



**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg  
 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A] (20<sup>th</sup> September, 2020)  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 816 48474

**Thought for the Week:** "Act in such a way that all those who come in contact with you will go away joyful. Sow happiness about you because you have received much from God; give, then, generously to others. They should take leave of you with their hearts filled with joy, even if they have no more than touched the hem of your garment."  
*St. Maria Faustina Kowalska*

<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b> St. Januarius (bishop and martyr)	St. Patrick's / YouTube	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Binnefreaghan
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b> Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Mass: Teebane East, Carnanrancy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's / YouTube	<b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	Gortin Parish (YouTube)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b> St. Pius of Pietrelcina / Padre Pio (priest) and St. Eunan (abbot)	St. Patrick's / YouTube	<b>2.00pm to 4.00pm</b> Adoration <b>7.30pm</b> Mass
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's / YouTube	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's / YouTube	<b>10.00am</b> Mass: Anthony Bradley (24 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.)
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b> St. Cosmas, St. Damian (martyrs)	St. Patrick's / YouTube	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Formil Francis McCullagh (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv.)
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b> Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	St. Patrick's / YouTube	<b>11.00am</b> Mass: Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South

**Weekly Collection:** £975

*Thank you for your generosity*

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the repose of the souls of **Anthony Bradley (24<sup>th</sup>)** and **John McCrory (28<sup>th</sup>)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**First Holy Communion:** 11 Pupils of Primary 5 in Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time this week. Please pray for them as they prepare for their First Holy Communion this Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am in St Patrick's Church.

**QUB Catholic Chaplaincy:** The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's reopens Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Our liturgies, faith events and social gatherings are popular with students and alumni. We have a range of groups and societies whose activities appeal to a wide range of interests. Our Chapel, Food Bar and study space are open throughout the academic year. Wherever you are on your faith journey, know that we are here for you.

*For more info visit [qubcatholic.org](http://qubcatholic.org) or drop by for a coffee and chat at 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast*

**The Net – September Edition:** Now available at [derrydiocese.org](http://derrydiocese.org). As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. There is a *Remembering Bishop Lagan* feature and *Remembering John Hume* article in the September issue.

**Dún Uladh - Traditional Music Classes:** Returns Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September via Zoom. Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre, Ulster's Regional Resource Centre for Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann offers lessons in tin whistle, flute, banjo, button accordion, fiddle and harp for all ages and abilities.

*For info on classes, tutors, instruments, prices and term times call (028) 8224 2777 or email [music@dunuladh.ie](mailto:music@dunuladh.ie)*

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

**Next Week's Readings:** Ezekiel 18:25-28 • Psalm 24: 4-9, R/ v 6 • Philippians 2:1-11  
 Matthew 21:28-32 • Lectionary 1:705      **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**Face Coverings in Church:** Several weeks ago the leaders of the four main Christian Churches in Ireland strongly recommended that face coverings be worn in places of worship. Many of you have been doing so since then and I wish to thank you sincerely for doing so and strongly encourage all to continue to do so. Of course, as stated before this does not apply to those under the age of 13. The priest will only wear his face covering during the distribution of communion as he is many metres away from the congregation in the sanctuary area during the mass. We continue to acknowledge that this raises issues for some who for a medical reason cannot wear a face covering. Once more I look forward to your help and understanding in this matter. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for all those in authority who continue to have to make very difficult decisions during these turbulent times. *Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP*

**Townland Mass and Broadcast Schedule:** This weekend we have (hopefully) been able to commence our broadcast masses via Greencastle Parish YouTube Channel. If you have been following us through Facebook you set up a notification on the YouTube Channel as to when a Live Broadcast is beginning. You must first subscribe to the Channel (free of charge.) You may have to download the YouTube app and sign up or follow through your SmartTV if it has YouTube (and your broadband is up to speed). Masses and some other services will be broadcast from St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. It is hoped, for example, that families members who cannot gain access to the church will now be able to follow the mass from their homes, the same goes for families members who could follow weddings, funerals and christenings from afar. This is not a 24/7 webcam but a service which covers Live Events in the church. You can also catch up on the mass later on if you wish. As mentioned at mass recently this will necessitate a reorganisation of our Townland Mass Rota including a slight change to the groupings of a small number of townlands. Therefore, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> October Sheskinshule will be the whole townland including Maryville and Sheskinshule View. From 10<sup>th</sup> October Crockanboy will be included along with Binnefreaghan. All other area groupings will remain the same. Broughderg / Crock and Teebane East / Carnanrancy / Aughminacroy / Coneyglen will have mass in Our Lady of the Wayside. All other areas will have mass in St. Patrick's Church on either a Saturday at 6.00pm or Sunday at 11.00am. Please consult the schedule below covering until the end of October. We hope and pray that the general situation regarding COVID-19 will improve and we can try to return to a more regular schedule. However, as mentioned many times, we must begin to prepare for the future and be ready for the new reality of fewer priests and more than one parish to be covered by the one priest. These Covid times give us an opportunity to do so and prepare for the necessary decisions that need to be made. In the schedule below please presume that masses in St. Patrick's Church can be accessed through YouTube

<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Binnefreaghan
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Teebane East, Carnanrancy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Formil
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Sheskinshule
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Broughderg, Crock
	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Formil
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Teebane East, Carnanrancy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen
	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Sheskinshule
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Broughderg, Crock
	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Binnefreagh, Crockanboy

**Public First Anniversary / Month's Mind Masses:** During the coming weeks there will be several First Anniversaries masses celebrated in St. Patrick's Church. Several rows in the church will be set aside for family members and places will be available then on a first come, first served basis. If there is an overflow you are asked to return to your car and listen to the mass on the outdoor speakers. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

*Thank you in advance for your cooperation*

**Pope Francis' Intention for September (please remember this in your personal prayers)**

**Respect for the Planet's Resources:** We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

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

**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

**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*

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

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

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

**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

**Online Youth Programmes:** To access a wide variety of initiatives and activities by Derry Diocesan Youth, visit:

**Facebook:** DerryDiocesanYouth **Instagram:** derryyouth

**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](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.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](http://derryyouthcommunity.com) or emailing [dyc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org)*

**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](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**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

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org).*

**Scripture Saturday with Bishop Donal:** Created by Derry Diocesan Youth, Bishop McKeown presents a series of short lessons on the Gospel in easy-to-understand, short (3-4 minute) videos, with tips and references of where and how to use these lessons in your daily life. *View the series at [derrydiocese.org/scripture-saturday](http://derrydiocese.org/scripture-saturday)*

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

**Community Coordination Hub:** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Covid-19 Community Coordination Hub will respond to requests received from the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline to assist residents who may have become isolated and vulnerable due to the impacts of Coronavirus and the associated mitigation measures. The Hub will work with the local community and voluntary sector to ensure those most at risk will have access to support services such as food, medication, practical and emotional support. **Access to Food Parcels** provided by the Department for Communities are available for anyone who can't leave their home to access food due to Covid-19 restrictions, don't have support through family, friends or access to food deliveries from local suppliers, or face food insecurity. Please complete the Food Parcel Request Form and a member of the Council's Community Coordination Hub will contact you. We aim to respond to requests within 24 hours. Referrals to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Coordination Hub for other support services are directed through the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline:  
**Freephone 0808 802 0020 Text ACTION to 81025 Email covid19@adviceni.net**  
 Support and advice is available from 9.00am to 5.00pm, seven days a week.

**Trócaire:** Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at trocaire.org
2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)
4. As with your parish envelope please leave at Broughderg Post Office, St. Patrick's Church Sacristy outside door postbox or the Parochial House. No boxes please.

Please also fill in Gift Aid details on envelope. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

**An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association:** Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the Covid-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call. *For up to date info and advice visit [www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus)*  
 Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741 Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996 Briege Beggs: 07799 058 273

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Can't stop? There is a solution.  
 Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email [csoofaa@btinternet.com](mailto:csoofaa@btinternet.com). [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://alcoholicsanonymous.ie).

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

1. 'I was there first'. Envy easily comes to the surface when faced with the good fortune of others, especially when compared to what seems less favourable treatment of ourselves. Can you recall that feeling in yourself and what it did to you? Can you also recall times when you were content with your lot, even though it seemed others had greater gifts, better opportunities, etc.
2. A parent or teacher who gives a lot of time to a difficult child does not love the others less, but if we are one of those other children we may not see that. Recall a 'Jesus person' in your life who helped you to overcome feelings of envy and helped you appreciate that the apparently more favourable treatment of another did not mean a lessening of love for you.
3. This leads us to the core message of this parable, namely, that God's love is a free gift, and not earned. Recall moments when you were particularly conscious of the gifts that God has given you by counting all the blessings that you have, no matter how small.
4. 'It is too late now' are words sometimes uttered to justify doing nothing about a situation. This parable tells us that where love is involved, it is never too late. Can you recall times when you got a positive response after taking action when you thought it was 'too late'?

**This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – St. Pius of Pietrelcina / Padre Pio (priest)** Capuchin friar, stigmatist, confessor, friend of all who suffer, died in September of 1968.  
**St. Eunan (abbot) [624-704]** Born in Donegal around 624 and died in 704. He became a monk in Iona and was chosen abbot there in 679. One of his writings is The Life of Colmcille.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September – St. Cosmas and St. Damian (martyrs)** Twin brothers, physicians, and early Christian martyrs born in Cilicia, part of today's Turkey. They practiced their profession in the seaport of Ayas, Adana, then in the Roman province of Syria. Accepting no payment for their services led to them being named "Aváργυροι" (Unmercenary); it has been said that, by this, they attracted many to the Christian faith.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September – St. Vincent de Paul (priest) [1580-1660]** Founded the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentians) and the Daughters of Charity (1633), the first sisters to work outside their convents in active service. He is the patron of charitable works.

**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](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Help is available for the Unemployed:** Have you recently been made redundant or are unemployed? If so, SUSE+ can help you, we are currently offering help and support with job searches, CV building, interview preparation. mentors work 1:1 with participants to help secure a job in the local area. An online course provision is also available which includes mindfulness and meditation, money management, holistic therapies, self-care, employability, confidence and motivation, job club and much more.  
*For more information email Tracy at [tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk](mailto:tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk) or call (074) 3653 3475*

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

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	11

### 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%

### Arrangements for other Sacraments and Ceremonies:

**Baptism:** If you have a child for baptism contact Fr. Gallagher and a date and time for baptism will be organised.

**Marriage:** Most weddings for 2020 have been rearranged for 2021. Any weddings in church in 2021 will follow government capacity regulations.

**First Communion:** It is intended to celebrate this Sacrament on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am.

**Confession:** In the short-term during summer months (weather permitting) Fr. Gallagher will be available for Confession in the graveyards on Saturdays from 5.30pm to 5.50pm in St. Patrick's Church and Sundays from 8.30am to 8.50am in Our Lady of the Wayside. Confession with social distancing and privacy in the church building is quite difficult to achieve, hopefully this will resume in near future.

**Funerals:** According to present regulations only 30 people are permitted in the church or cemetery at any one time.

*Please note that as regulations change we will either extend or roll back on these arrangements*

### The Deep End – Unequal Opportunities *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

Jesus does not see things as we do. Time and time again in his parables, he turns our expectations upside down and helps us to see things in a different light.

Today, he tells the story of the landowner who pays the same wages to all his workers – those who were hired at the crack of dawn and those who only joined late in the day. Naturally, the 'early birds' are put out by this – they feel it is unjust, even though they received the wage they were promised.

Maybe we sympathise with the complainers. In our individualistic society, we can fall into the trap of thinking that only certain people deserve good things. Those who work hard, who are law-abiding, who make the most of opportunities – they deserve a decent standard of living. Think of how often we hear people complaining about those who are struggling, saying they do not deserve assistance or 'handouts'? Such criticisms fail to take into account that not everyone has the same opportunities or privileges in life.

But in this parable of Jesus, the landowner treats everyone the same, regardless of their productivity. He recognises that not all of them had the same opportunity – some were just luckier than others, in the right place at the right time. God is just and generous, and he expects us to have the same respect for everyone, regardless of their position in life.

Sadly we do not live in an equal world where everyone's dignity is respected and everyone has equal opportunities. In this Season of Creation, we are mindful in particular of the world's poor who suffer most as a result of environmental destruction – damage that is often caused by the comfortable lifestyles of others.

Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out.

*Pope Francis (Laudato Si')*

### The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1<sup>st</sup> September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

**Season of Creation 2020:** The Season of Creation or Creation Time is marked throughout the Christian world from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. The following resources are offered for use in dioceses, parishes and in the home, during the Season of Creation 2020. Please note that the resources will be updated regularly so do please check back in with this page from time to time.

*catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020/*

This year's resource pack includes podcasts, liturgical resources, a leaflet, prayers and reflections, recommended reading and information on the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'.

*The resources have been prepared by the CCO, the Laudato Si' Working Group of the Council for Catechetics, Trócaire, the Council for Justice and Peace and the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development*