
		Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)			
St. Patrick's, Greencastle		Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg			
First Sunday of Advent [Year A] (1st December, 2013)					
The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU					
Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com					
The Faith-community of Greencastle parish thank Fr. Donal Bennett for celebrating Mass this weekend					
Liturgy Schedule for First Week of Advent [Year A] (2nd December – 8th December)					
Saturday Evening (30th November)		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: Annie Tracey (1 st Anniversary) Frank Tracey (31 st Anniversary) 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass		
Sunday 1st December First Sunday of Advent [Year A]		St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside			
NOTE: There will be NO MASS from Monday 2 nd December to Friday 6 th December					
Saturday Evening (7th December)		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass		
Sunday 8th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year A]		St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside			
Sacrament of Confirmation (Sunday 2nd March, 2014): The Diocesan Office has informed us that this will be conferred on the candidates who have been prepared. We hope that a new bishop will be appointed before that date and if so then we can welcome him to our parish for that occasion.					
Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to £850 .					
Retired Priests' Pension Fund Collection: A total of £35 was collected.					
Trócaire Appeal for Syria and the Philippines: A further £270 was collected, this is much appreciated.					
Sick and Housebound: Fr. Hasson will be unable to visit on the usual day (the first Monday of December) but he does hope to visit later in the month and before the feast of Christmas.					
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Frank and Annie Tracey, Michael McCullagh, Rose McCrory, Kellie McKenna and Colette Heagney , whose anniversaries occur at this time.					
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: As you are aware, this year because 8 th December falls on a Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday 9 th December. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.					
Ordination to Priesthood: The Reverend James Devine will be ordained to the Priesthood for this diocese of Derry on Sunday 8 th December at 3.00pm in St. Columba's Church, Long Tower. This is an important occasion for the candidate for ordination, for his family and for the whole diocese. Please keep him especially in your prayers and pray that more young men may soon offer themselves for Priestly service in the faith-community which is our diocese.					
Pioneer Total Abstinence Association – Council Meeting: Tuesday 3 rd December at 7.00pm.					
Special Candle-light Rosary Procession: Sunday 8 th December In Derry, assembling in Guildhall Square at 4.30pm and proceeding through the streets behind the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for Ireland. The Rosary will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. You are invited to come along and carry a <i>Light for Life</i> and pray for the protection of Ireland's unborn children. Bring your family and friends and receive many blessings and graces. Candles are supplied. (028) 9027 8484					
Greencastle Youth Club Rota		Monday 2 nd December	P4 to P6 P7 to P10	Anne Warnock / Siobhan McKenna Kathleen Gillen / Noel McElhatton	
Greencastle Community Centre Upcoming Events	Sunday 1st December	Card playing from 7.00pm			
	Sunday 8th December	Christmas Fayre from 2.00pm to 6.00pm. <i>Local gifts and crafts, Santa, kids disco and refreshments</i>			
	Sunday 15th December	Annual bazaar from 5.00pm. <i>Note change in date</i>			
BADA – Upcoming Events:		Friday 1st December	Card playing at 8.00pm.		<i>Refreshments served</i>
Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)					
General – Victimised Children: That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need.					
Missionary – Prepare the Saviour's Coming: That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Saviour's coming.					
Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44; Sunday: Year A / Weekday: Year 2					
Lotto Results: J • R • U • X • Z (3 people with 3 letters winning £20 each) Next Jackpot: £1,200					

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 30 th November The family of Neamh Donnelly	Offertory Gifts Rota First Sunday of Advent	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 1 st December The family of Michelle O'Brien
Saturday 7 th December The family of Brian McDermott	Second Sunday of Advent	Sunday 8 th December The family of Catherine O'Connor
Saturday 14 th December* The family of Odhran Hughes	Third Sunday of Advent	Sunday 15 th December The family of Tiernan Teague
Saturday 21 st December The family of Cody McAleer	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 22 nd December The family of Caitlin Warnock
Tuesday 24 th December (8.00pm) The family of ---	Feast of the Nativity of the Lord	Wednesday 25 th December (11.00am) The family of Caoimhe Warnock
As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership. What can you volunteer to do in your parish? Thanks to all who participates in the life and work of our parish faith-community. *Do This In Memory Week 3 <i>We need new volunteers in every aspect of life</i>		
Tuesday's Child – All Ireland Christmas Art Competition: Children and young people (aged 3-21) are invited to get creative and sign up. Great prizes to be won across all age categories including 1,000 euro family voucher kindly donated from Marian pilgrimages for trip to Rome, Fatima, Medjugorje, Lourdes, Holy Land, hand-made cribs from Bethlehem and painting sets. Proceeds to Tuesday's Child's Christmas Appeal for children in Gaza, Syria and Kenya. Also beautiful Christmas cards of the Holy Family, 100% of cost to catholic missionaries helping families in Tacloban, Philippines. Online: tuesdayschild.ie Email: info@tuesdayschild.ie Text Orla or Patricia: 07545 452 362		
Youth 2000 Ireland – Annual Christmas Retreat: Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare from Friday 13 th to Sunday 15 th December. Over 500 young people from across Ireland (aged 16-35) are expected at this donation only event, with all newcomers very welcome. This is a great opportunity to find out what your faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. Retreat starts with registration on Friday at 8.00pm. Free buses available. <i>Online booking necessary</i> Online: youth2000.ie Tel: 01 675 3690 Facebook: youthtwothousandireland		
Northwest Bereaved by Suicide Support Group and Roe Valley Bereaved by Suicide Group Annual Memory Tree of Lights Ceremonies: Sunday 8 th December at 5.30pm at the Foyle Search & Rescue Headquarters, Victoria Road, Derry and Tuesday 17 th December at 7.30pm in the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre, Limavady supported by the Western Health & Social Care Trust, Be Safe Be Well and The Big Lottery.		
Columba Community (supported by IFI) – Supporting Families and Carers of Addicted Persons: A support and information weekend for those concerned about a loved one's addiction at The Sanctuary, IOSAS Centre, Lenamore, Muff on Saturday 30 th November and Sunday 1 st December. Hosted by a trained addiction counsellor the programme will look at ways to support your loved one whilst looking after yourself and your family. This is a confidential programme and is free to participants but places are limited. To book your place or for more info contact Columba House, Derry on (028) 7126 2407 or call in to our drop-in session at Columba House, 11 Queen St. on Thursdays between 12pm & 5pm where you can talk to the addiction counsellor in confidence.		
Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal: As a direct result of our nutrition programme in partnership with St Luke's Hospital we have been able to save the lives of many children in Ethiopia. By supporting this appeal you will help us give food and medicine to some of the most vulnerable children on the planet. <i>Advent packs are available</i>		
Omagh Volunteering Centre: Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and make a real difference within your local community. There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities currently available across the Omagh District area. Volunteer Befrienders, Coaches and Mentors are required by organisations including Mencap, Guide Dogs NI and Action on Hearing Loss, to enable them to deliver vital services for people with a learning or sensory disability. Organisations such as RNIB and NI Hospice need local volunteers to help set up local Support Groups, raise vital funds and awareness of their work in the Omagh area. Training and support is provided for all of the Volunteer roles. Tel (Michelle): (078) 5444 6821 or (028) 8224 0772 Email: omatghvc2@yahoo.co.uk Office: First Floor of Community House		
Cookstown Parish – Advent Carol Service: Led by pupils of Holy Trinity College in Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 th December. Archbishop Eamon Martin will preside at the Liturgy.		
IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – Follow the Star Christmas Trail: Friday 13 th to Sunday 15 th December, Wednesday 18 th December and Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. <i>Pre-booking essential. For tickets and further information contact the IOSAS Centre on (00353) 74938 4866</i>		
Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (1st to 6th July) – Gift Vouchers: Now available at The Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Tel: (028) 71362475 <i>Vouchers can be obtained for any amount</i>		
ACCORD Marriage Preparation Course 2013 (028) 8224 2439 accordmagh@btpenworld.com accord.ie Friday 6 th and Saturday 7 th December at Omagh Pastoral Centre, Brooke Street		
Sharing the Good News: A new monthly one page newsletter from the Catholic Communications Office. This newsletter, which is for the benefit of parishioners, will be published monthly to promote Church teaching and the pastoral work of bishops as well as the councils, agencies, offices and initiatives of the Bishops' Conference.		

The Advent Candles

Candles are lit to symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ. On the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent a purple candle is lit (each Sunday the candle from the previous Sunday is re-lit) the colour purple as used during the period of Lent, reminds us to prepare a welcome for Jesus during the Advent season. On the third Sunday of Advent a pink candle is lit. Pink is the colour of joy to remind us that we should be ready to welcome Christ at Christmas. On Christmas Eve the white candle is lit to celebrate the Birth of Christ – the Light of the World

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. There are two stages in Advent: the first runs until 16th December, the second which, is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts runs from 17th December until 24th December.

The Advent Wreath: Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes especially in Germanic countries and in North America – we do so in Church each year. The Advent wreath with its progressive lighting of four candles, each Sunday until Christmas is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of Justice (cf Mal 3:20; Luke 1:18).

Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time

Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)

God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura.

Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help.

Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time.

Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop.

We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.

Prayer from the Community at Taize: God of love, we are disconcerted by the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the world. So we turn to you - you do not let us give in to discouragement. You bring us to understand that our prayer and our compassion count. Be close to those who are suffering and send your Holy Spirit, that all humans may be inspired to make signs of peace.

Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half Marathon: Friday 14th February to Monday 17th February, 2014.

Please contact Eileen at events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898 / 07840 182 004

Appeal on behalf of Family Care Society: Family Care Society is a voluntary adoption agency with its roots in the Catholic Church and we provide an adoption service throughout all of Northern Ireland.

A core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. These children are often from the care system and may have had a difficult start in life. We are experienced in finding families for these children but given the number of children being referred and their specific needs we are always looking for families to come forward. We would like to thank you for the support you have provided to date. It has proved to be a very successful way of finding adoptive families. Given however our urgent need presently to find families for more young children, we are again respectfully asking for your help.

Adoption: Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged between 2 to 6 years and need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?

Tel: (028) 9069 1133 [Belfast] // (028) 7136 8592 [Derry] • **Email:** email@familycaresociety.org • **Web:** familycaresociety.co.uk

Musings

Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)

The Second Reading today is taken from the so-called 'transformation of believers' section of the Letter to the Romans. We might recall the response of Augustine of Hippo, one of the greatest intellectuals of the ancient world, to this passage in the summer of 386. Although convinced of the truth of Christianity, he had delayed pursuing a Christian life until, at a particularly low point, he opened the scriptures at these words. In his Confessions he recalls that he closed the book again and read no further, nor did he need to. Decision made. What will we decide today?

Parish Liturgy for December, 2013	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	John Enright	Nuala Glass	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	TBC	Shanley Clarke	TBC
Collectors	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Mickey Beggs Cathal Keenan	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
Anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries should make themselves known			

The Deep End – Where Are You Going?

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

To you, my God, I lift my soul

These are the very first words we hear this Advent, in the Entrance Antiphon of today's Mass.

The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus', meaning 'coming'. There is a sense of movement and anticipation. The tradition of the Advent calendar is one way to bring this movement to life. The Lord is coming. We are moving towards Christmas. We are lifting our souls towards God. And we are moving always towards the end times and the second coming, as Jesus himself reminds us in today's Gospel.

A couple of questions we could reflect on today: Why do we need this 'lead-in' time to Christmas? What are my hopes and goals for Advent? Where do I want to be in my faith journey, come Christmas day? American baseball legend Yogi Berra once said: 'If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.' If we decide we want to get somewhere, we have to take steps to get there – for example, when we decide on a particular career path we have to undertake the right training and experience. Perhaps this Advent we would like to spend more time in prayer, to be more patient, or to get involved in our local community. What is the point of Advent, if we don't end up somewhere different from where we started?

There is a sense of anticipation in today's readings. St. Paul tells us 'the night is almost over, it will be daylight soon.' We need to get moving.

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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

*The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying?

For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo on 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the Bureau

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 23:35-43: John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. The 'coming of the Son of Man' can be applied to the end of the world, to the moment of death or to any moment of grace. We are not given advance notice as to when any of these will happen, so the message is to be alert and ready. When have you found that your alertness meant that you were able to receive an unexpected grace (e.g. take an opportunity which presented itself, or respond to a hint from another person that you might easily have missed, etc.)?
2. One of the enemies of alert living is constant busyness. Have you ever found that being caught up in your own agenda makes you less sensitive to what is happening around you? Recall times when you paused in your relentless business and were rewarded by a significant interchange with another person, a moment of grace.
3. You probably know the difference between being ready for a visitor and the unannounced caller who catches you unprepared. Let the memory of the discomfort of being caught off guard spur you on to a constant readiness for the coming of the Lord.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Tuesday 3rd December – St. Francis Xavier (priest) [1506-1552]** One of the first 7 Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and Japan. Was killed as he tried to enter China. A Patron Saint of the Missions.
- Wednesday 4th December – St. John Damascene (priest) [675-749]** A Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defence of icons in the iconoclastic controversy.
- Friday 6th December – St. Nicholas (bishop)** 4th century bishop of Myra (in modern Turkey) whose legendary kindness inspired the Santa Claus tradition. He is Patron Saint of Russia, sailors, pawnbrokers and children.
- Saturday 7th December – St. Ambrose (bishop and doctor of the Church) [340-397]** Converted to Christianity and was made bishop of Milan in 274 by popular acclaim. A brilliant teacher and preacher of the faith, he influenced Augustine who he received into the Church. Patron Saint of Milan, beekeepers and domestic animals.
- Sunday 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
On this holy day of obligation we celebrate Mary, mother of Jesus. She was preserved free from sin from the first moment of her existence in the womb 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God'. [Not celebrated this year]

Engaged Encounter – Rules for Arguing: Couples who discover they have a disagreement are invited by Engaged Encounter to share their opinions in the following manner. The sentences following the rules are Jay Keenan's comments from his perspective as an Engaged Encounter leader with his wife Suzanne.

NO NAME CALLING	This includes using affectionate names sarcastically
NO THIRD PARTIES	The argument is between the two of you
NO PAST HISTORY	If it's already been settled, don't bring it up again
STICK TO THE SUBJECT	Identify the real problem — don't go to other issues
NO CHEAP SHOTS	Don't use the other's weakness to gain advantage; you may win the argument, but injure your relationship
DON'T GO TO BED ANGRY	Finish the argument or call a truce and agree on a time to continue
MAINTAIN A SENSE OF HUMOUR	Don't take yourselves too seriously; laughter can be the best medicine
HOLD HANDS WHILE ARGUING	This helps to keep your focus where it belongs — on the person who means more to you than anyone in the world