
		<b>Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)</b> <b>St. Patrick's, Greencastle</b> <b>Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg</b> <b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (28<sup>th</sup> January, 2018)</b> Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU <b>Website:</b> greencastleparish.com • <b>Email:</b> greencastlepp@yahoo.com • <b>Tel:</b> (028) 8164 8474			
<b>Thought for the Week:</b> "I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt" <i>Pope Francis</i>					
<b>Liturgy Schedule for Fourth Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February)</b>					
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b> St. Angela Merici (virgin and religious)		St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass	
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]		St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)	
		Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass	
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>		St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass	
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>		St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass	
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> St. John Bosco (priest)		St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon to 7.20pm</b>	Adoration	
			<b>7.00pm to 7.20pm</b>	Confessions • <b>7.30pm</b> Mass	
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> St. Brigid (abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland)		St. Patrick's	<b>NO 10.00AM MASS</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	Mass and Service of Light for P7 Children Blessing of St. Brigid's Crosses	
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> Presentation of the Lord		St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass Blessing of Candles	
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> St. Blaise (bishop and martyr) and St. Ansgar (bishop)		St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass followed by Blessing of Throats and Confessions until <b>11.00am</b>	
			<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Mary Ann McCullagh (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)	
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]		St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)	
		Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass	
<b>Weekly Collection:</b> £755		<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>			
<b>Remembering Our Dead:</b> We pray for the repose of the souls of <b>Peter Clarke (4<sup>th</sup>)</b> and <b>Philomena McLaughlin (2<sup>nd</sup>)</b> whose anniversaries occur at this time.					
<b>Sick and Housebound:</b> Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care on Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February at the usual times.					
<b>Service of Light:</b> In preparation for the celebration of Confirmation on Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April the children of Primary 7 of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, their families and their sponsors are invited to join in our Service of Light on Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church. <i>St. Brigid's Crosses will be blessed during mass</i>					
<b>Lourdes Hospitalite Collection:</b> On the weekend of 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> February this will be taken up as a second collection after Communion at all masses to coincide with the World Day of the Sick. This collection enables provision for those pilgrims who wish to go on the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and who need care. We thank you for your generosity in the past and hope that you can continue to support this work. A small number of Novena Prayer cards to Our Lady of Lourdes to be prayed from 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> November are available at the front of the church.					
<b>Catholic Schools Week – Grandparents Day:</b> Parishioners are invited to Grandparents Day which will take place in Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School on Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January, starting with breakfast at 10.00am followed by children's presentations. <i>If you intend to be at the breakfast call the school on (028) 8164 8732 so they can cater for the correct numbers</i>					
<b>Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends</b> Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry <i>If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Communion at this Mass please contact the Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087</i>					
<b>St. Joseph's Church, Kileenan – Evening of Gospel and Spiritual Music:</b> Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm <b>Tickets:</b> £20 each and available from McCullagh's Shop, Greencastle and Mill Wheel Shop, Kildress <b>Guest Artists:</b> Donna Taggart, Justin McGurk, Karl McGuckin, Gerry Loughran and many more <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Joe Mahon of Lesser spotted Ulster					
<b>Pope Francis' Intention for February (please remember this in your personal prayers)</b> <b>Universal – Say "No" to Corruption:</b> That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption					
<b>Next Week's Readings:</b> Job 7:1-4, 6-7 • Psalm 146:1-6, R/ v 3 • 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 Mark 1:29-39 • Lectionary 1:747 <b>Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 2]</b>					

Parish Liturgy for February, 2018	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Joann McCullagh	Mary Clarke	Martina McBride
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Shona McKenna	Rachel Clarke	Caoileann Maguire
Collectors	John Bradley Colm Devlin	Colm Keenan Michael Clarke	Brian Donnelly Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Alice Keenan, Anne Donnelly and Anne Tuohy		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley
6.00pm Saturday Vigil			
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February		Fifth Sunday	
The family of Ruairi McDonald		in Ordinary Time	
9.00am Sunday Morning			
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February		The family of Colleen Brogan	
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented			
We need new volunteers in every aspect of life			
Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events:			
Jim Conway Weekend		Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September in the Mellon Country Inn. Our branch will host "Cherish the Ladies" in concert.	
Workshops		Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> September, led by "Cherish the Ladies".	
For more info call Tom Blee on 07704 526 870			
Tickets available from committee members soon			
An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg – Indoor Gaelic Training Session: For boys and girls in Play School (P5 in the community centre). These will begin in February and take place on Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 11.00am for those in playschool to P2 and 11.00am-12noon for P3 to P5s.			
Cannot go ahead without help of parents, please help out as much as possible			
Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none.			
If you would like to avail of this service please call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com			
Accord Marriage Preparation Course (2018 / 2019) 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> May • 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> June • 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> June			
Bookings can be made online at accord-ni.co.uk			
Greencastle Community Association – Annual General Meeting: Rescheduled for Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February.			
Greencastle Community Centre – Cleaner Required: If interested email greencastlecommunity@gmail.com. 4 hours per week			
Rouskey Community Centre			
For more info call Bridie on 07591 047 556			
Sean-Nós Dancing Classes with Paul Cassidy: Starts Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm. £16 for 4 weeks			
Card Making Workshop with Angela Rafferty: Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February. Make your own personal cards for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day or any other celebration coming up. includes 3 cards and guidance of the tutor. £10			
Precious Life – Rally to "Save the 8 <sup>th</sup> ": Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> March. Join thousands from across Ireland in support of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Irish Constitution that protects unborn babies. Coaches will be travelling to the rally from towns across Northern Ireland.			
For more info call the Rally for Life Committee on (028) 9027 8484 or click on rallyforlife.net			
Owenkillew Play Actors – "Thy Will Be Done" by Michael Carey: Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm in Broughderg Community Centre. A 3-act play with a strong storyline and many touches of good country humour along the way.			
£7 admission			
Green Elves Playgroup – Bingo Club: Every Wednesday at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.30pm).			
South West College – Open Days: Come along to learn about the excellent courses on offer. Meet with the lecturers, talk to current students and view the brilliant facilities and equipment on site.			
All are Tuesdays from 2.00pm to 8.00pm			
Omagh Campus 30 <sup>th</sup> January • Enniskillen Campus 27 <sup>th</sup> February • Dungannon Campus 27 <sup>th</sup> March			
Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July. Led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Cost £669			
Address: 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ • Email: derrypilgrim@outlook.com • Tel: (028) 7126 0293			
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 11.00am to 1.00pm from Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February			
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			

#### World Meeting of Families 2018 Prayer

God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray [PAUSE AND REMEMBER FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHERS BY NAME]. Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen. Mary, mother and guide, pray for us. Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us. Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us

**Diocese of Derry – Celebration of Family:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 10.00am to 6.00pm in St Mary's College, Derry on with guest speakers Grainne Doherty, Gerard Gallagher and Fr. Johnny Doherty C.S.S.R. with group discussions. The closing mass will be celebrated by His Excellency the Papal Nuncio to Ireland Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo. Application forms are available from Fr. Gallagher (return as soon as possible).

*A donation of £20 is suggested*

**A Time of Spiritual Awakening:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February in St. Anthony's Retreat Centre, Burnfoot. Beginning at 10.00am and finishing with Mass celebrated by Fr. Neal Carlin at 5.00pm. Prayer Ministry and Confession throughout the day. Lunch included • Suggested Donation €20/£20 • To book call (00353) (0)7493 68370

**Healing Nights with Damien Stayne and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal:**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 7.00pm to 10.30pm beginning with Vigil Mass in St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry  
**Healing Workshop:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 9.00am to 5.00pm in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry.

**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*

**Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre – Traditional Music and Singing Classes:**

Every Tuesday night. Why not learn an instrument or a song or two in 2018?

*For details and booking call (028) 8224 2777 or visit dunuladh.ie*

**ASPIRE:** Kickstart your career for the new year with the launch of new learning and training opportunities. ASPIRE provide assistance to anyone aged 16 years old and over who is currently unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week and is seeking paid work. The ASPIRE programme is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.

*For further information on the ASPIRE Programme, please contact the Omagh Office on (028) 8224 6535 or the Enniskillen Office on (028) 6632 6478. Alternatively, you can find us on Facebook*

**IOSAS Centre & Celtic Prayer Garden / White Oaks Acorn Project / The Sanctuary**

**Monthly Mass with Healing Prayer:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Columba House

Celebrated by Fr. Neal Carlin and the Columba Community

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

**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*

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages:** 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person

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

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

**Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm:** If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.

**Address:** IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal  
**Tel:** (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • **Website:** celticprayergarden.com • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

**Drink Wise, Age Well:** Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

*For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240*

**Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday**

**Sean-Nós and Set Dancing** 6.00pm to 7.00pm • **Singing in Irish** 7.00pm to 8.00pm

**Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels** 8.00pm to 9.30pm

**Email:** kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** 07747 899 249

**Pilgrimage to Poland – In the Steps of St. John Paul II:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Organised by Msgr. Bryan McCanny and Fr. Francis Bradley and led by Cardinal Séan Brady. The all-inclusive price is €1,150, inclusive of direct flights (Dublin-Craców), transfers and all taxes, 20kg baggage allowance, all entrance fees and guided tours of Wawel Castle, Divine Mercy Centre, the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, Wadowice (Pope's birthplace), Salt Mines, Auschwitz and Birkenau Camps, Craków Centre, with Dinner, B&B each day and hotel accommodation in Craków. Luxury Coach transport and an experienced Guide are provided throughout, with pick-ups locally (e.g. Omagh). 10 places remain available on first-come, first-served basis.

*Email Fr. Bradley at fbradley@derrydiocese.org or call him on (00353) 87224 1897 for a brochure and booking Form*

**Broughderg Old Cemetery:** Sometime in the early part of the New Year an operation will begin to remove trees both on the periphery of and within the Broughderg Old Cemetery. Many of these trees have been causing some difficulty at various graves and keeping them neat and tidy has also been troublesome for families. Some of the trees have also become dangerously tall and could cause damage if they were to fall.

This is going to be a costly operation and is the first stage of a 3-stage scheme.

Stage 2 will include drainage and stage 3 some pathways.

Some additional fundraising will be required and we look forward to organising some such events in due course

**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

**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

**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*

**Family Care Adoption Services:** We are seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children

For a free information pack contact us using any of the following details

**Tel:** (028) 9069 1133 / (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

## DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2018

<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm</b> Service of Light (Primary 7 Children and Families)	<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> Ash Wednesday	<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> St. Patrick's Day
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm</b> First Confession (Primary 4 Children and Families)	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> Easter Sunday	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.00pm</b> Confirmation
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon</b> First Holy Communion	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August in Dublin</b> World Meeting of Families	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm in St. Patrick's Cemetery</b> Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead		
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 11.00am Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside</b> Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead followed by Broughderg Old Cemetery		

**Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour:** Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers.  
*Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email [tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com](mailto: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](http://towardspeace.ie) • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** [towardspeace@jecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@jecon.ie)

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

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – St. John Bosco (priest) [1815-1888]** Born in Piedmont, founded the Salesians to educate boys for life. He also became involved in publishing catechetical material for youth. He is a Patron Saint of youth and of Catholic publishers.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February – St. Brigid (abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland) [c. 454-524]** Renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted in consecrating her virginity to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare, with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. Her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland, but in several European lands.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** This feast is a combined remembrance of the Son and the Mother ... on this day Christ's faithful people, with candles, in their hands, go out to meet the Lord and to acclaim him with Simeon, who recognised Christ as 'a light to reveal God to the nations'. They should therefore be taught to walk as children of the light in their entire way of life, because they have a duty to show the light of Christ to all by acting in the works that they do as lighted lamps'.  
*Ceremonial of Bishops, n.241*

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – St. Blaise (bishop and martyr)** Bishop of Sebaste, martyred in Armenia. Patron Saint for sore throats and sick cattle. Died in 315.  
**St. Ansgar (bishop)** A Frenchman who became Archbishop of Hamburg in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and preached the gospel in Denmark and Sweden. Apostle of Scandinavia. Patron Saint of Denmark.

## 2017 PARISH STATISTICS

<b>Baptisms (26)</b> 10 Boys • 16 Girls	<b>First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (14)</b> 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>Confirmations (15)</b> 7 Boys • 8 Girls
<b>Marriages (5)</b> 2 within parish • 3 outside parish		<b>Funerals (12)</b> 11 within parish • 1 outside parish
<b>April:</b> Parishioners and pupils of Dean Maguirc College took part in Holy Thursday mass in RTÉ Studio in Dublin on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April		
<b>December:</b> Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began 13 <sup>th</sup> December in St Patrick's Church		

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Mark 1:21-28:** John Byrne OSA ([jpbymeosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpbymeosa@gmail.com))

1. In this first chapter Mark familiarises his readers with the type of things Jesus did to proclaim the kingdom, the reign of God. Our passage today touches on two of these, the first being that 'he taught as one having authority'. It makes a difference when you listen to someone who is clearly speaking from experience and personal knowledge. Remember people who impressed you in this way.
2. Jesus combined teaching with healing, and he drove the evil spirit out of the man. The power of God that worked this wonder through Jesus is also at work in and through us today. When have you been freed from some bad habit?
3. The evil spirit convulsed the man before it left him. The path to liberation can be a painful struggle. If you have found it so, who was the Jesus person that helped you through the struggle to freedom?
4. It is not only individuals but groups that can be struggling with an evil spirit – jealousy, rivalry, malicious gossiping, abuse of power, etc. Sometimes a Jesus person comes into the group and drives out that evil spirit. Have you experienced this? Perhaps you yourself have been this person on some occasion?

### The Deep End – The Calling:

*Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon ([trionad@gmail.com](mailto:trionad@gmail.com))*

But man, proud man,  
Dress'd in a little brief authority,  
Most ignorant of what he's most assur'd...  
*Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare*

We probably wouldn't have to look too hard for examples of public figures who seem to fit the above description. Puffed up with a sense of their own importance, they are anxious to be seen as the expert on a given subject, in spite of their limited knowledge or experience. We criticise politicians if we feel they are blind to the struggles of ordinary people. They don't know what it's like, for example, to live on a minimum wage, or to be at risk of homelessness. On the other hand, it is refreshing when those in power have faced some of these issues themselves, or have made the effort to do their research and to listen to people. We can tell when someone is speaking with genuine authority and care.

Those who listen to Jesus teaching in the synagogue know there is something different and exciting about him. His teaching is in sharp contrast to the scribes they are used to hearing. The difference, stated twice in this passage, is his authority, and it leaves his audience 'astonished'. He does not use it the way we might tend to use our 'little brief authority', to make ourselves look good. Instead he uses his authority to serve, to love, and to bring mercy and freedom.

**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*

**Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack:** Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme.  
**If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office**  
**Email:** [t.mcmenamin@derrydiocese.org](mailto:t.mcmenamin@derrydiocese.org) • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** [catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants](http://catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants)

**The Net – January Edition:** Now on sale, with coverage including:

Lavey pupils' powerful performance • Faith Family Fun Friday in Foreglen • Ballerin's memorable night of carols  
Iskaheen parishioners enjoy following the star • Cor Youth enjoying faith times together  
Family of Sport celebration in St. Eugene's • Inishowen seniors enjoy Scoil Mhuire party  
Cappagh's amazing 'reTreat' • Drung's Harvest Thanksgiving • Special family prayer night in Bellaghy  
Mary's Meals Omagh helping feed world's hungry children  
World renowned Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary promoter in Omagh and Melmount schools  
Creggan developments transforming parish life • Waterside Syro-Malabar celebration  
Claudy pupils consecrated to Our Lady • St. Cecilia's, Derry celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
St. Mary's, Derry Saturday School • Scoil Mhuire Gleneely festival winner • Buncrana Tree Festival  
Waterside family talks • Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh, Rún na hEaglaise  
Derry faithful brave cold for Coastal Rosaries • Thornhill Crib Festival • Marriage and Family Life feature  
Faith story by Sr. Deirdre Mullan, RSM • Fr. Michael Collins' book launch,  
Unpacking three-day Cursillo weekend • Children's Catechism Club • Diocesan Diary • Quiz Time.

*For coverage of your parish or school faith activities email [editorthenet15@gmail.com](mailto:editorthenet15@gmail.com) or call/text 07809 292 852*

**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*

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

**Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:**

All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness

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