@derrydiocese.org*

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events:

To enquire call Tom on (028) 816 48719

Monthly Seisiun:	Friday 22 nd March at 9.00pm in St. Eugene's Hall, Newtownstewart. <i>Free admission • Musicians, singers, reciters and listeners welcome • Supper served</i>
Music Classes:	Continues each week in St. Peter's PS, Plumbridge. 6.30pm to 8.30pm.
Singing Classes:	Next class is Sunday 24 th March at 2.00pm in the Plumbridge Parochial Hall.
Annual Class Feis:	Sunday 14 th April at 2.00pm in the Mellon Country Hotel.

Mid-Ulster Festival of Amateur Drama: Saturday 16th to Saturday 23rd March at The Patrician, Carrickmore. Call box office on (028) 8076 1906 from Monday 11th March at 10.00am. *See local press and Facebook page for details*

Catholic Engaged Encounter Course: For details / booking: marriageencounter.ie • (028 2763 8512)
Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March in Our Lady and St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

Lenten Days and Holy Week Retreat at Dromantine:

A Lenten Encounter: Looking Up and Reaching Out

Saturday 16th March from 10.00am to 5.00pm • Led by Fr. Damian Bresnahan SMA • £25 (lunch included)

A Lenten Experience: Called to Renewal

Saturday 30th March from 10.00am to 5.00pm • Led by Fr. John Gallagher SMA • £25 (lunch included)

Holy Week Retreat: Wednesday 17th at 5.00pm to Sunday 21st April at 11.00am • The SMA Community invites you to join them in reflectively celebrating the Easter Triduum, beginning with the Seder Meal • £250 full board
Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry BT34 1RH • (028) 30821964 or admin@dromantineconference.com to book

Trocaire Lenten Campaign 2019:

To find out more visit trocaire.org

"You will eat and have all you want and you will bless Yahweh your God in the fine country which he has given you."
Deuteronomy 8:10

This year's campaign highlights the different ways land is stolen from vulnerable people in the developing world. It could be by corporate land grabs, by war or simply because they are a woman.

Pope Francis' Intention for March (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

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
The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy

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

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
To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

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:** kinderareni.co.uk

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):
 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) • Join our faith family!

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

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

The Big Knit for Age NI Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p.
To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/bigknit

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
For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com

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

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

Parish Liturgy for March, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Mary Slane	Siobhan McKenna	Sean Teague
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Kira Donnelly	Lauryn Hollywood	Tara Conneely
Collectors	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Ronan Hollywood Patrick Tuohy	Brian Donnelly Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Kathleen Beggs and Mary McCullagh		Ann McDermott and Martina McBride

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

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

The Priory Institute – Study Theology Online:
 Come and join our supportive student community and study theology by distance learning this Spring, register now!
Tel: 00353 1 404 8124 • **Email:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com • **Website:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.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@jecon.ie

Family Care Adoption Services *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*
 For a free information contact **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)
 us using any of these details **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:*John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

1. The owner of the field who allowed the wheat and the darnel to grow together is a reminder to us to be patient with ourselves and with others when we see that everything is not right. Sometimes a preoccupation with the negative (the darnel) can blind us to seeing the positive in our own lives and in the lives of others. When have you found that a willingness to live with the messiness of the present created the conditions for future growth?
2. Have you ever found that it was through accepting the darnel that you learned important lessons for life, e.g., learning by making mistakes, or asking stupid questions, or taking foolish risks?
3. The parable of the mustard seed is a reminder that seemingly insignificant things can have very positive results. Have you ever been surprised by the benefit to yourself or others of a kind gesture, a small initiative, a word of encouragement or a smile?

The Deep End – St. Patrick:*Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)*

Happy St. Patrick's Day! – a day when we remember the roots of the Christian faith in Ireland. There is no doubt that to be a Christian in Ireland today is difficult. Often it is easier to hide our faith, to avoid ridicule, arguments and debates which can wear us down. However, today we should take example and energy from St Patrick. His story was not a walk in the park either. We celebrate our Christian identity today and celebrate the Gospel message that a courageous Patrick brought to us, a message that was preserved and passed on; a message that is very relevant to today's world and which continues to nourish and sustain us.

Take heart from the parable of the Mustard Seed in the Gospel today. The mustard seed plant is sometimes wild and out of control. Author and activist, Shane Claiborne, compares it to kudzu, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas, smother trees, even crack stone buildings and footpaths. The shrub was banned in certain areas of Palestine because of how it could completely take over gardens. When we are struggling with being a Christian in modern Ireland, feeling excluded in a world that wants to forget God, we can take courage from the parable of the mustard seed. It grew in places where it was not wanted. You might recall the people in your own life who nourished your faith and who guided you along your spiritual path.

I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's shield to protect me. *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

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*

PARISH EVENTS IN 2018

Thursday 1st February Service of Light for P7	Thursday 8th March First Confession for P4
Monday 12th March 5 Parishioners receive Pope John Paul Awards in Armagh Cathedral	
Sunday 22nd April Confirmation by Bishop McKeown	Saturday 19th May First Holy Communion
Thursday 14th June P7 attend Fan the Flame Mass in Celtic Park Derry	
Thursday 21st June Presentations to P7 Leavers and Mr. Noel McGinn on retirement as principal	
Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July Cemetery Prayers in Parish Cemeteries	
Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th August Parishioners, along with Fr Gallagher attend Festival of Families in Croke Park and Papal Mass in Phoenix Park	
Saturday 1st September Mr. Neil McCloy officially takes up role as principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	
Sunday 2nd September All-Ireland Final – Tyrone v. Dublin	Friday 2nd November Mass for Parish Deceased
10th November Sr. Bride Counihan makes Mission Appeal	
Wednesday 21st November Inaugural Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council	
Sunday 16th December Advent Penance Service	Saturday 22nd December 2 New Altar servers welcomed
31 December Large congregation gathers for Mass at final sunset of 2018	

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2019

First Confession Thursday 28 th March, 7.30pm	Confirmation Saturday 6 th April, 12 noon
First Holy Communion Saturday 11 th May, 12 noon	

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2017
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	Weddings	2 within parish • 3 outside parish
10	Deaths and Burials	12

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham

Masters in Catholic School Leadership: Post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. A great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. Next intake: Autumn, 2019. *For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email tferry@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

Trocaire – Recruiting Volunteers: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.

If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info

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*

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

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

Pilgrimage to Rome and Tuscany: Tuesday 18th June for nights, ex Dublin (includes Assisi, Florence and Pisa). Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Donnelly. Guide: Kieran Troy £1,090 per person sharing (single room supplement £280). Includes guided tours and most meals. Call Paul or Marie at Downe Travel on (028) 4461 3288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2019

Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace

'Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the polis... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have." This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity. In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002: "Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role. Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility. Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest. Blessed be the politician who remains consistent. Blessed be the politician who works for unity. Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change. Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening. Blessed be the politician who is without fear." Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.'

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%

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 17th March – St. Patrick (bishop and Principal Patron of Ireland) Born in Roman Britain in the early 5th century, Patrick was taken captive at 16 years of age and brought by pirates as a slave to the Braid Valley in the glens of Antrim. He worked as a shepherd around Sliabh Mis (Mt. Slemish) near the present-day town of Ballymena. After six years he escaped back to Britain, but he heard God's call to return to convert the Irish. After studies for the priesthood in France, he returned as Bishop c. 432 and commenced the remarkable conversion of the Irish. Died in 491.

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

Accord Marriage Preparation Course: 5th and 6th April • 26th and 27th April • 10th and 11th May
7th and 8th June • 21st and 22nd June Visit accord-ni.co.uk to book

Marian Pilgrimages: Fully escorted group pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo from Tuesday 9th to Saturday 13th April, £579 pps. Including visits to the town of Pietrelcina, the house of Mary Pyle and Mass at the Shrine of St. Michael Archangel, accompanied by Spiritual Director.

For more info on joining the group call Marie Martin on 0044 7799 11 2224

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October): 7 nights B&B and Airport

Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing.

any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service.

Call us on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com for further info and book dates that suit

Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thursday 4th to Tuesday 9th July. £679. We welcome all pilgrims, especially pilgrims in need of care. We welcome doctors, nurses and youth (aged 17years+) to assist with those in need. Application forms now available. Call (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com at any time.

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 service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

Owenkillew Credit Union – Death Benefit Insurance (DBI):

DBI is an insurance scheme whereby for a small premium, your nominee will receive an additional £2,000 to help defray funeral expenses. Can all members who have not paid their premium please call to either office and do so.

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