

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (21st July, 2019)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the Week: "Quoting Saint John Paul II: Christians in their turn "realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith." (#64) When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This... has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus."
Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment (Laudato Si #82)

Liturgy Schedule for Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (21st July, 2019 – 28th July, 2019)

Saturday 20th July	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Nellie O'Brien (2nd Anniversary)
Sunday 21st July		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass
Monday 22nd July	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 23rd July	St. Patrick's	NO MASS
Wednesday 24th July	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.00pm Adoration followed by Rosary
Thursday 25th July	St. Patrick's	NO MASS
St. James (apostle)		
Friday 26th July	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday 27th July	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Jimmy Daly (3rd Anniversary)
Sunday 28th July		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Nellie O'Brien (2nd)** whose anniversary occurs at this time and for all our beloved faithfully departed.

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

Parish Bulletin for Summer: The parish bulletins for 4th August will be printed in advance. If you have faithful departed to be prayed for (and you have not already left notice with Fr. Gallagher) please leave the name to be added to the list in the sacristy with either Fr. Mark or Fr. Danny Monaghan before mass begins. Many thanks for your co-operation.

An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg – Gala: Saturday 9th November in Silver Birches, Omagh.
Celebrate 50 continuous years of An Caisleán Glas

Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Tuesday 3rd to Tuesday 10th September.
 £579 (includes half board in Leone Hotel, tax and insurance). Spiritual Director Fr. John Forbes.
Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or WhatsApp on 07768 395 038 for more info

North West Regional PTAA and Friends – Annual Pilgrimage to Knock:
 Sunday 21st July. Bus leaving Omagh Park and Ride at 8.45am.
 Price which includes breakfast and evening meal is £40 for adults and £25 for children.
To book call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or WhatsApp on 07768 395 038

A Summer Blessing: May you walk with God this summer, in whatever you do, wherever you go. Walking with God means walking with honesty and with courage. Walking with love, respect and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to God this summer, on every day and in every situation. Talking with God means praying words of praise for the beauty of creation. Saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times. Asking God's help in all your decisions. Expressing sorrow when you have failed. May you talk with God every day. *Amen*

Next Week's Readings: Genesis 18:20-32 • Psalm 137:1-3, 6-8, R/ v 3 • Colossians 2:12-14
 Luke 11:1-13 • Lectionary 1:884 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Greencastle Community Association – Coffee Morning: Sunday 28th July, 10.00am to 12.30pm.
Everyone welcome • Proceeds will raise funds for running costs of Greencastle Community Centre

The Priory Institute – Paul: The Radical Gospel: This summer we are offering a two week online Summer School for those who are interested in the Gospel of Paul. The course is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online and is available to start on Monday 15th July and again on Monday 12th August.
 One lecture per day • €80 • *No previous knowledge of theology is required*
Email: enquiries@prioryinstitute.com • **Website:** prioryinstitute.com • **Tel:** +353 1 404 9124

Lough Derg Three Day Pilgrimage: You can begin any day until Tuesday 13th August.
 The Lough Derg team can help to co-ordinate public transport or link up with Pilgrimage Organisers in your locality.
Call Lorraine on 0(0353) 71 986 1518 or email info@loughderg.org • Advance booking not necessary

Millennium Forum – Access Information Day: Thursday 25th July at 11.00am and 12 noon.
 We are holding an Access Information Day to show people everything that we do, this will include tours, question and answer sessions, demonstrations on our accessibility equipment and entertainment from Stage Beyond. We will also have a "wee cuppa and a biscuit" as well!!
For more info or to book a place on the tour email Lisa Heaney on lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk or call (028) 7127 2779. Book early to avoid disappointment, places are limited

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

Guided Muckish Hill Climb: The Irish Pilgrimage Trust provides a pilgrimage for children and young people with intellectual disabilities, medical conditions and social needs to Lourdes every Easter and depends on fundraising to do this. The IPT is delighted to host its first Muckish Mountain Charity Guided Climb on Sunday 21st July starting at 10.00am with registration near Our Lady's Shrine on the R256 Falcarragh Road. Cost €10.
For info call (087) 6888 230 or (087) 7962 046 or visit Facebook page Muckish Charity Climb in Aid of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II – 10 Night Pilgrimage to Poland: Tuesday 21st April to Friday 1st May, 2020.
 Follow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, visit the capital of Divine Mercy, venerate the messenger of Mercy, St. Faustina's relics, see the cell that imprisoned St. Maximilian Kolbe (martyr) as well as visit the largest Marian shrines and sanctuaries in Poland – daily Mass and spiritual activities.
 Flights from Belfast, luxury coach travel and excellent accommodation.
For more info, a detailed itinerary and price email Fr. Micheál McGavigan at michealmcgavigan@icloud.com

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

St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth – Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis
 Applications are now being accepted for this two-year, part-time, intensive course which begins in September
Website: drumalis.co.uk • **Email:** maura@drumalis.co.uk • **Tel:** (028) 2827 2196 / 2827 6455

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

Prayer for the Summer – Giving Thanks for Summer:
 Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.
 Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.
 Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.
 As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and thirst for You. *Amen*

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

The Integrity of Justice: That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

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

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.

Catholic Marriage Encounter, Ireland Weekend: Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September in Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry and Friday 15th to Sunday 17th November in the Lake Hotel, Killarney.

For more information and / or booking visit marriageencounter.ie or call 07702 812 321 or (087) 784 0408

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

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

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

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

Parish Liturgy for July, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Nuala Glass	Siobhan McKenna	Martina Daly
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Shea McElhatton	Ronan Hollywood	Grace Conneely
Collectors	John Bradley Shea McElhatton	Colm Keenan Ronan Hollywood	Sean McKenna Pat McGuigan
Altar Society	Mary McNamee, Mary McCrory and Patta McDermott		Anne McDermott Martina Daly

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

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

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

Armchair Exercises: Continue every Monday night in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Suitable for all ages

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

Trócaire – 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

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

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

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

1. The two sisters symbolise the contemplative and active dimensions of life, at times difficult to balance. What wisdom have you learned through life experiences on how to strike a balance between prayer and action?
2. Many people misunderstand hospitality. They worry and fret about decorating the house and preparing abundant food. Yet sometimes it is something else that is needed to make people feel at home; namely, to sit with guests and to listen to them. What has been your experience of being a cherished guest and when have you been able to make others feel welcome and at home?
3. We can make the same mistake in relation to people who are important to us: children, friends, parents, or others. We can worry and fret about doing things for them when perhaps the important thing is to give them time and listen to them. What does your experience tell you?
4. When it comes to welcoming God into our lives, one appropriate response is to spend time listening to God's word. When have you found time devoted to the word of God enriching for you?

The Deep End – Martha and Mary: *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

Jesus visits the home of Martha. For such a short Gospel passage, this text has created much discussion among biblical scholars. It seems everyone in this story is breaking the rules: Jesus rebukes his host, Mary does not help her sister, and Martha is not sitting at Jesus' feet like a good disciple. Luke's gospel is all about 'reversal': what you expect to happen does not happen, often the opposite happens! Confused? Mary is positioned here as a disciple learning from her Teacher. Martha as one who is trying to serve through 'many tasks.' Throughout his Gospel, Luke places a special emphasis on the wider circle of Jesus' disciples, and names the women who follow Him. Luke is perhaps reminding us in this text that being a follower of Jesus requires an upset of the norms and a reversal of roles.

This story occurs in Luke immediately after the Good Samaritan, where the importance of service and action are clearly emphasised. It seems unfair that Martha is being told off for serving those who come to her. If Jesus arrived with a hungry entourage, what host would not be stressed out! Jesus frees Martha from these duties, not because they are not important, but so that she too can be nourished by him. Frantic activity is never good or sustainable for us.

Let today's Gospel be a reminder that when we are bogged down in the craziness around us, we can sit and listen to Him. Then we may be better prepared for the challenges that we face, whether they be in our homes or our wider communities.

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

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*

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	

	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

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*

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

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.'

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 21st July – St. Lawrence of Brindisi (priest and doctor of the Church) [1559-1619]

A Capuchin who preached the Counter-Reformation.

Thursday 25th July – St. James (apostle) James, son of Zebedee and brother of John, was put to death by Herod Agrippa about the year 44, being the first of the Apostles to die for Christ. His shrine is at Compostela in Spain.

Friday 26th July – St. Joachim and St. Anne (parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary) Both received the vision of an angel, who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a most wondrous child. The couple rejoiced at the birth of their daughter, whom Anne named Mary. When the child was three years old, Joachim and Anne, in fulfilment of her divine promise, brought Mary to the Temple at Jerusalem, where they left her to be brought up. This event became so important in church doctrine that by 1585 Pope Sixtus V included in the Western church calendar the liturgical feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary (21st November). Although this festival originated early in the East, probably at Jerusalem in 543, its first Western observance was recorded in England in the 11th century. Anne is the Patron of Brittany and Canada and of women in labour.

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

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%