



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Ascension of the Lord [Year C] (2nd June, 2019)
World Communications Day
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the Ascension: "Jesus' Ascension into Heaven thus allows us to know this reality that is so consoling on our journey: in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity has been brought to God. He has opened the way. He is like the leader of a mountain climbing party that is roped together. He has reached the summit and pulls us to himself, leading us to God. If we entrust our lives to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain of being in safe hands." *Pope Francis*

Liturgy Schedule for Ninth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (2nd June, 2019 – 9th June, 2019)

Saturday 1st June St. Justin (martyr)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 2nd June Ascension of the Lord [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass
Monday 3rd June	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 4th June	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 5th June St. Boniface (bishop and martyr)	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.15pm Adoration 7.30pm Mass
Thursday 6th June	St. Patrick's	NO MASS
Friday 7th June	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass: Peter Tracey (Month's Mind)
Saturday 8th June Solemnity of Sacred Heart of Jesus	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 9th June Pentecost Sunday [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass

Weekly Collection: £950

Thank you for your generosity

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the soul of **Pete Tracey** whose Month's Mind takes place this Friday at 8.00pm and also for the happy repose of the soul of **Brendan McLaughlin (46th)** whose anniversary occurs now.

Sick and Housebound: Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care on Friday 7th June at the usual times.

Annual Blessing of the Graves: The ceremonies this year will take place as follows

Saturday 29th June, 6.00pm – St Patrick's Church Cemetery, Greencastle
 Sunday 30th June, 11.00am – Our Lady of the Wayside Cemetery, followed by St. Mary's Cemetery Broughderg

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock: Sunday 2nd June. Bus leaving Gortin at 8.00am.

To book call Pat McSwiggan on (028) 8164 7099

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg: Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd June. Spiritual Director: Bishop Donal McKeown. Please consider participating in the diocesan pilgrimage this year. A bus is being arranged from Derry for those who wish to avail of it. £80 per person (including bus) or £65 for students (ages 16 – 18) including bus. For those making their own way to Lough Derg the cost is £65 / €75.

To book a place on the bus call (028) 7126 4087 or email padraig.delargy@derrydiocese.org

Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood: Parishioners are invited to join me in a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood in St. Patrick's Church on Friday 14th June at 7.30pm. Refreshments, entertainment and a dance afterwards in Greencastle Community Centre. Mass will also be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Carnhill, Derry on Thursday 13th June at 7.30pm. Refreshments and entertainment will follow afterwards in St. Brigid's Centre, Carnhill if you wish to attend. *Fr. Edward Gallagher PP*

Next Week's Readings: Acts 2:1-11 • Psalm 103:1-2, 24, 27-30, 35, R/ cf. v 30 • Romans 8:22-27

John 14:15-16, 16:23-26 • Lectionary 1:601 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil

Saturday 1 st June The family of Chloe Conway	Ascension of the Lord	Sunday 2 nd June The family of Caoileann Maguire
Saturday 8 th June The family of Aimee Fox	Pentecost Sunday	Sunday 9 th June The family of Katie McGurk

Offertory Gift Rota

9.00am Sunday Morning

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented

Prayer Before Examination: Dear Lord, as I take this exam, I thank you that my value is not based on my performance, but on your great love for me. Come into my heart so that we can walk through this time together. Help me, not only with this test, but the many tests of life that are sure to come my way. As I take this exam, bring back to my mind everything I studied and be gracious with what I have overlooked. Help me to remain focussed and calm, confident in the facts and in my ability, and firm in the knowledge that no matter what happens today you are there with me. *Amen*

Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thursday 4th to Tuesday 9th July. £679 pp sharing. Limited number of places left. Cost £679 pp sharing. Anyone interested in travelling, please call the Lourdes office on (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or email derry pilgrim@outlook.com.

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*

Cursillo Derry – 2 Renewal Weekends in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry:

Women's Weekend – 20th to 23rd June • Men's Weekend – 4th to 7th July
 Please note that there are no places left on the women's weekend but women can now book ahead for a place on the October / November weekend. Places are available on the July weekend for men. Men can also book in advance for the October / November weekend. Contact numbers: 07708 066 939 or 07841 100 174

Job Opportunity – Faith Formation Co-Ordinator: Derry Diocesan Trust, in the parishes of Culmore and Steelstown, Derry City. Full Time (37 hours) Fixed Term One Year Contract (with possibility of extension). The employee will facilitate the growth of the faith of parishioners of all ages and form an effective team to help implement the vision and parish goals for faith formation, working in both parishes, which currently have three primary schools and one post-primary school. For application packs please email payroll@derrydiocese.org or call (028) 7126 2302. Completed applications must be returned to Derry Diocesan Trust, Bishop's House, St. Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or by email to be received no later than Wednesday 12th June at 5.00pm. Interviews will be held on the week beginning 1st July. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer*

Institute of Irish Leadership: Bookings now taken for light refreshments after months mine Masses.

Walking group continues every Monday (11 00am to 12 noon). Meet in forest car park.

Enrol now for Feile Gaeltacht Thir Eoghain, first week in July

For further details call (028) 8775 7800 or email saconlon15@hotmail.co.uk

Free First Aid Course Targeting Farm Families (final call): Monday 3rd June at 7.00pm in the Milestone Centre, Carrickmore. Free first aid kit worth £50. Informative final course as funding is complete, open to all family members, so a different person from a family who have already attended can come Monday evening. Let's give it one last effort. Free course hard to find. *To book a place call (028) 8076 1339 or 07789 067 231*

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham

Masters in Catholic School Leadership: Post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. A great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. Next intake: Autumn, 2019. An information session will be held in Saint Mary's College, Derry on Monday 10th June at 4.00pm.

If you are interested in attending or require more info call

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

SMA Retreat Centre, Dromantine, Newry – Short Retreat on Forgiveness: Saturday 22nd June from 9.30am to 5.00pm. the journey from hurt to healing, freedom and peace. Conducted by Fr. Des Corrigan SMA. *Call the Retreat Centre, Dromantine on (028) 3082 1964 or email admin@dromantineconference.com*

Pope Francis' Intention for June (please remember this in your personal prayers)
The Mode of Life of Priests: That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

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

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

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages: 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person
 Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service
To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

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 derryyouthcommunity.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

Parish Liturgy for June, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Roisin Scullion	Monica Coyle	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Lauren O'Neill	Erin Hood	Colleen Brogan
Collectors	Mary Bradley Shea McElhatton	Frank Keenan Michael Clarke	Brian Donnelly Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Siobhan McKenna, Ciara McKenna and Clodagh McKenna		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke

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

The Priory Institute – Study Theology Online:
 Come and join our supportive student community and study theology by distance learning this Spring, register now!
Tel: 00353 1 404 8124 • **Email:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com • **Website:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.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

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

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

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

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. The Ascension of Jesus was an important growth point for the disciples. Jesus would be with them in a different way from now on. Painful though it was, it was necessary for them to let go of his physical presence and adjust to the new reality. Perhaps you have known similar transition points in your own life.
2. Jesus invited the disciples to be witnesses to the good news they had learned. The way we live, speak and relate to others speaks of what we have learned about life. We all are witnesses. How have you been a witness to the goodness of life?
3. In particular, Jesus invited them to be witnesses to the good news of forgiveness. Recall people who have been witnesses to you of forgiveness and reconciliation. What effect did they have on your life? Have you been able to be a witness to the good news of forgiveness in your life?
4. Stay in the city until... Jesus instructs the apostles to wait patiently for the moment of grace. What has been your experience of waiting for a moment of grace? What are the moments of grace that you particularly recall (a friendship, a new opportunity, the birth of a baby, etc)?

The Deep End – O Captain! My Captain! *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

The final scene of the film Dead Poets Society is one of the most moving in modern cinema. Beloved teacher Mr. Keating (played by the late Robin Williams) is saying a final farewell to his students, who have been inspired by his unorthodox teaching methods and his encouragement to make your lives extraordinary. As he leaves the classroom the students, in defiance of their strict headmaster, stand on their desks and salute him with the words, 'O Captain! My Captain!' – referring to a poem he taught them.

Goodbyes are often emotional, particularly if we know we might not see the other person again for a long time, if ever. In films and TV programmes, a farewell scene can be a pivotal moment, or even the climax of the drama. Sometimes, when characters say goodbye to each other, we see a shot of one of them left behind, bereft, gazing into the distance after their loved one. In this context, one line in today's first reading always grabs my attention: 'They were still staring into the sky.' The apostles had just witnessed Jesus being 'lifted up' and taken from their sight. They had lost him once with his death, and now they are losing him a second time, after precious time spent with him following his resurrection.

But the scene in today's first reading for the Ascension is no ordinary goodbye. It is not a dramatic scene written for a film script. In fact, Jesus does not seem to say goodbye at all. His last words are a promise to the disciples: the Holy Spirit will be with them as they set out on their mission. They have not been left alone.

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

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

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

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*

Parents Prayer: Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.

We thank and praise you. Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity.

May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. *Amen*

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.'

Young Person's Prayer: Here I am Lord, standing at the crossroads of my life, the time has come for me to choose the road which leads to you. I hesitate for fear of what lies ahead of me, for I am much afraid of the unknown. Take my hand in yours and walk with me for the road is long and there are no shortcuts. I place myself into your hands. You know the way. You are the Way. *Amen*

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

Pilgrimage to Rome and Tuscany: Tuesday 18th June for nights, ex Dublin (includes

Assisi, Florence and Pisa). Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Donnelly. Guide: Kieran Troy £1,090 per person sharing (single room supplement £280). Includes guided tours and most meals.

Call Paul or Marie at Downe Travel on (028) 4461 3288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Wednesday 5th June – St. Boniface (bishop and martyr) Anglo-Saxon missionary who propagated Christianity in the Frankish Empire during the 8th century. Patron Saint of Germany, the first archbishop of Mainz and the "Apostle of the Germans".

Saturday 8th June – Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Encouraged by mediaeval mystics and promoted by St. Gertrude, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. John Eudes and others, represents a devotion to Jesus in his human nature, in particular referring to the heart as seat of emotions.

Sunday 9th June – St. Columba / Colmcille (abbot and missionary • Second Patron of Ireland) [521-597] Born in Gartan, Co. Donegal and was of royal lineage. Studied under St. Finnian of Molville and St. Finnian of Clonard. He founded monasteries in Derry, Durrow, Iona and possibly Kells. He left Ireland, either for penance or to be a pilgrim for Christ, and Iona became his principle foundation. Columba is noted for his great love for people and for all living creatures.

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

Armchair Exercises: Continue every Monday night in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. *Suitable for all ages*

Accord Marriage Preparation Course: 7th and 8th June • 21st and 22nd June *Visit accord-ni.co.uk to book*

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%

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

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

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.
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