



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (2nd October, 2016)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474

Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis Misericordiae Vultus (paragraph 22)
 "The Church lives within the communion of the saints. In the Eucharist, this communion, which is a gift from God, becomes a spiritual union binding us to the saints and blessed ones whose number is beyond counting." *cf. Rev 7:4*

Liturgy Schedule for the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (2nd October, 2016 – 9th October, 2016)

Saturday 1st October St. Thérèse of Lisieux (virgin and doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 2nd October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass followed by Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 4.30pm Devotions and Benediction.
Monday 3rd October Blessed Columba Marmion	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 4th October St. Francis of Assisi (priest)	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 5th October Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass in Honour of Padre Pio
Thursday 6th October St. Bruno (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass followed by Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Confessions until 11.00am
Friday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass <i>Sick and Housebound will be visited</i>
Saturday 8th October Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass followed by Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Confessions until 11.00am 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Enrolment for P4
Sunday 9th October Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass: Francis McCullagh (5 th Anniversary)

Parish Collection: Thank you for your generosity to last week's parish collection of **£1,055**.
 If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more

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

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the repose of the souls of **John Conway** whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Rota: This takes place in Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg today (Sunday). Please take time to stop by and pray at your convenience throughout the day. Pray in petition for your personal needs or in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received as well as for those of our wider parish community and world. To ensure a continuity of worshippers I invite people from the named townlands to take responsibility and ensure a presence at specific times.
Teach us the lesson of silence, of prayer, of quiet – Lord hear us

11.30am Formil West	2.30pm Teebane • Camranrancy
12.00pm Broughderg • Evishession	3.00pm Crockanboy • Sheskinshule
12.30pm Formil East • Aughascribba	3.30pm Maryville • Sheskinshule View
1.00pm Muninamale • Alworries	4.00pm Crouck • Coneyglan • Glenhull • Aughminacrory
1.30pm Benefreaghan	4.30pm Concluding Prayers and Benediction
2.00pm Cashel • Brackagh • Leaghan	

Station Masses: Please gather at 7.30pm when Confession will be available immediately followed by Mass and Blessing of Water and the Family Home.
Monday 3rd October (Crock) Perry and Mary McCrory (Crock Road)
Friday 7th October (Muninamale) Gerard and Mary McCullagh (202 Greencastle Road)

Mass in Honour of Padre Pio: A mass in honour of St. Pio of Pietrelcina will take place on Wednesday 5th October at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church. The mass will include the Novena Prayer, an individual blessing with the Padre Pio Relic, Blessing of Items and a Petition Box. *There will be Padre Pio books, rosary beads and more for sale in the porch immediately after mass*

Annual Pioneer Retreat: Sunday 4th December in Termonbacca. *Contact any Committee Member to book*

Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning: Saturday 8th October, 10.30am to 3.00pm in Daycare Centre, Culmore Road. (028) 7135 9888

Next Week's Readings: 2 Kings 5: 14-17 • Psalm 97: 1-4, R/ cf. v 2 • 2 Timothy 2: 8-13 • Luke 17: 11-19
 Lectionary I, page 919 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 1 st October The family of Danielle Gumley	Offertory Gift Rota Twenty-Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 2 nd October The family of Aoibhin Coyle
Saturday 8 th October The family of Katelyn Gumley	Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time	Sunday 9 th October The family of Cara Brogan

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented
 We need new volunteers in every aspect of life

Fostering Information Evenings: *Foster carers are very much needed at this time*
 Tuesday 11th October, 7.30pm in the Fir Trees Hotel, Strabane • Thursday 13th October, 7.30pm in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
 Thursday 13th October, 7.30pm in Da Vinci's Hotel, Derry
 If interested in fostering but cannot attend one of the evenings call (028) 7131 4244 or (028) 8283 5264
Please help if you can in providing a loving and secure home to some of the most vulnerable young people in our society

Youth 2000 – Catholic Weekend Retreat: Friday 14th to Sunday 16th October in Lough Derg, Co. Donegal for all young adults between the ages of 16 and 35. This will be an exciting weekend attracting over 150 young people from all over the country. The weekend is being organised by young people for young people. Parental consent is essential for all those under 18. All meals are provided for and accommodation is on site. Don't let money be an obstacle; just bring any donation and a sleeping bag. What to expect? Good craic! Excellent speakers, inspiring talks and workshops, prayer, great music, group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, a Healing Service, games, lots of time to chill out and meet new people.
 Tel: 07598 876 399 • *Newcomers are very welcome* • Website: youth2000.ie

Thornhill Ministries – Upcoming Events: *Suggested Donation: £5*
 Tel: (028) 7135 1233 • Email: thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org • Website: thornhillministries.co.uk

Quiet Moments of Meditation: Every Wednesday at 10.30am, beginning 5th October in Thornhill Convent, Culmore Road, Derry. Using art, music and Scripture, this series of gentle mornings offers a space for stillness and contemplation.

"Let the Landscape Speak": Every Thursday, beginning 13th October and ending 10th November (excluding 3rd November) from 7.30 to 8.45 pm in Thornhill College, Culmore Road, Derry. *Suggested donation: £5*

Derry Catechetical Centre – Hike to Croagh Patrick: Do you fancy a trip to Westport, Co. Mayo combined with a hike of one of Ireland's most famous mountains? The trip will be on Friday 7th October for those aged 16 or over.
 Cost: £30 inc. dinner and bus • Tel: (028) 7126 4087 • Email: ddcc@derrydiocese.org

Strule Arts Centre – Upcoming Events: *For more information call Kevin on 07747 899 249*

Irish Concert: Friday 7th October at 8.00pm with Na Ceannabháin Bhána and singing in Irish and Sean-nós.

Dancing Workshops: Saturday 9th October at 10.00am and 11.15am.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – ASPIRE Employment Programme: A FREE NVQ Level 1 Qualifications in Business Administration, Customer Service and Retail alongside a wider package of support into paid employment is starting. Immediate starts. Tel: Omagh on (028) 8224 6535 or Enniskillen on (028) 6632 6478

Tuition Slots for Elocution Lessons: Caters for all ages to help improve public speaking, presentation and acting techniques - Improve pronunciation and read with ease - Speak confidently, correctly and effectively. *For more info call 07821 583 866*

Children in Crossfire – Ben Nevis Climb: Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd October flying from Derry Airport.
 Tel: (028) 7126 9898 • Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org • Website: childrenincrossfire.org

Aughabrack Community Hall – 25-Card Drive: Friday 7th October, 8.30pm. Adm: £10 inc. supper. *In aid of Parish Building Fund*

Maria's Gospel Hour: Maria Doherty from Bunrana will be presenting One Hour of Gospel Music each week, starting Sunday 2nd October at 4.00pm on Keep it Country TV. *Sky Channel 389, Freesat and Freeview*

The Net – October Edition: Now on sale, with coverage including:
 Omagh Ulster Project Thanksgiving • Urney and Castlefinn Parish Retreats
 Dregish celebrates Fr. Macawille's 40th anniversary • Maghera Lough Derg Retreat • Dungiven Mass Rock ceremony
 Burt Biker Blessing • Moville Mercy Walk and Shrove Oratory feature • Glenullin tribute to Fr. Haan
 Bellaghy Mercy Walk • Desertgney Mass in memory of Sr. Anne • Ardmore Lough Derg Retreat
 Melmount Faith Story • Fatima Rosary Rally • Walk to Knock feature • Cursillo weekend
 City Mercy Pilgrimage • Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome • Irish Wakes of Bygone Days feature
 Divine Providence feature • Children's Catechism Club • Parish Post-its • Diocesan Diary

For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call/text 07809 292 852

Pope Francis' Intentions for October (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal – Journalist: That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.
Evangelisation – World Mission Day: That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

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

Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: If you are interested in volunteering your services please visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or freephone 0800 912 1200

Greencastle Community Association – Proposal to Create Capital Development Plan for Community Centre: We are proposing this plan will have short, medium and long term objectives that benefit all our community. In order to allow us to develop these plans and secure potential funding we are calling on the help of our local community. If there are specific requirements / suggestions in relation to capital developments and or services that you or your group feel should be included within the plan the Community Association want to hear from you. *For info email fionatea@live.co.uk*

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

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The Apostolate prayer card offers us a special opportunity to spend ten minutes each day in pray for a priest.
 The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are: *prayerforpriests.com*
Rosemary Johnson 07810 387 825 - brendan_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk • **Ethna Hill** 07528 249 838 - ethna776@yahoo.com
Siobhan Sweeney 07880 588 041 - siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk • **Eamon Cassidy** 077435 02165 - e_cassidy@hotmail.com

White Oaks and YARD Project Confidential Counselling for Families Affected by Addiction:
 If you are concerned about a loved one's use of alcohol, drugs or gambling please contact us. Confidential counselling, advice and information provided by a qualified addiction counsellor.
 Provided at Columba House, 11 Queen St. Derry • For an appointment or further information call (028) 7126 2407

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme of emigration.
If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office
Email: t.mcmenamain@derrydiocese.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

Family Care Society: We are presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children.
 For more information contact us via the following details (offices open weekdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm)
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

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

Parish Liturgy for October, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Aisling McDermott-Donaghy	Siobhan McKenna	Geraldine Scullion
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Erin Hood	Lauryn Hollywood	Conan Maguire
Collectors	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Peter Tracey Leo Donnelly	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Kathleen Beggs and Mary McCory		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory

Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Events: *To register call Bridie on 07591 047 556, 07847 459 428 or (028) 8164 8706*

Crocheting / Knitting Fridays at 2.00pm. £4 inc. cup of tea. *New and advanced crocheters and knitters welcome*
 Wednesday nights. £25 for 6 weeks. Money must be paid advance. *People needed to run class*

Children's Jiving Friday 23rd September for 5 weeks from 6.00pm to 7.00pm for P3 to P10.
 £4 per child and £10 for family of 3. *To reserve a place call Donna on 07845 391 778*

ACCORD – Marriage Preparation Courses: Each year over 20,000 people marry in the Catholic Church in Ireland. Despite the recession, numbers getting married have only fallen slightly in recent years. ACCORD Omagh provides Marriage Preparation Courses for couples marrying in the Catholic Church. Feedback from participants is very positive. Courses take place at the address below and can be booked via the following information.
Address: Accord Suite, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre • **Website:** accord.ie **Tel:** (028) 8224 2439
Dates (Fridays and Saturdays): 7th and 8th October - 4th and 5th November

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

Family Care Society – Interested in Adoption? We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.
Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • **Julie or Brian (Derry Office):** (028) 7136 8592
Email: email@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

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/or 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 entrances*

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The Apostolate offers us a special opportunity to pray for a priest each day. The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are as follows.
 Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • otmail_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk
 Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk
 Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com
 Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com *prayerforpriests.com*

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership: In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.
For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

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 Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com
 Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com *prayerforpriests.com*

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 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding
 Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass

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For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

The Good Ship Lollipop – Appeal For Child Refugees: The Belfast children's charity Tuesday's Child is working with catholic missionaries in Sicily to help child refugees rescued in the Mediterranean. Funds will go towards providing essential aid items and care for children, young people and their families and helping high risk children who come in unaccompanied on the boats. *Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid*
Website: tuesdayschild.ie • **Email:** info@tuesdayschild.ie • **Tel:** (028) 9064 6104 / 07545 452 362
Donation by Texting: TUES75 and amount to 70070 (e.g.TUES75 £5)

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

Craft Training Ltd: A leading training organisation that provides 16-18 year olds with the opportunity to fulfil their potential in a vocational area, through the Training for Success programme. Gain the skills you need to kick start your career free of charge and earn £40 per week, range of qualifications include ICT, Hairdressing, Joinery, Painting and Decorating, Hospitality and Catering, Retail and much more.
Tel: (028) 8225 9377 • **Office:** Kelvin Avenue, Omagh • **Email:** joincraft@hotmail.co.uk

2015 Parish Statistics			
Baptisms 6 Boys 8 Girls	Confirmations 8 Boys 8 Girls	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation 10 Boys 9 Girls	Marriages 10 within parish 5 outside parish
Station Masses in October 7	Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13th Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE Celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry on Thursday 17 th September in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle		
Funerals 13	Farewell Concert and Presentation Night for Fr. Eugene Hasson Former Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE and now Parish Priest of the Parishes of Lavey and Greenlough took place on Friday 13 th November in GREENCASTLE Community Centre		

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

The Deep End *Sally McEllistrim World Missions Ireland • pr@wmi.ie)*
 I used to be a terrible worrier. You know the type. Somebody who actually worries about not worrying! I have improved hugely however. It would be hard not to as time, experience and faith have stood me well. Virtually all of the things I have ever worried about have never become a reality and for this I am grateful.
 Generally, I have always liked to believe I am quite rational, but the head and the heart can sometimes be at odds with one another, so when I was in my 'worry maze' the reasoning side of me always knew that my worries, in the main, were idle, but a tiny, annoying voice would say 'maybe this time'. That's where wonderful friends come in. I am blessed to have lots of truly genuine people in my life who 'tell it as it is'.
 A lovely friend of mine once berated me for 'worry worming'. He was a man of faith, and during a telling off from him (a necessary one!) he said, 'For God's sake Sally, would you listen to yourself; You talk a lot about your faith but you are certainly not putting it into action. Absence of faith is fear and absence of fear is faith.' Take a minute to process this. Good isn't it? That simple but hugely profound sentence has come to my rescue time and again and I would go so far as to say that it is the reason I don't really worry any more.
 Because I do have the incredible gift that faith is, and, as in Luke, it has increased my joy, my serenity and my peace. Every prayer is an act of faith in God and faith that whatever happens in this life, God and I will deal with it together. To me, faith and gratitude are the best insurance policies against getting trapped in the insidious net of worry.
Don't worry ... have FAITH! And wonderful friends!

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 17: 5-10: *John Byrne OSA (john@ortagh.ie)*

1. Faith can move mountains. Well, it can certainly get us moving. Recall a time when you were full of self-doubt, scepticism about a project, or lacking trust in God. What was that like? Contrast this with times when you believed in yourself, or in the value of a project you had undertaken, or when your faith and trust in God was strong. What kind of faith have you found that enriched your life?
2. Faith is like a mustard seed: small; and sometimes we may be tempted to wait till our faith grows. Part of the message in the gospel is to use the faith we have, even though it may be small. That is how we grow in belief in ourselves and in God's presence in our lives. Does your experience back up this?
3. It is nice when what we do is recognised and acknowledged, but the desire for recognition leaves us vulnerable. It is not always forthcoming. It can be helpful if our main motivation in doing something is the value of the action itself. Have you experienced this?
4. Love is a free gift. What is given lovingly is not given because of a claim. What is your experience of the freedom of love given and received?

Musings

Fr. Tom Clancy (Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, Cork)

Mere Servants

Anecdotally, it is recounted that the Kerry man when asked at Sleah Head for travel directions to Dublin, replied that if he were going, he would not begin from here at all. To tune into this Sunday's Gospel, it is better to begin four verses before the given beginning. The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith because of the intimidating challenge he had put to them. His instruction to forgive the repentant one seven times a day left them bewildered. Their request for more faith was very apposite. Forgiveness and faith are intertwining relationships.

Faith is friendship with God. Sown in a receptive heart, it is nurtured through contact, experience, expression and tenderness. Sometimes damaged by failure, faith is restored and often enriched through genuine forgiveness. Forgiveness is the welcoming acceptance of the offending one back into a vibrant heart. It is a pure gift and can never be earned. To trade it, is to destroy it. It happens only between those who love.

No wonder the disciples were gasping for an increase in such forgiving friendship and challenged by Jesus to protect it by fidelity. Described as mere servants, perhaps, but we are called to be the faithful custodians of a vibrant treasure.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 2nd October – *The Guardian Angels* This feast expresses God's personal care for each individual and our belief that God assigns everyone an angel to guard us.
[NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

Monday 3rd October – *Blessed Columba Marmion [1858-1953]* An Irish monk, and the third abbot of Maredsous Abbey. Beatified by Pope John Paul II on 3rd September, 2000, Marmion was one of the most popular and influential Catholic writers of the 20th century. His books are considered spiritual classics.

Tuesday 4th October – *St. Francis of Assisi (priest) [1181/1182-1282]* Abandoned all things for the love of Christ. Founded the Friars Minor and with St. Clare, the Poor Clares. For the last two years of his life he suffered the stigmata. Patron Saint of ecologists.

Thursday 6th October – *St. Bruno (priest) [1033-1660]* Born in Cologne where he became professor of theology in Rheims university and later its head. But his desire was to found a monastery where poverty, manual work, silence and worship were the basics. At La Grande Chartreuse he founded the Carthusians and later died there.

Friday 7th October – *Our Lady of the Rosary* Today's celebration urges all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary who was in a special manner associated with the incarnation, passion and glorious resurrection of the Son of God.
Divine Office

Sunday 9th October – *St. Denis and Companions* Beheaded and thrown into the Seine in 258, later buried at Montmartre. Denis, the first Bishop of Paris, one of the Patron Saints of France.
[NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]