

Pope Francis' Intentions for February (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal – Prisoners: That prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.
Evangelisation – Separated Spouses: That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community

Feast of St. Brigid (abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland) [Wednesday 1st February]: If you wish to have your traditional crosses blessed bring them to Mass with you on this morning. St. Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. She was born c.454. 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 prayed 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 help of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in several European lands.

Do This In Memory: Our next Sunday gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (7th March).

Pope John Paul II Award: Tuesday 10th February in the Millennium Forum, Derry. This is the 8th year of the award in the Derry Diocese and it will be launched in several other diocese this year.
Fr. Hasson would like Year 13 students undertaking the award program to offer their gifts for service in our parish

St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs:
Saturday 14th March at 3.00pm. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion at this Mass call the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 / email ddcc@derrydiocese.org.

Couples Preparing to Celebrate Marriage in Northern Ireland: You are asked to note that the period of notice for marriage, which is required by civil law, is increasing from a minimum of 14 days to a minimum of 28 days, with effect from 2nd March. Couples must give at least 28 days notice of marriage to the civil Registrar local to the place where marriage is to be celebrated.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 1st to 6th July. Gift vouchers are available from the Thornhill Centre (028) 7135 1233 and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre (028) 7136 2475.
Vouchers can be used as part or full payment towards the pilgrimage

Couples Planning to Marry in 2015: Please confirm your details with Fr. Hasson as soon as possible.

***Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests:** 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying at least £20. 2. Likewise, any person whomsoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. These Masses go on all the time. **Privileges of members: Deceased:** 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (**this will take place in Greencastle on Wednesday 15th February**). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. **Living:** 1. Mass will be offered each month, as listed on the Church notice board. 2. When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses
St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@accordni.com
6th and 7th February • 6th and 7th March • 10th and 11th April
8th and 9th May • 12th and 13th June
Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date

2014 Parish Statistics				
Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation	Marriages	Funerals
8 Boys	4 Boys	7 Boys	5 within parish	22
8 Girls	7 Girls	8 Girls	5 outside parish	
Station Masses in October 5	Parish Pilgrimage Sunday: This was marked with our pilgrimage to the Mass Rock at Dorville on Sunday 3 rd August where our special guest and main celebrant was our new bishop, Bishop Donal McKeown on his first visit to the parish. We have now completed our series of pilgrimages to the Penal Mass sites located within our parish boundaries. <i>Thank you for sharing your photographs</i>			

Parish Liturgy for February, 2015	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	John Enright	Mary Clarke	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of the Faithful	Caoileann Conway	Aiden / Ryan Clarke	Grace Conneely
Collectors	Colum Devlin Michael McElhatton	Eamon Tracey Brendan Conway	Pat McGuigan Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Kathleen Tracey Maria Morris		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke
New choir members will always be welcome – Contact Sinead			

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 1st 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.

Monday 2nd 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

Tuesday 3rd 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 9th century and preached the gospel in Denmark and Sweden. Apostle of Scandanavia. Patron Saint of Denmark.

Thursday 5th February – St. Agatha (virgin and martyr) Died a martyr for the faith at Catania in Sicily in the 3rd century. Patron Saint of bell-founders.

Friday 6th February – St. Paul Miki and Companions (martyrs) Paul Miki, a Japanese Jesuit, and his twenty-five companions were martyred in Nagasaki, Japan. They were the first martyrs of East Asia to be canonized. They were killed simultaneously by being raised on crosses and then stabbed with spears. Their executioners were astounded upon seeing their joy at being associated to the Passion of Christ.

Saturday 7th February – St. Mel (bishop) St. Mel or Moel died in 488. He is said to have been a Briton who came to Ireland with St. Patrick, his uncle, with whom he worked until he was ordained in Ardagh. He helped evangelise Ireland while supporting himself through manual labour.

Musings *Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)*
A lovely story in a 7th century Life of Brigid tells of how a thieving boy approached the saint for alms seven times on the same day (in different disguises each time), to be given on each occasion one sheep. However, that evening, when the sheep were counted, not one was found to be missing. The perpetrator, baffled by this, finally returned the seven sheep after which the number in the flock had still not changed. A generous heart rarely diminishes the giver.

Irish Language Class for Beginners: Every Thursday in Greencastle GAA Hall from 8.00pm to 9.30pm. Teenagers and adults are welcome.
Call Sinéad Warnock on 07849 394 001

Warm Homes – Are you entitled to Free Insulation and Heating?
Call 0800 988 0559 or visit warm-homes.com.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 1:21-28:
John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

- 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.
- 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?
- 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?
- 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 – A Teaching That Is New:
Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

A friend once told me a story about his favourite lecturer in college. He met him while crossing the campus one day, stopped and asked the lecturer how he was. The lecturer paused for a long moment, thinking about it, before eventually replying, 'I'm fine, thanks for asking.' At the time my friend wasn't sure what to make of it, though the unusual encounter stuck in his mind for years afterwards. On reflection, he appreciated that the lecturer had thought about his question, and to this day it has made him stop and think every time he asks someone, or is asked, 'how are you?'. The lecturer had taken an everyday question, and everyday language, and infused it with new meaning.

The people who listen to Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel are used to hearing scribes and teachers in the synagogue. But with Jesus they witness something new. We don't know what Jesus was teaching that day, or what kind of language he was using, but what struck the people was that he taught with authority. He had drawn them in, but they couldn't quite put their finger on it. 'What does it all mean?' they asked each other. He had made them think, and they recognised that he was he was offering something different.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2015			
Sacramental Celebrations	Friday 13 th March	St. Patrick's	6.30pm First Confession
	Sunday 26 th April Fourth Sunday of Easter	St. Patrick's	2.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop McKeown)
	Sunday 17 th May Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's	11.00am First Holy Communion
Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Sunday 3 rd May	St. Patrick's
		Sunday 30 th August	Our Lady of the Wayside
Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish	Wednesday 11 th February • Monday 6 th April • Friday 29 th May		St. Patrick's
	Sunday 19 th July • Tuesday 8 th September • Thursday 29 th October		
	Sunday 19 th July		Our Lady of the Wayside
Morning Masses will be celebrated as above unless a Requiem is needed on the dates			
Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (4 th and 5 th July)	Saturday Evening (4 th July)	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
	Sunday Morning (5 th July)	Our Lady of Wayside St. Mary's, Broughderg	Directly after 11.00am Mass
	Monday 2 nd November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2015)
'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion			
Saturday 7 th March		Second Week of Lent	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Friday 13 th March		Third Week of Lent	6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation)
Saturday 28 th March		Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Saturday 18 th April		Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 17 th May		Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am First Holy Communion
Saturday 6 th June		Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass