



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A] (2nd March, 2014)

Day of Prayer for Temperance

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

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



Welcome to Our New Bishop: Last Tuesday Pope Francis chose a new bishop for Episcopal ministry in our diocese; Bishop Donal McKeown, who is Auxiliary Bishop to the Bishop of Down and Connor. As the faith-community of Greencastle parish we extend a very warm welcome and offer the support of our prayers for his work among us, he will be installed on Sunday 6th April. If you wish to make a personal welcome you can write to him at *Diocesan Offices, St. Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP.*

Sacrament of Confirmation: This afternoon (Sunday 2nd March at 2.00pm). Monsignor Joseph Donnelly PP VF (Parish Priest of Drumragh) will come to Greencastle parish to impart the Sacrament of Confirmation to our young people. Please include the candidates and their families, sponsors and Monsignor Donnelly in your personal and family prayers in anticipation of the ceremony.

We welcome Monsignor Donnelly among us today

Meaghan Clarke • Aine Lucas • Miceal McCann • Daniel McCrory • Leah McGuigan • Shane McKenna, Michelle O'Brien • Catherine O'Connor • Tiaran Teague • Caitlin Warnock • Caoimhe Warnock

Liturgy Schedule for the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time and First Days of the Season of Lent [Year A]
(4th March, 2014 – 9th March, 2014)

Saturday Evening (1st March)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions
Sunday 2nd March	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Peter Clarke (Month's Mind)
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
		10.30am Confessions
		11.00am Mass
		2.00pm Confirmation
Monday 3rd March	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Eighth Week in Ordinary Time		<i>Sick and housebound will be visited</i>
Tuesday 4th March	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
St. Casimir		
Season of Lent: Lent is the season of grace and conversion, of penance and reconciliation, of renewal of our baptismal promises. Lent is marked with seriousness, consciousness of the poorest of the poor, attention to prayer and liturgy, attentive listening to the word of God, and "with the gladness spiritual desire await holy Easter" <i>Rule of Saint Benedict, 49</i>		
Wednesday 5th March	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)	Our Lady of the Wayside	8.00pm Mass
		<i>Ashes will be blessed at both Masses</i>
Thursday 6th March	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday after Ash Wednesday		
Friday 7th March	St. Patrick's	7.00pm Confessions
Friday after Ash Wednesday		7.30pm Stations of the Cross
		8.00pm Mass
Saturday 8th March	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday after Ash Wednesday		
Saturday Evening (8th March)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions
		6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 9th March	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
First Sunday of Lent [Year A]	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am Confessions
		11.00am Mass

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£835.**

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Michael Keenan**, whose Requiem took place on Friday, we extend our sympathy and prayerful support to his nephews, nieces and family circle. We also pray for **James Kirk, Peter Tracey, Kathleen Warnock, Teresa McCullagh** and **Kathleen Daly**, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Greencastle Youth Club Rota	Monday 3 rd March	P4 to P6 P7 to Y10	Siobhan McKenna / Michelle Clarke Siobhan McKenna / Michelle Clarke
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Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 2:7-9; Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14 17 R/cdv3; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11; Lectionary 1 (page 201) **Sunday Scripture Readings cycle [Year A] • Weekday Scripture Readings cycle [Year 2]**

Lotto Results: E • I • S • N • Z (1 drawn with 3 letters, winning £100) **Next Jackpot:** £1,800

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
<u>Saturday 1st March</u>	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 2nd March</u>
The family of Aoibhin Coyle		The family of Caitlin Warnock
<u>Saturday 8th March</u>	First Sunday of Lent	<u>Sunday 9th March</u>
The family of Ronan Coyle		The family of Caoimhe Warnock
<u>Saturday 15th March</u>	Second Sunday of Lent	<u>Sunday 16th March</u>
The family of Neamh Donnelly		The family of Meaghan Clarke
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. <i>We need new volunteers in every aspect of life</i>		

Day of Prayer for Temperance: What a great legacy and gift it would be for our children in this new emerging country of ours if we would be the generation brave enough to promote and work for an attitude and culture of moderation rather than excess in our use of alcohol. If we could promote abstinence or moderation and create attitudes towards alcohol use that are conducive to a better and healthier way of life, then indeed we would be leaving a wonderful inheritance to future generations.

Pastoral Letter from Irish Bishops 2007
catholiccommunications.ie/Irish Bishops' Drug & Alcohol Initiative (IBDAI), Columba Centre, Maynooth. Co. Kildare/ibdai@iecon.ie

Forms of Friday Penance The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance:

- Abstaining from meat or some other food
- Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking
- Making a special effort at involvement in family
- Making a special effort to participate in Mass
- Visiting the Blessed Sacrament
- Making the Stations of the Cross
- Helping the poor, sick aid or lonely
- Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy

From the statement on Friday Penance issued by the Bishops' Conference, 2011

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service – Recruiting Facilitators and Counsellors in the Omagh Area: ACCORD Omagh centre offers an educational and supportive service in Fertility Awareness. The methods utilised by our practitioners are evidence-based, and the result of years of scientific research which has refined these techniques into a safe, effective method of becoming aware of one's fertility and to facilitate fertility management.

If you would like more info on how to apply call the ACCORD Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre Chapel, Larne – Residential Weekend of Healing: Looking for help and understanding? Beginning Experience (a support group for widowed, separated and divorced people) is offering a Residential Weekend of Healing.

Application forms available on request

Date: Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd March **Tel:** (028) 2827 2196 / 07542 070 835 **Web:** drumalis.co.uk

Rehearsals for Cultural Night: These will commence this week in the lead up to the night on Friday 14th March.

Singers Monday (6.00pm to 7.00pm) **Musicians** Tuesday (6.00pm to 7.00pm) *New recruits very welcome!*

Anyone who could take part in a simple drama sketch please contact Amanda on 07515 339 123

St. Columba's Long Tower – Healing Mass: Thursday 6th March. Fr. Neal Carlin and the Columba Community will celebrate a healing Mass followed by individual prayer for healing on Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm.

All welcome

St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs: Saturday 5th April 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 dccc@derrydiocese.org.

Annual Pope John Paul II Award – Information Evening: For parishes of the Tyrone Deanery on Wednesday 12th March at 7:30pm in Omagh Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street, Omagh. Possible new contacts who help with the award scheme in Greencastle Parish are invited to attend. The meeting will also address some safeguarding points for U18s and parish volunteers

Voices of Faith (VoF) – International Women's Day at the Vatican Cinema: Inspired by the desire of Pope Francis "to broaden the space within the Church for a more incisive feminine presence". The event, which will be streamed live on Saturday 8th March via the VoF website and will feature the voices of 11 women from six countries, each of whom will give witness of how their Catholic faith influenced their lives and work.

voicesoffaith.org

Dalradian Gold Limited (DGL) – Community Monitoring Committee: Established as part of their planning application to review the environmental and health and safety performance of the project. DGL will ensure adequate training is provided to the community members which will enable them to participate effectively and better answer questions from the wider local community.

If interested contact DGL on (028) 8164 7799 or the Owenkillew Community Centre (028) 8164 8346 by Friday 7th March

St. Columba's Long Tower – Healing Mass: Thursday 6th March. Fr. Neal Carlin and the Columba Community will celebrate a healing Mass followed by individual prayer for healing on Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm.

All welcome

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group – Monthly Meeting: Monday 10th March in the Holy Family church, Ballymagroarty, Derry starting with Mass at 7.15pm. There will be two 1st class relics at the meeting.

Everyone is welcome

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (1st to 6th July): £599. From 18th January the Pilgrimage Office will be open at The Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry on Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. You can also contact the office by calling (028) 7126 0293 on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11.00am and 1.00pm.

Booking forms available in St. Patrick's Sacristy

Pope Francis' Intentions for March (please remember these in your personal prayer) Universal: That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women. For Evangelisation: That many young people may accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.	
Alcohol: The Challenge of Moderation	<i>A pastoral letter from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference</i>
<p>We commend the many adults and young people who have chosen to remain abstinent from alcohol until 18 years old or for life.</p> <p>We encourage people who feel that for them alcohol has become a problem and decide to seek professional help from treatment centres, local health services or support groups in their community.</p> <p>We commend all the good work which is done by support groups around the country and the many parishes and communities that provide meeting rooms and services for such groups.</p> <p>What a great legacy and gift it would be for our children if we would be the generation brave enough to promote and work for an attitude and culture of moderation rather than excess in our use of alcohol. If we could promote abstinence or moderation and create attitudes towards alcohol use that are conducive to a better and healthier way of life, then indeed we would be leaving a wonderful inheritance to future generations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Full text can be read at catholiccommunications.ie</i></p>	
This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints: Tuesday 4th March – St. Casimir [1458-1484] Strove to promote peace and the unity of Western Europe. Though a young prince he chose a life of prayer and penance. Patron Saint of Poland. Wednesday 5th March – St. Kieran (bishop) Kieran of Saigir was born in Cape Clear, Co. Cork. He is numbered among the pre-Patrician saints of Ireland. He went to the Continent, where he was baptised and later ordained priest and bishop. He returned to his father's territory, Ossory where he lived as a hermit. Disciples soon joined him and Saigir became a well-known monastery.	
Pilgrimage to Medjugorje (7th to 14th September): Half board and all taxes and insurance £499. Spiritual Director is Fr. Mark Monaghan.	
Rural Support: Provides a listening and signposting service for farming and rural families through its helpline. Rural support can provide practical and emotional support with regards to a variety of issues including farm paperwork, financial concerns, physical and mental health and general stress. The helpline is confidential and operated from 8.00am to 11.00pm seven days a week (voicemail and support options available at all other times). The helpline number is 0845 606 7607. Rural support is currently recruiting volunteers for various roles within the organisation. If you would be interested in volunteering with Rural Support you can visit ruralsupport.org.uk	
Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time	
<p><i>Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop.</p> <p>We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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? <i>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</i>	
ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2014 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com 7 th and 8 th March • 4 th and 5 th April • 9 th and 10 th May • 6 th and 7 th June Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding	

Parish Liturgy for March, 2014	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Siobhan McKenna	Anne McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Aidan Clarke	Peter Fox	Claire Coyle
Collectors	Mary Bradley Raymond Bradley	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Sean McKenna Tony Donnelly
Altar Society	Mary McNamee, Patta McDermott and Mary McCrory		Anne McDermott Martina McBride
New choir members will always be welcomed – contact Sinead			

10 Ways to Gauge your Christian Development By Roger Wolsey

- I. Write down the following 9 words as a list: love, joy, peace, patience/forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)
 Put a number from 1-10 next to each that most closely indicates your current level of that trait and quality. Don't over-think it. Go with your gut. Guts are honest.
 Add up the numbers, divide that sum by 9. This is your averaged "Christian Fruits of the Spirit Quotient."
- II. Write down the following as a list: Fed hungry; Gave water to thirsty; Welcomed stranger in my home; Provided clothing to someone in need; Visited the sick and/or imprisoned. Write down the number of weeks (months? years?) ago for the last time you did each of these. Ask yourself why it's been so long since you've done some of those things. (Matthew 25:21-46)
- III. Write down the following as a list: my other gods/idols; put words into God's mouth/blasphemy; Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy; Honouring my parents; Murder; Adultery; Stole something; Said something that isn't true about someone; Covet someone else's lover or belongings. Write down a number from 0-10 indicating how much you currently engage in each of those. (Exodus 20)
- IV. Write down the following as a list: Love God with all my heart; Love God with all my soul; Love God with all my mind; Love myself; Love others. Place a number from 1-10 for each one indicting the degree that you do that. (Matthew 22:36-40)
- V. Write down the names of the people who've wronged you who you haven't fully forgiven. Write down the things that you haven't fully forgiven yourself for. (Luke 7:36-50)
- VI. Write down the word "Judgmental" and place the number from 1-10 next that you think other people would likely assign to you. (Matthew 7:1-5)
- VII. Write down the names of some people who you hate, people who you consider to be your enemies. Write down what it is that you don't like about them — the reasons that you hate them and consider them to be enemies. For each person, place a number from 1-10 for how much you love them. Write down how you're like those people — how you have some of those same qualities in your personality and in your life. (Luke 5:43-48)
- VIII. Write the word "Thankful" then place a number from 1-10 next to it according to how much you've felt and conveyed your gratitude to God. (Luke 17-1-19)
- IX. Write the words "Generous & Sacrificial Giving" then assign a number from 1-10 for what a tax-preparer or CPA would assign to you. (Luke 21:1-4)
- X. Write "Serve as a good Ambassador/Witness for Christ" and assign a number from 1-10; i.e., how good a job are you doing at offering an account of the hope that is within you with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15).

Ponder your responses to these inventories and consider them as being a collective mirror that you're holding up to yourself for how you're doing in your discipleship.

May God bless us as we each strive to be the best followers of Jesus and his Way that we can.

Peace,

Roger

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 the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 6:24-34:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. This passage has many beautiful images and encouraging words. Read it slowly and let the words and images speak to you.
2. We all worry, and possibly spend a lot of energy on needless worry. Often the things we worry about never happen. Behind much worry lies a lack of trust in ourselves, in others and in God. What has helped you to develop the kind of trust that helps you to avoid excessive worrying?
3. One of the situations that can cause anxiety is when we have divided loyalties. 'No one can be the slave of two masters'. A clear set of priorities can help us avoid this dilemma. What has helped you be clear in your own mind on where your priorities lie?
4. 'Set your hearts on God's kingdom first'. Has your faith in God helped you in times of anxiety? Your faith will not take away the problems but knowing that God is with you no matter what can make a difference. What is your experience of this?

Musings

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

We are presented today with a God who provides. In seeking an image for God's faithfulness, Isaiah can find none better than that of a nursing mother who will never forget the baby at her breast. But in our darkest moments, God's steadfast love is often extended through the hands of others. Just such a moment is the subject of Katy Perry's powerful song *By the Grace of God*. But here, too, she thanks her sister for 'keeping my head above the water, when the truth was like swallowing sand'. Sometimes God asks us to help someone simply 'put one foot in front of the other'.

The Deep End – Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God:

Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)

I 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God'. It is one of those iconic verses we know so well that it whispers to us again and again. The only danger is it can lose its power and its meaning. We no longer let it shock or surprise us. Seek first the Kingdom of God is Jesus' ongoing whisper to us. This invitation has an enticing incentive: to be free from all worry; to be free from worldly things; to have complete trust in God. The stunning imagery in this passage of the lilies in the field and how adorned and beautiful they are, are meant to entice us away from worrying about the 'stuff' of the world: money, clothes, gadgets, cars. We need the basics of course, but there is a great freedom in putting the 'stuff' second and focusing on God's Kingdom in everything we do: families, friends; looking after our planet; being in solidarity with those who are struggling; standing up for those who experience injustice; loving neighbour and loving God. Today, allow this particular iconic verse to whisper to you again and again; God's alternative reality.

'The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?'

Dorothy Day

Greencastle Parish Pilgrimage Sunday to the Mass Rock in the Townland of Dorville (3rd August): For 3.00pm. There are three penal Mass sites in the parish and in previous years we have made pilgrimage to Formil (2012) and Crouck (2013). Dorville will be a physically challenging experience as well as an opportunity to express our faith. *Please mark this date into your diary and volunteer your services to help prepare for it*
Lough Derg Pilgrimage Season (1st June to 13th August): Check out the Lough Derg website for details.

Pope's Message for Lent 2014 – An Invitation To Evangelical Poverty In Our Time:

Vatican City (Tuesday 4th February) [VIS]

"He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" is the title of the Holy Father's Message for Lent 2014. The title is drawn from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians in which the apostle encourages them to show their generosity by helping their brothers in Jerusalem, who were experiencing difficulties. In the document, dated 26 December, feast of St. Stephen protomartyr, the Pope explores the meaning of St. Paul's invitation to evangelical poverty in our times. The full text of the message is published below:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich'. The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean to us today?

Christ's Grace

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: 'though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ...'. Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things. God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus 'worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin'.

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says 'that by his poverty you might become rich'. This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ's love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptised by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion; he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins. In this way he chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery. It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but by his poverty. Yet Saint Paul is well aware of the 'the unsearchable riches of Christ', that he is 'heir of all things'.

So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is his way of loving us, his way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of the road. What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of his love. Christ's poverty which enriches us is his taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us. Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in his being the Son; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor. When Jesus asks us to take up his 'yoke which is easy', he asks us to be enriched by his 'poverty which is rich' and his 'richness which is poor', to share his filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons and daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the first-born brother.

It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint (L. Bloy); we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.



← Our Witness

We might think that this 'way' of poverty was Jesus' way, whereas we who come after him can save the world with the right kind of human resources. This is not the case. In every time and place God continues to save mankind and the world through the poverty of Christ, who makes himself poor in the sacraments, in his word and in his Church, which is a people of the poor. God's wealth passes not through our wealth, but invariably and exclusively through our personal and communal poverty, enlivened by the Spirit of Christ.

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. Destitution is not the same as poverty: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are three types of destitution: material, moral and spiritual. Material destitution is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work and the opportunity to develop and grow culturally. In response to this destitution, the Church offers her help, her diakonia, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity. In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.

No less a concern is moral destitution, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members – often a young person – is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography! How many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, how many have lost hope! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as breadwinners, and by lack of equal access to education and health care. In such cases, moral destitution can be considered impending suicide. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin, is invariably linked to the spiritual destitution which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love. If we think we don't need God who reaches out to us through Christ, because we believe we can make do on our own, we are headed for a fall. God alone can truly save and free us.

The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness. It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep. In union with Jesus, we can courageously open up new paths of evangelisation and human promotion.

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.

May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are 'as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything', sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy. In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe".

Presentation of the Pope's Message for Lent – *Poverty and Destitution are Different:*

Vatican City (Tuesday 4th February) [VIS]

A press conference was held in the Holy See Press Office this morning to present the Holy Father's Message for Lent 2014. The speakers were Cardinal Robert Sarah, president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum", Msgr. Giampietro Dal Toso and Msgr. Segundo Tejado Munoz, respectively secretary and under-secretary of the same dicastery, and the couple Davide Dotta and Anna Zumbo, missionaries in Haiti.

Before the presentation, the president of Cor Unum announced that he will visit Haiti again in March, in order to open a school financed on behalf of the Pope as a sign of his closeness to the Haitian population, afflicted in 2010 by an earthquake which claimed more than 220,000 victims and affected a total of more than 3 million people. Cardinal Sarah then went on to explain that the text of this year's Message from the Pope for Lent focuses on poverty, and Christ's poverty in particular; a concept very dear to Pope Francis, who since the beginning of his pontificate has attempted to emphasise this dimension of Christian life. "Certainly, the Christian vision of poverty is not the same as that which is commonly held. Too often we consider poverty from a sociological perspective, and it is understood as a lack of material goods. Furthermore, the concept of a "poor Church for the poor" is often evoked as a sort of challenge to the Church, unfortunately also setting a Church of the poor, a good Church ... against a Church of preaching and truth, a Church dedicated to prayer and to the defence of doctrine and morals".

"The first point of reference for a Christian to understand poverty is indeed Christ, who made himself poor so that he could enrich us through his poverty. ... The choice of poverty by Christ suggests to us that there exists a positive dimension of poverty; this resonates throughout the Gospel, which proclaims that the poor are blessed. It is clear that in this dimension of poverty there is an aspect of despoliation and sacrifice. But this is possible because 'Jesus' wealth lies in his being the Son'. We cannot set our bourgeois consciences at rest, the Pope means, by denouncing material lack on the part of others or denouncing poverty as a system. ... The Lenten Message we are presenting here today makes an important distinction between poverty and destitution. It is not poverty, which is an evangelical attitude, but rather destitution that we wish to combat. The Holy Father, in his Message, lists three forms of destitution: material, moral and spiritual. The first 'affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity'. Faced with this form of destitution, the Church offers her service, 'her diakonia, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity'. Moral destitution consists in slavery to vice and sin. This form of destitution is also the cause of economic ruin, and is always linked to spiritual destitution, which occurs when we drift away from God and refuse His love".

"I believe that this broad view of poverty, of destitution, and as a consequence the help that the Church may offer humanity, help us also to arrive at a more complete vision of man and his needs, without falling in the trap of anthropological reductionism which claims to resolve all the problems of the human person simply by resolving the problems of physical and material well-being".

The president of Cor Unum recalled that in the Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium", Pope Francis writes that "Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care". He affirmed that this concept is fundamental "so as not to transform the Church into that non-governmental organisation that Pope Francis spoke about in his first Holy Mass as Pontiff with the Cardinal Fathers. It would be a great pity if our gaze upon those in need failed to acknowledge the spiritual poverty that often lurks in the heart of man and pains him deeply, even though he may be in a condition of material comfort. ... But if we wish to fully grasp Pope Francis' Message, we must not consider it only in terms of its anthropological value. Man is by nature the son of God. This is his wealth! The great flaw of modern culture is that it has imagined mankind capable of being happy without God, thus denying that which is most profound in the human person: that is, his existential bond with the Father Who grants him life. ... Thus, it is a crime to deprive the poor of the presence of God, just as it is a crime to consider man and allow man to live as if God did not exist, to negate his being as a creation and therefore his fundamental belonging and affiliation with God. ... Therefore, work in development cannot be simply that of creating new needs, but rather taking a serious look at what the person truly is".

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2014		
Sacramental Celebrations	Sunday 2 nd March Temperance Sunday	St. Patrick's 2.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation
	Friday 28 th March	St. Patrick's 6.30pm First Confession
	Sunday 1 st June Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's 11.00am First Holy Communion
Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Sunday 11 th May St. Patrick's
		Sunday 24 th August Our Lady of the Wayside
Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish	Tuesday 8 th April • Thursday 29 th May Saturday 19 th July • Monday 8 th September • Wednesday 29 th October	
Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (5 th and 6 th July)	Saturday 5 th July	St. Patrick's Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
	Sunday 6 th July	Our Lady of Wayside St. Mary's, Broughderg Directly after 11.00am Mass
	Saturday 1 st November	St. Patrick's 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2013)
'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion		
Saturday 22 nd March		Third Sunday of Lent 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Friday 28 th March		Third Week of Lent 6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation)
Saturday 12 th April		Palm Sunday 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Saturday 3 rd May		Third Sunday of Easter 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 1 st June		Feast of the Ascension of the Lord 11.00am First Holy Communion
Saturday 22 nd June		Feast of Corpus Christi 6.00pm Vigil Mass