

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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year B] (27th December, 2020)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought on the Holy Family: "What was family life in Nazareth like? In the home of the Holy Family in Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph sanctified their ordinary life, without doing anything spectacular or newsworthy. They led a life that was to all appearances, the same as that of their neighbours, a life that was important, not because of the material things they did but because of the love that they put into these things in perfect union with the Will of God the Father."
St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Saturday 26th December St. Stephen (first martyr)	Facebook Live	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 27th December Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year B]	Facebook Live	11.00am Mass
Monday 28th December Holy Innocents	Facebook Live	12 noon Mass
Tuesday 29th December	Facebook Live	12 noon Mass
Wednesday 30th December	Facebook Live	12 noon Mass
Thursday 31st December	Facebook Live	4.00pm Mass at Sunset on New Year's Eve Vincent Donnelly (50 th Anniversary)
Friday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	St. Patrick's	12 noon Mass: Mickey 'Neilly' McCullagh (6 th Anniversary)
Saturday 2nd January St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Formil Maureen Morris (10 th Anniversary)
Sunday 3rd January Second Sunday of Christmas [Year B]	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass: Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South Tessie McElhatton (2 nd Anniversary)

Collection: £1,310 Fr. Gallagher would like to thank you for your generosity to the Christmas Box collection

Baptism: We offer our prayers and best wishes to the family and friends of **Eirinn Rose McNamee** who was welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 20th December in St. Patrick's.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Mick McGarvey (London, formerly Muninamale)** who was buried this week and **Mickey 'Neilly' McCullagh (6th)** whose anniversary occurs at this time and all our faithful departed during 2020

Feast of Holy Family Masses: As indicated above these masses will be celebrated via the Parish of Greencastle Facebook Page on Saturday 26th December at 6.00pm and Sunday 27th December at 11.00am. It is intended that Fr. Gallagher will celebrate these masses from his family home in Derry and he encourages you to gather as families around your television, tablets or phones to participate in this mass and to send photos of your families following the mass with family name and townland to the Parish Facebook age to be shared on this special Family Occasion.

New Year's Day Mass: Due to the restriction in numbers you are encouraged to follow the New Year's Day at 12 noon on the Parish YouTube channel. It is open to the public but only to what the church can safely hold, which is around 50 people under the latest regulations.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday 30th December. It will resume on Wednesday 6th January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Pope Francis' Intention for January (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Intention for Evangelization – Human Fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all

Next Week's Readings: Ecclesiastes 24:1-2, 8-12 • Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20, R/ • John 1:14
 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 • John 1:1-18 Lectionary 1: 141 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
 Second Sunday of Christmas [Year B] (3rd January, 2021)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the New Year: "I wish for those I love this New Year an opportunity to earn sufficient, to have that which they need for their own and to give that which they desire to others, to bring in to the lives of those about them some measure of joy, to know the satisfaction of work well done, of recreation earned and therefore savoured, to end the year a little wiser, a little kinder and therefore a little happier."
Eleanor Roosevelt

Saturday 2nd January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Formil St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen (bishops and doctors of the Church)
Sunday 3rd January 2 nd Sunday of Christmas [Year B]	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass: Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South Tessie McElhatton (2 nd Anniversary)
Monday 4th January	Gortin (YouTube)	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 5th January St. Charles of Mount Argus, Dublin (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 6th January Solemnity of the Epiphany	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass 2.00pm to 4.00pm Adoration Our Lady of Wayside 8.00pm* Mass *7.00pm if 'curfew' is still in place
Thursday 7th January	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 8th January	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday 9th January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Sheskinshule
Sunday 10th January Baptism of the Lord [Year B]	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass: Teebane East, Carnanrancy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Vincent Donnelly (50th), Tessie McElhatton (2nd) and Maureen Morris (10th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time and all our faithful departed during 2020.

Townland Mass Rota – January

Sat. 2nd January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Formil
Sun. 3rd January	St. Patrick's	11.00am Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
Sat. 9th January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Sheskinshule
Sun. 10th January	St. Patrick's	11.00am Teebane East, Carnanrancy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen
Sat. 16th January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
Sun. 17th January	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Broughderg, Crouck 11.00am Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy
Sat. 23rd January	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
Sun. 24th January	St. Patrick's	11.00am Formil

Institute of Irish Leadership – Upcoming Events: *kathleenburnsiil@gmail.com*

Online Cookery Classes	Very successful with 18 participants (hope to continue in New Year). <i>Live via Zoom</i>
Irish Language Conversation Circle	Finished Friday 18 th December. Another great success, connecting people at home and abroad. Will continue in New Year, starting Friday 8 th January <i>Live via Zoom</i>
Walking Group	Mondays (10.30am to 11.30am) with MUSA co-ordinator. Meet in Pomeroy Forest car park.

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

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 55:1-11 • Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6. R/ v 6 • 1 John 5:1-9
 Mark 1:7-11 • Lectionary 1:182 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

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)

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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous: Can't stop? There is a solution.

Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email csoofaa@btinternet.com. alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

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.

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.

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*

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
Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741 Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996 Briega Beggs: 07799 058 273

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel: [27-12-20] *John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

1. What started out as an ordinary day for Joseph and Mary turned out to be a day with an encounter they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant encounters on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?
2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. In what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.
3. We are at the end of a year in which many family occasions, both sad and joyful, were disrupted by restrictions. A sword of sorrow has pierced the hearts of many. Remember what has helped your family to recover from disappointment or loss and find hope and life again.
4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. What has helped you to grow in wisdom? Have you seen others grow in wisdom through the experience of life? Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel: [03-01-21] *John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'
2. We often listen to a reading from the gospels. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a light that shines in the darkness. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most life giving for you and for others
3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world – speaking the truth for the world to hear, like as a witness to testify to the light. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.
4. 'No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know.' Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God, and to believe in a God who is a God of love. Who, or what, has helped you along this journey?

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%

The Deep End – The Presentation in the Temple: [27-12-20] Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

Simeon and Anna welcome Mary, Joseph and Jesus to the Temple. They have been waiting for this moment. What kind of Messiah were they expecting? Simeon welcomes this family who must have seemed 'ordinary' and poor. He can see that this child will be 'a light...for the glory of your people'. Already there is a note of reversal; of boundaries being stretched. Mary is told that this child 'is destined for the fall and the rising of many'. There will be challenging times ahead for this family. Simeon knows that many thoughts will be exposed for God's invitation and welcome has no boundaries and this radical hospitality might not sit well with everyone. Anna rejoices for all those who were looking for a change, for hope, she knows that this child will overturn systems of oppression and exclusion.

Luke is interested in how humanity responds to the Gospel. If Jesus' message is really good news, then this requires a shakeup; a shakeup which challenges comfortable assumptions about the way God works. God's abundant invitation to all may not sit comfortably with many. While Anna prays and fasts for a change of heart in the way Jerusalem operates, Simeon warns Mary that this will not be an easy road.

Many situations in our own world today need a shake-up, especially in our church. This can be uncomfortable as we have to let go of certain things and invite freshness. What situations in our own society and in our church require a shake-up; an uncomfortable but necessary change so that God's love and welcome can shine through? Jesus came to show us how to live. We must constantly look back at his example.

We often make do with looking at the ground...I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky? Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind? *Pope Francis*

The Deep End – Taking Root: [03-01-21] Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

We talk about having 'roots' as a way of describing our connection to a place or people. Being rooted somewhere means we are part of that place. When we are ready to settle down, to become part of a community, maybe to buy a house or start a family, we talk about 'putting down roots'. It means we are making this place our home. It is a rich metaphor from the plant world. The roots of a tree or plant represent its relationship with the soil it is planted in and the elements around it. The deeper the roots, the more connected a plant is to its environment. It becomes part of the place where it's planted. We use this expression in everyday language too – when an idea 'takes root' in us, it is something that becomes a part of us, inseparable from our very selves.

Today's first reading speaks of the wisdom of God 'taking root in a privileged people'. It describes it another way as 'pitching a tent'. These images offer us a way into understanding the complex language of today's gospel, which talks about God's relationship with us by sending Jesus: 'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us'.

By becoming human, God put down roots not just in our physical world, but in humanity itself. God pitched a tent among us and became one of us. It is a connection that cannot be broken – the roots go too deep. We are in God, and God is in us. This is the mystery we celebrate in this season of Christmas – that in Jesus, God became part of the very world that God created, and part of us: 'He was in the world that had its being through him.' We are indeed a privileged people!

Christ asks for a home in your soul, where he can be at rest with you, where he can talk easily to you, where you and he, alone together, can laugh and be silent and be delighted with one another. *Caryll Houselander*

ASPIRE: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's employability service, is currently active with new ways of working. ASPIRE staff are ready to help people apply for and secure jobs; support from the initial search through to the application and with interview prep. Also provide training courses and arrange work experience placements. Omagh (028) 8224 6535 • Enniskillen 028 6632 6478 • Mobile 07799 471 448 • aspire@fermanaghomagh.com

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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints [27-12-20]:

Monday 28th December – Holy Innocents Also called Childermas, or Innocents' Day, festival commemorating the massacre of the children by King Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus.

Friday 1st January – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of

God and Mother of the Redeemer.

Lumen Gentium (52)

Saturday 2nd January – St. Basil the Great (bishop and doctor of the Church) [330-379] Bishop of Caesarea, a brilliant preacher who lived an ascetic life, establishing norms for Monastic life. Implemented the decrees of the Council of Nicaea. Patron Saint of Russia.

St. Gregory Nazianzen (bishop and doctor of the Church) [330-379] Bishop of Constantinople. He was known as the 'Theologian' because of his wisdom and skill in defending orthodox doctrine.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints [03-01-21]:

Tuesday 5th January – St. Charles of Mount Argus, Dublin (priest) [1821-1893] Born in Holland. Took vows as a Passionist in 1846 and came to Mount Argus in 1857, it was there he spent most of his priestly life. His ministry in the confessional was renowned and the poor of Dublin found in him a strong support. Died on 5th January, 1893. St. Charles was canonised on Sunday 3rd June, 2007.

Wednesday 6th January – Solemnity of the Epiphany Commemorates the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee.

Barnardo's NI – Can You Foster? Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support.

To learn more call (028) 9065 2288 or visit barnardos.org.uk/foster

The Net – December Edition: For inclusion of your faith news in future editions email editorthenet15@gmail.com

Coverage in this month's edition includes

- Bishop Donal looking forward to World Youth Day 2023
- Online youth activities for Advent
- Strabane Holy Cross College 'Footprints' competition by Hollie Frystal
- JP11 Reflections
- Youth writers share thoughts on...Celebrating Christmas; Inspirational Garvan Byrne story; and Drawing God
- Advent reflections by Hollie & Filip, Derry Youth Scholarship Ministry
- Sr. Clare devotees gathered in heavy rain to pray birthday Rosary
- Bishop Donal launches Columban Year
- Melmount Prayer for Deceased by Hollie Frystal
- Creggan Eucharistic Blessing
- Clonleigh Pilgrimage of Remembrance by Fr Colm O'Doherty
- Ardmore marks 90th anniversary
- Newtownstewart gets a new relic by Fr. Roland Colhoun
- Fr. Roni Zacharias arrives from India
- Dungiven celebrates doctoral success of Fr. Joseph Varghese
- Remembering Fr. Stephen Kearney
- Pat Carlin shares thoughts on 'Connecting Generations' campaign
- Following the stone by Fr. Oliver Crilly
- Françoise Henry – Irish section by Fr. Oliver Crilly
- And much more

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

SUSE+ New Courses in January: Have you recently been made redundant or are you currently unemployed? SUSE+ can help you, we are currently offering help and support to gain qualification and employment. We run Job Searches, CV Building, Interview Preparation. Mentors work 1:1 with participants to help secure a job in local area.

New courses include Foundation Skills in Working with Children, Personal Success & Wellbeing, Progression to Employment, Customer Service, Money Management, Retail, Business Administration, Barista and Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy. *For more information email tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk or call 074 3653 3475*

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