

Diocese of Derry, Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone

Saint Patrick's Church
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Broughderg

The First Sunday of Lent. 1st March, 2009

The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com

Lent 2009 – Some Practical Suggestions: There are many ways to keep a good Lent – here are a few: + try to abstain from a particular food or pleasure + do something extra, like attending the Monday evening Reflections in Greencastle or visiting the sick + spend some time reflecting on your own baptism...asking God to renew the gifts you have already received + take part in penitential services and Station of the Cross + whatever you do or give up, do it with joy and moderation.

Liturgy Schedule for the First Week of Lent. 2nd March – 8th March, 2009

Monday 2 nd March First Week of Lent Sick and housebound will be visited	Saint Patrick's	8.00pm Mass: (Noel McLaughlin – 8 th Anniversary) <i>Mass is followed by a Lenten Reflection</i>
Tuesday 3 rd March First Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8.00pm Mass
Wednesday 4 th March First Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass: (Patrick Donnelly – 9 th Anniversary)
Thursday 5 th March First Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	9.30am Mass: (Teresa McCullagh – 5 th Anniversary)
Friday 6 th March First Week of Lent First Friday of March	Saint Patrick's	7.00pm Confessions 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8.00pm Mass
Saturday 7 th March First Week of Lent Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	No Morning Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 8 th March Second Sunday of Lent	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

Confession Schedule

Friday 6 th March	Saint Patrick's	7.00pm – 7.30pm
Saturday 7 th March	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 8 th March	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,125**.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray this week for **Noel McLaughlin, Patrick Donnelly, Teresa McCullagh and Sara Ann McCullagh** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sick and housebound will be attended Monday 2nd March, beginning after 10.00am Mass. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

'Do This In Memory': Our First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in Saint Patrick's this weekend (Saturday 1st March). Our next gathering will be at the **Vigil Mass for Passion (Psalm) Sunday 4th April, 2009**.

Lenten Reflections: Join with Guided Prayer leaders on the Mondays of Lent, straight after 8.00pm Mass in a 20 minute reflection. The theme for Lent 2009 will be *The Way of the Cross*.

What are you doing for Lent? The first in a series of meditations for Lent on the 'Stations of the Cross' Monday March 2nd after 8.00pm Mass in Greencastle. Lasting for 20 to 30 minutes the meditation will be led by the Omagh Prayer Guidance Team.

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

Lotto Numbers: 7, 12, 18, 23 (5 winner with 3 numbers – £10) **Next Jackpot:** £1,600

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association: There will be a meeting on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.00pm.

Ballad Group: Anyone interested in forming a Ballad group please contact Kate Donnelly on 078 7648 7381 / (028) 8077 1468.

Susan Bradley has emailed us to announce that a short **vigil for past and present nursing staff** will take place on **Sunday 8th March at the front of Tyrone County Hospital**.

Saint Patrick's Weekend Retreat at Corrymeela, Ballycastle: Friday 13th March at 7.00pm to Sunday 15th March. Explore Celtic Spirituality with presentations and sharing as well as time for reflection, prayer and worship. Led by Richard Rice and Rosemarie Whithead from Minnesota, USA. Contact Matt at (028) 2076 1726

Carmelite Retreat Centre – Termonbacca, Derry: Monthly devotions in honour of Our Lady Tuesday 3rd March: Confessions at 7.30pm followed by Rosary and Mass finishing around 10.00pm. One Day Retreat for senior citizens Wednesday 4th March. 10.30am to 5.00pm, cost £15 includes lunch. To book telephone (028) 7126 2512 during office hours only.

Host families required: Do you have three weeks to spare in July? Chernobyl Children's Aid needs you. Could you give a Chernobyl child a recuperating holiday? This can be one of the most rewarding experiences. Weekly activities are organised and translators are available at all times. To take a child out of a contaminated area even for a week can boost their immune system up to 1 year. Contact Dominic on (028) 7138 3523 or 079 8009 2493

Workshop on Marriage – Renew Your Wedding Vows: Marriage Encounter is a weekend away (Friday 8.00pm to Sunday 5.00pm) for married couples of all ages with a stable relationship. Couples explore, in complete privacy how to come to a deeper mutual understanding of each other. The date for the next Marriage Encounter weekend is 27th to 29th March at the Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry. Phone: (028) 9062 6503 or (028) 7135 0612

Prayer Friends for the Confirmation Class: Thank you for your continuing support.

"We need a little bit of silence. We need a space without the constant bombardment of images."
Pope Benedict XVI encouraging the priests of the Rome diocese in "fasting from words and images" this Lent

GREENCASCADE YOUTH CLUB – Parent Rota

Monday 2 nd March	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Sandra McElhatton (P4 and P5)
Monday 2 nd March	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Rose McCullagh (Years 8, 9, 10)
Tuesday 3 rd March	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Tricia Tuohy (P6 and P7)

B.A.D.A. An Bruach Dearg Community Centre. Upcoming Events:

Sunday 1st March Usual fortnightly dance. Music by *Country Legends Peter and Harry*

Every Tuesday Night Dancing class at 8.30pm

Every Friday Night Card playing at 8.30pm

The Deep End – Reading in the Wilderness:

I've heard it said that some people who suffer from burnout have never been on fire. *Ouch!* Today's Gospel reading (Mark 1:12-15) brings that to mind: 'And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.' No sooner does the Father declare Jesus to be his Son, the Beloved (v 11) than the Spirit shunts him off to the wilderness. Why? So that the ecstasy of his baptism doesn't turn his head? So that his divinity doesn't overpower his humanity? So that he opts for service and not for privilege? Fired with the Spirit he hurries there to learn how to read his person and his mission.

A plan of cosmic scale clicks into play. The air tingles with urgency as Jesus reaches the wilderness. The words of Paul (Rom 8:22-23) time travel back to us, 'We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now ... and we ourselves groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.' That's what the urgency is about: humanity's impending redemption.

It's what we groan for to fill the emptiness within us. It's what we search for to complete ourselves as a person. But have we learnt how to read our person and our mission? If we've not allowed God's Spirit to fire us to seek the wilderness, we will groan for all the wrong things: money, power, fame, drugs and sex – and just burn out. Lent leads us into the wilderness. Let us enter and spend time there with the demons and the angels.

Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 1:12-15:

1. We are at a major turning point in the life of Jesus when he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.
2. Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time with nothing positive about them. Later, with hindsight, we may see it as a necessary testing that was for our good. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life?
3. The arrest of John the Baptist was the occasion of the start of the public ministry of Jesus. When has some event outside of your control unexpectedly led you into some new and fruitful activity?
4. There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: *'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near'*. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. What do you believe you are invited to say 'yes' to at this moment?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

Q. Could you tell me about the temptations of Jesus. Was it the way we are tempted to sin?

A. The temptations of Jesus may be understood as attempts by the devil to divert his mission from its real purpose. The devil's name is Diabolos, a Greek word meaning one who misleads people, throwing them off course. Providing free bread or floating on angels' wings would certainly arouse curiosity, but would it lead to conversion of life? Jesus rejected these diabolical suggestions and chose the way of solidarity with human powerlessness, even death. This showed his total love for us. And then, resurrection from the dead was a sign infinitely more important than miraculous stunts.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)