

<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

Institute of Irish Leadership – Upcoming Events Email: kathleenburnsail@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

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

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

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

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*

DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2018

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 21th 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 Broughderg 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:

Wednesday 21st February – St. Peter Damian (bishop and doctor of the Church) A reforming monk in The circle of Pope Leo IX and a cardinal. In 1823, he was declared a Doctor of the Church.

Thursday 22nd February – Chair of St. Peter the Apostle This ancient feast relates to early Roman custom at this time of year of remembering the ancestors of the family, those who presided the Chair of St. Peter over the family fortunes. The texts today celebrate Peter as Bishop of Rome. We recall Christ's choice of Peter for service to the whole Church.

Friday 23rd February – St. Polycarp (bishop and martyr) bishop of Smyrna or Izmir in modern Turkey. Born around the year 69 and was a disciple of Saint John the Apostle. He was martyred in 155.

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.mcmenamin@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

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 Maguirc College took part in Holy Thursday mass in RTÉ 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 – John 1:12-15: John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)

1. Jesus he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.
2. Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time. Later, with hindsight, we may see them as being good for us. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life?
3. Repent and believe the good news was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?
4. There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: 'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near'. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say 'yes'?

Musings: Fr. James O'Kane, Shortish Homilies for 2017/18 (Year B) • Part 1: Advent to Pentecost

Between his baptism in the Jordan and the beginning of his preaching, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. Mark's Gospel gives us a succinct account of the event: The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts and the angels looked after him.

As Lent begins we are perhaps unwilling to enter into it fully but if, driven by the Spirit, we do follow Jesus into the wilderness, we may find that we come to terms with temptation and discover a certain freedom. Temptation is essentially about taking the easy way out. It is always easier to follow our inclinations than to be faithful to our promises and our principles. Until, that is, we realize what is at stake. Taking the easy way out of every difficult situation does not bring peace. It is an expression of despair.

The Deep End – Operation Transformation: Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

The first Sunday of Lent – I love Lent, it's a great season where we can get in 'transformation' mode. Regardless of whether or not someone is still 'practicing' their faith, people still seem to get on board with Lent. We usually give something up, but remember it's not simply about weight loss or getting fit. By doing these things we are trying to make room for something deeper. It's a spring cleaning sort of time. What needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God? Or often do we need to make more room for what God has planned for us? We can get stuck, especially when we are comfortable and don't really want too much to change. But without change we can't grow and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. So Lent might be a time where in giving up something or taking on something, we make space for something new. The gospel today is short and sweet – Jesus is sent into the desert and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space and we should not be afraid because as the gospel tells us clearly today, it is a Spirit led desert. God is with us in this desert. So enjoy Lent, embrace it. How we make use of this time determines what will be.

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

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