

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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (28th 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: "We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature."
Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment (Laudato Si #139)

Liturgy Schedule for Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (28th July, 2019 – 4th August, 2019)

Saturday 27th July	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Jimmy Daly (3 rd Anniversary)
Sunday 28th July 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass
Monday 29th July St. Martha	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 30th July	St. Patrick's	NO MASS
Wednesday 31st July	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.00pm Adoration followed by Rosary
Thursday 1st August St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori (bishop and doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	NO MASS
Friday 2nd August	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass followed by Confessions
Saturday 3rd August	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Gerard Coyle (8 th Anniversary)
Sunday 4th August 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the repose of the soul of **Jimmy Daly (3rd)** whose anniversary occurs at this time and for all our faithful departed.

Sick and Housebound: Fr. Danny Monaghan will visit Friday 2nd August between 11.00am and 2.00pm..

Parish Bulletin for Summer: The parish bulletins for 4th and 11th 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.

Parish Bulletin for Summer: The parish bulletin for 11th 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

Summer Blessing for Families: May we make our homes places of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime. Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts during these months of summer and vacation days. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us as we enjoy the warm days of summertime. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Pope Francis' Intention for August (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Family, Schools of Human Growth: That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth".

Next Week's Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23 • Psalm 89:3-6, 12-14, 17, R/ v 1 • Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
 Luke 12:13-21 • Lectionary 1:888 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Parish Liturgy for August, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Mary Clarke	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Shauna McGurk	Eimear Bradley	Caoileann Maguire
Collectors	Colum Devlin Shea McElhatton	Patrick Tuohey Eugene Tracey	Brendan Daly Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Alice Keenan, Anne Donnelly and Anne Tuohey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory

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 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

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events: *To enquire call Tom on (028) 816 48719*

Fleadh:	Well do to everyone who took part in the County Fleadh. Good luck to Lauren McCullagh who competes in the Ulster Fleadh.
Seisiun:	Sunday 28 th July, 6.00pm to 9.00pm in Conway's Bar, Newtownstewart. <i>Everyone welcome</i>

Precious Life – 3 Days of Prayer and Fasting: We need urgent Prayer Intervention to stop the NI abortion Bill before it receives Royal Assent and becomes law. Please join Precious Life for 3 days of prayer and fasting which will begin Monday 29th July to Wednesday 31st July. As Jesus tells us – some evil can only be overcome by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21). *For more info call Precious Life on (028) 9027 8484 or email info@preciouslife.com*

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

AOH Tyrone County Board – Feast of Assumption Ancient Order of Hibernians Parade: All bands are invited to attend Sunday 18th August at 3.00pm in Aghnacloy, Co. Tyrone. If your band or club would like to take part send us a private message on AOH Tyrone County Board Facebook page or email aoh Tyrone county board@yahoo.com

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

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*

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

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.

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

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 derynyouthcommunity.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

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@iecon.ie

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

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

Trocaire – 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 (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

1. In the prayer Jesus gave us as a model, the focus is not on getting God to do what we want, but on trying to be open to what God wants: 'Your kingdom come.' That openness implies a trust that what God wants for us is our good. When have you found that it was good for you to take life as it comes, trusting that the Spirit was with you no matter what happened?
2. One of the points in the parable of the friend knocking at the door, is that in the case of true friendship it will not be necessary to browbeat the friend into giving what you seek. Recall times when you had a friend who gave willingly and readily. What was it like to have such a generous and willing response? Perhaps you can also recall when you have been that kind of a friend to others.
3. In the culture of the Middle East, hospitality is a priority. It would be unimaginable not to help a friend. Just so, it is unimaginable that God will ignore our prayer. When you think of the reliability of God, what are the images that you find helpful and that encourage you to persist in prayer?

The Deep End – When asked how we should pray, Jesus teaches the Our Father:

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

'Lord teach us to pray.' If someone asked this today of a faith leader, we might get a long list of possibilities based on different tastes, cultures and trends. Millions of books have been written on prayer, how to pray, what method, where, when, how to sit, what to wear, what attitude one should have, and so on. Yet here, Jesus gives his disciples a very direct response, actual words in a formula, that they should recite.

In Jesus' time there were many rabbis who would have certain prayers for their followers to say, almost as a way of identifying their group. The Lord's prayer is the prayer of Jesus' disciples, so it is our prayer too. It is among the first prayers we learn as children. It is a prayer of identity for Christians. When we are in a moment of crisis, when all other words fail us, it is often the 'go-to' prayer.

After teaching the Lord's prayer, Jesus tells a story about a man whose friend goes to him at midnight looking for bread for another friend. It might appear to be a confusing story, but the emphasis is on the power of praying for another's need. In the early church and today, this is seen as the work of the people of God, the baptised: to pray for the world and the needs of others. Then we go beyond ourselves and our own interests, reaching out and opening up, rather than being closed in on ourselves.

Ask, and it will be given you search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

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

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

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*

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.'

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

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%

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

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

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

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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 29th July – St. Martha Sister of Lazarus and Mary, is a woman of faith who made her profession of faith in Christ as the son of God and in the resurrection. In welcoming a guest we welcome Christ; we show our Christian spirit of service; and we ready ourselves to be welcomed as guests in the Kingdom of God.

Thursday 1st August – St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori (bishop and doctor of the Church) [1696-1787]
Founder of the Redemptorist Congregation, taught much on moral theology and the spiritual life. He is remembered as a popular preacher and influential writer of theology.

Sunday 4th August – St. John Mary Vianney (priest) [1786-1859] Had to contend with poverty, military service and his own intellectual shortcomings in order to become a priest. His marvellous gift for seeing into the depths of the soul brought the world to his parish, Ars. From 1830 on, he averaged twelve to sixteen hours a day in the confessional. Patron of priests.