

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

Saint Patrick's Church Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Greencastle Broughderg

The First Sunday of Advent. 2nd December, 2007

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

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Mass and Confession Schedule for the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time 3rd December – 9th December, 2007

Monday 3 rd December Saint Francis Xavier, priest	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Tuesday 4 th December First Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Wednesday 5 th December First Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Thursday 6 th December Saint Nicholas, bishop	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass.
Friday 7 th December	Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg	8.00pm Vigil Mass for the Feast
Saturday 8 th December Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the BVM - <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	Saint Patrick's	11.00am Mass
	Saint Patrick's	6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 9 th December The Second Sunday of Advent	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg	9:00am Mass 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

Confession Schedule

Saturday 8 th December	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 9 th December	Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to this week's collection which amounted to **£1,200.**

Remembering Our Dead: Please remember in your prayers **Kellie McKenna**, whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Sick and housebound will be attended Monday 3rd December, beginning after 10:00am Mass. Please let them know if you live close-by. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10 / Ps.71, Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12

Gift Voucher For Diocesan Pilgrimage To Lourdes 2008: 150th Anniversary of Apparitions. Gift vouchers are available for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 16th-21st July, 2008 from the Pilgrimage Office, 164, Bishop Street, Derry. Tel: (028) 7126 0293 at the following times; Tuesday & Thursday 11.00am to 2.00pm, Saturday 11.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Pilgrimage To Lourdes 2008 – Youth Team: Places are available for those aged 14 or 15 years old in July who would like to be members of the Youth Team. Places are available for those aged 17 and 18 in July who would like to be members of the "Leaders-in-Training Group" (LIT). Application forms available from the Pilgrimage Office Tel: (028) 7126 0293. Fare £449 stg.

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association: Council Meeting Thursday 6th December at 7.30pm in Saint Patrick's Greencastle.

Advent Reflection: Do you feel like taking a break from the Christmas rush to renew your spiritual life? Then join us for 15-20 minutes in the chapel after 10:00am on Tuesday 4th Dec. for the first of our Advent Reflections.

Youth 2000: Christmas Youth Retreat. 14th-16th December, St.Paul's Secondary School, Greenhills, Dublin 12 (contact Mary 07851203181). Donation only, bring a sleeping bag.

Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry. Monthly Devotions in honour of Our Lady: Tuesday 4th December, starting with Confessions at 7.30pm followed by Rosary & Mass, finishing around 10.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

The **Northwest Bereaved by Suicide Support Group** are organising a Memory Tree of Lights event on Sunday 9th December, 2007 at 5.30pm at the Foyle Search & Rescue Headquarters, Victoria Road, L'Derry. The purpose of the event is to remember loved ones lost to suicide and to support family and friends during the holiday season, which can be an especially difficult time. A simultaneous event is being held in Newfoundland, Canada with a bereavement group who has developed links with the Northwest Group.

Women In Touch: The final date for names for the Christmas Party night is Sunday 2nd December. See notices in Shop, Hairlines or the Post Office.

This week's Calendar:

Monday: St. Francis Xavier, priest. One of the first seven Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and Japan. He was killed as he tried to enter China. A patron of the Missions.

Thursday: Saint Nicholas, a fourth century bishop of Myra (in modern Turkey) whose legendary kindness inspired the Santa Claus tradition.

Friday: St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church. Born in 340, he converted to Christianity and was made bishop of Milan in 274 by popular acclaim. A brilliant teacher and preacher of the faith, he influenced Augustine who he received into the Church. He died in 397, Patron of Milan, bee-keepers and domestic animals.

Saturday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this holy day of obligation we celebrate Mary, mother of Jesus. She was preserved free from sin from the first moment of her existence in the womb 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God.'

Welcome My Heart's Peace-Bringer. "I will say, Peace be within you!" (Psalm 122:8).

Not long ago someone at a retreat asked me, "How do you maintain peace in your life?" my immediate response was twofold: "I try to be faithful to daily meditation. This keeps me closely connected to my Inner Source of encouragement and guidance. I also go for a walk each day which helps me relieve any inner and outer stress I might have."

I wish I had also shared a more foundational belief of mine that underlies all I am and do. I need always to lean on the centre of my life and not pretend to live by my efforts alone. When I remember God is at the core of who I am, then my days unfold peacefully. In spite of troubles, everything gradually falls into place.

Today we begin Advent, a time to refocus on Jesus, the Prince of Peace. This liturgical season encourages us to welcome our Peace-Bringer into our hearts and to share this peace with each one entering our life. How will you do so this Advent? What change of heart, of attitude or approach to life will you choose in order to be in harmony with God, with others, with yourself and without world? *Sr. Joyce Rupp O.S.M.*

The Deep End: Microscope, telescope, horoscope.

In his book *God is not Great* Christopher Hitchens with near messianic fervour puts mankind on notice; keep to the straight and narrow of scientific exactitude when accepting anything as fact. Otherwise, God forbid (oops, sorry!), you might end up thinking that there is more to life than science. And that, most certainly, would damage your health.

Really? Just what does science have to offer, when it comes to understanding life? I don't mean the nature of living things or inanimate objects. I mean the why of it all. But then, why is not a scientific question. Does that mean we shouldn't ask it, or if we do that we shouldn't expect a worthwhile answer? I hope not.

So let's ask it: why is there anything at all? Science, where art thou? Okay, let's change tack/ how about the how question? How will the universe end? Here science can indicate a distant, if frightening feasible scenario; a frozen lifeless waste. Give me instead the follow-up to what today's gospel (Mt. 24:29-44) describes. After the Second Coming, the New Heaven and New Earth. Even were it sheer fantasy, let me die aglow with its promise rather than be numbed lifeless by the eternal emptiness of scientific scenarios. tomcee@eircom.net

Greencastle Annual Bazaar: This Sunday 8:30pm -10:30pm in the Community Centre.

Lotto Numbers: 8, 10, 11, 14 (3 winners with 3 numbers – £20 each) **Next Jackpot:** £5900

Parish News Sheet: Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the **Wednesday evening** prior to publication. **Please take news sheet home with you after Mass.**