



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderr
First Sunday of Advent [Year C] (2nd December, 2012)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474 **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Liturgy Schedule for the First Week of Adveny [Year C] (3 rd December, 2012 – 9 th December, 2012)			
Saturday Evening (1 st December) <i>Do This In Memory</i>	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions	
		6:00pm Mass	
Sunday 2 nd December	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)	
First Sunday of Advent [Year C]	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am Confessions	
		11.00am Mass: Kathleen & James Duffy (Anniversaries)	
Monday 3 rd December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
St. Francis Xavier {priest}		<i>Sick and housebound will be visited</i>	
Tuesday 4 th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
St. John Damascene (priest)			
Wednesday 5 th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
First Week of Advent			
Thursday 6 th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
St. Nicholas (bishop)			
Friday Mornmg (7 th December)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
St. Ambrose (bishop and doctor of the Church)			
Friday Evening (7 th December)	Our Lady of the Wayside	7.30pm Confessions	
Vigil Mass for Feast Day		8.00pm Mass	
Saturday Morning (8 th December)	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass	
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
Saturday Evening (8 th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions	
<i>Do This In Memory</i>		6:00pm Mass	
Sunday 9 th December	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)	
Second Sunday of Advent [Year C]	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am Confessions	
Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to £1,005 . <i>Please support your community by using your envelope, even if you must attend Mass outside your parish.</i> <i>Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.</i> Please remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more to your parish.			
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Annie Tracey whose Requiem took place last Wednesday, we extend to her family our deepest sympathy and prayerful support in their bereavement, also Fr. Joseph Doherty (P.Em Badoney Upper and formerly curate in Greencastle from 1957 to 1965) . He was the second most senior priest of the diocese at the time of his death – his requiem took place in Ballybrack Moville on Thursday. We also pray for Frank Tracey, Kelly McKenna and James and Kathleen Duffy whose anniversaries occur at this time.			
Sick and housebound: These will be attended Monday 3rd December . Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.			
Prayer Guides from Omagh: Will host reflections on the Gospels to be used at Sunday masses, in preparation for Christmas after 8.00pm mass in Greencastle on Friday 14 th and 21 st December. Please join us and together we will enhance our personal awareness of the coming of Jesus. <i>This is one way in which we can mark the 'Year of Faith'</i>			
Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013: With Monsignor Danny Monaghan and Maria Bradley. For info call (028) 8164 8357. <i>Dates TBA</i>			
Annual Bazaar: Sunday 9 th December in Greencastle Community Centre from 4.30pm.			
Greencastle Youth Club Rota	Monday 3 rd December	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Anne Warnock
	Tuesday 4 th December	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Claire Mulholland
		8.00pm – 9.00pm	Jacinta McElhatton
Scor na Og: Congratulations to Ciara Fox on winning the solo singing and the ballet group of Carla Mc Cann, Einear Bradley, Brona Connelly, Aileen Touhey, Ciara Fox.			
Next Sundays Readings: Baruch 5: 1-9; Psalm 125; Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6; (Lectionary I, page 30) (Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 2)			
Lotto Results: D – H – G – L – R (12 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) Next Jackpot: £2,300			

The Advent Candles		
Candles are lit to symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ. On the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent a purple candle is lit (each Sunday the candle from the previous Sunday is re-lit) the colour purple as used during the period of Lent, reminds us to prepare a welcome for Jesus during the Advent season. On the third Sunday of Advent a pink candle is lit. Pink is the colour of joy to remind us that we should be ready to welcome Christ at Christmas. On Christmas Eve the while candle is lit to celebrate the Birth of Christ – the Light of the World		
Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. There are two stages in Advent: the first runs until 16 December, the second which, is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts runs from 17 th December until 24 th December.		
The Advent Wreath		
Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes especially in Germanic countries and in North America – we do so in Church each year. The Advent wreath with its progressive lighting of four candles, each Sunday until Christmas is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of Justice (cf Mal 3:20; Luke 1:18).		
6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
<u>Saturday 1st December</u> The family of Aiden Morris	First Sunday of Advent [Year C]	<u>Sunday 2nd December</u> The family of Eoin McCullagh
<u>Saturday 8th December</u> The family of Ciaran Morris	Second Sunday of Advent [Year C]	<u>Sunday 9th December</u> The family of Shea McElhatton
<u>Saturday 15th December*</u> The family of Kerrie McLaughlin	Third Sunday of Advent [Year C]	<u>Sunday 16th December</u> The family of Sorch-Rose Meenan
<u>Saturday 22nd December</u> The family of Claire O'Brien	Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C]	<u>Sunday 23rd December</u> The family of Eunan Morris
* Do This In Memory Week 4		
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.		
Follow the Star IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail (Facilitated by The YARD Project): This year the Celtic Prayer Garden at the IOSAS Centre, Derryvane, Muff will be transformed to provide a truly memorable Christmas experience for all the family. A guided trail under starlight around the Christmas themed houses tells the greatest story ever told – the birth of Jesus. This interactive event will also include crafts for kids and storytelling on some of our favourite Christian traditions. The event (lasting about 1 hour) runs for 3 weekends from Friday 30 th November. 00353 7493 84866 or Facebook 'IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail'		
Dean Maguirc College presents Scrooge: Tuesday 4 th , Wednesday 5 th , Thursday 6 th December at 7.30pm. <i>Tickets available from school office. Adults ~ £8 Under 16 ~ £5</i>		
Viatores Christi Overseas Volunteering: Seeking skilled people in good health who are interested in working as lay missionaries with Irish missionary priests, brothers and sisters in their work in areas of need overseas Information and Recruitment Sessions. Belfast on Monday 10 th December at 7.30pm in St John's Parish Hall, 470 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6EN - Derry on Sunday 16 th December at 2.00pm in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164, Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ. <i>For more details contact colette@viatoreschristi.com Tel. 00353 1868 9986. viatoreschristi.com</i>		
Camowen Farmers Group Meeting: Monday 3 rd December in Milestone Centre Carrickmore at 8.00pm. Speaker: Lawrence Knox Topic: Health and safety on farms and how to prepare for H&E inspections.		
Candle-light Rosary Procession: Sunday 9 th December, assembling in Guildhall Square at 4.30pm, and proceed through the streets behind the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for Ireland. The Rosary will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. You are invited to come along and carry a 'Light for Life' and pray for the protection of Ireland's unborn children. Bring your family and friends and receive many blessings and graces. <i>Candles will be supplied. For further information, contact Precious Life on (028) 9027 8484</i>		
Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July): The cost is £585. An application form is available from Rosemary at The Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ – (028) 7136 2475 (Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1.30pm). <i>Special forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available</i>		
Trócaire Global Gifts: Last Christmas Trócaire Global Gifts helped change lives, please be generous again this year and pick up a leaflet from the church porch.		
Dalradian Gold – Public Meeting: Tuesday 4 th December at 8.00pm in the OwenKillew Community Centre, Gortin. To update the public on the 2012 Drilling programme and to share plans for 2013.		
BADA An Bruach Derg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:		
Every Friday Night at 8.30pm	Card playing with light supper served	
Monday 3rd December at 7.30pm	Public meeting regarding progress of Davagh Forest Trails. <i>All welcome, particularly anyone interested in developing a product or accommodation</i>	

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)
General – *Migrants*: That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities.
Missionary – *Christ, the Light for all Humanity*: That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Gratitude has been expressed for your support of the clothes bank located in the car park at St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. *Their clothes shop is in Castle Street, Omagh.*
Their ministry is important approaching Christmas

Savita Tragedy: Mother and Baby have an Equal Right to Life. - Monsignor Martin
Monsignor Eamon Martin, Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Derry has drawn attention to the equal right to life of a mother and her unborn child.
Monsignor Martin said that over the past week many people had been asking him to explain the Church's position following the death of Mrs Savita Halappanavar and her unborn child in University Hospital Galway. He said that Savita's death was a devastating personal tragedy for her husband and family and their anguish and sorrow have struck a chord with the people of Ireland. On behalf of the people and priests of the Diocese of Derry, Monsignor Martin expressed his sympathy to the family of Mrs Halappanavar and to all those affected by these tragic events. He said that the tragedy had caught the attention of the nation and that many people had been asking searching ethical questions in an attempt to fully understand the issues involved.
Monsignor Martin went on to echo the words of the Irish Bishops earlier this week in reaffirming some aspects of Catholic moral teaching.
'The Catholic Church has never taught that the life of a child in the womb should be preferred to that of a mother. By virtue of their common humanity a mother and her unborn baby share an equal right to life. Where a seriously ill pregnant woman needs medical treatment which may put the life of her baby at risk, such treatments are ethically permissible provided every effort has been made to save the life of both the mother and her baby. Whereas abortion is the direct and intentional destruction of an unborn baby and is gravely immoral in all circumstances, this is different from medical treatments which do not directly and intentionally seek to end the life of the unborn baby. Current law and medical guidelines in Ireland allow nurses and doctors in Irish hospitals to apply this vital distinction in practice while upholding the equal right to life of both a mother and her unborn baby. Some would claim that the unborn baby is less human or less deserving of life. Advances in genetics and technology make it clear that at fertilisation a new, unique and genetically complete human being comes into existence. From that moment onwards each of us did not grow and develop *into* a human being, but grew and developed as a human being.'
Monsignor Martin added that the Catholic Church's is not the only voice which advocates the importance of respecting all human life. He said:
'With many other religious and ethical traditions we believe in upholding the equal and inalienable right to life of a mother and her unborn child in our laws and medical practice. This helps to ensure that women and babies receive the highest standard of care and protection during pregnancy. Indeed, international statistics confirm that Ireland, without abortion, remains one of the safest countries in the world in which to be pregnant and to give birth. This is a position that should continue to be cherished and strengthened in the interests of mothers and unborn children in Ireland

Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time
God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura. Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help.
Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time.
Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop.
We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.
Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.
Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)

Parish Liturgy for December, 2012	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Mary Clarke	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Caoileann Conway	Emma Clarke	Elaine Coyle
Collectors	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Peter Tracey Colum Keenan	Jimmy Donnelly
Altar Society	Mary Bradley Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory

New choir members will always be welcome, contact Sinead

Altar Servers Needed: Please notice the important role of altar servers in the prayer life of our faithful community, we currently need new volunteers to strengthen the teams already serving so if you will commit, please do so as soon as possible.

Now the Scouts: The following statement about perpetrators of the crimes of sexual abuse may sound familiar to Catholics: "That was a different time.... That was a time when people thought— the medical community thought— there was a potential for rehabilitation." This is not a bishop apologising for a priest.
It is Wayne Perry, the president of the Boy Scouts of America, apologising after the release of a cache of documents detailing accusations of abuse of "many thousands of victims," according to The New York Times, allegedly committed by 1,247 scout leaders between 1965 and 1985. The parallels between the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts are striking. Both of these institutions were seen as moral institutions charged with caring for children; both were organised in clear-cut hierarchies; and both instinctively tried to prevent the documents from being released. The B.S.A. called these records the "perversion files."
The terrible revelations about the scouts, however, do not let the Catholic Church off the hook. Nor do they let Penn State off the hook. Child abuse occurs in a variety of settings: families, schools, social service agencies—indeed any setting that includes children. Even organisations that do not deal directly with children are prone to cover-ups: the British Broadcasting Company is embroiled in a case of ignoring the abuse of hundreds of young girls by a popular television host. The scope of these crimes points to the need for greater vigilance, continued transparency and further education about sexual abuse. The Catholic Church has made great strides in the prevention of abuse, but much work remains. In the future, the "perversion files" of every organisation should be empty.
America Magazine (12th November, 2012)

Family Care Society – Adoption: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged under 8 and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?
For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry) email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net

Barnardo's Main Office Line for the Child Bereavement Service in Belfast Number Change:
Please note that this number is no longer (028) 9069 4000 anymore and is now (028) 9066 8333.

Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider *The Mystery of Work*: This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux)
Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon. For 5 or more copies at discounted prices, see our website. logosinstitute.org

Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half-Marathon: Sunday 17th February, £100 deposit secures your place.
For more information please contact events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898
Thank you for your time on this it is greatly appreciated

Our Parish cemeteries are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children: - Use of photography and video

The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.
- Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

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

London Marathon (Sunday 21st April): Why not join team Foyle Hospice for a thrill of a lifetime running/walking one of the world's most exciting marathons, the Virgin London Marathon which takes place Sunday 21st April? This run takes in all the major sites and attractions in London with thousands of spectators all along the course. Places in this event will be difficult to get, but Foyle Hospice has some guaranteed entries for the marathon. For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager. noel@foylehospice.com, (028) 7135 9888.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com

11th and 12th January 8th and 9th February 8th and 9th March
12th and 13th April 10th and 11th May 7th and 8th 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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Monday 3rd December – St. Francis Xavier (priest) [1506-1552]** One of the first 7 Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and Japan. Was killed as he tried to enter China. A Patron Saint of the Missions.
- Tuesday 4th December – St. John Damascene (priest) [675-749]** A Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defence of icons in the iconoclastic controversy.
- Thursday 6th December – St. Nicholas (bishop)** 4th century bishop of Myra (in modern Turkey) whose legendary kindness inspired the Santa Claus tradition. He is Patron Saint of Russia, sailors, pawnbrokers and children.
- Friday 7th December – St. Ambrose (bishop and doctor of the Church) [340-397]** Converted to Christianity and was made bishop of Milan in 274 by popular acclaim. A brilliant teacher and preacher of the faith, he influenced Augustine who he received into the Church. Patron Saint of Milan, beekeepers and domestic animals.
- Saturday 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
On this holy day of obligation we celebrate Mary, mother of Jesus. She was preserved free from sin from the first moment of her existence in the womb 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God'.
- Sunday 9th December – St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin [1474-1548]** Saw the vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December of 1531. [Not celebrated this year]

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seemed that your world was collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc.? When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage to remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.
2. Jesus himself is the model in this Gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of 'waiting in joyful hope'. What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) made to you in facing difficult situations?
3. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, e.g. through love, beauty, nature, etc.?

Questions people ask:

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

- Q. I am puzzled that the Gospel at the start of Advent is about the end of the world. What has this to do with preparation for Christmas?
- A. Advent is a season preparing for the coming of Christ. The first focus of Advent is on the future coming of Christ, that is, at the end of each person's life. The Church's liturgical year begins by reminding us where the journey of life will finish. Our lives began with God our Creator and will return to God. It's like the line of a circle which ends precisely where it began. As Advent advances the liturgy taps into the spirituality of the Jewish people awaiting the Messiah. The last week before Christmas brings us to the people who would be associated with the birth of Jesus.

The Deep End – What Can This Mean?

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

We have so many titles for Mary – Blessed Mother, Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Queen of Heaven, Star of the Sea... the list goes on, and each one says something about who Mary is to us.

Today we go back to Mary's roots – to that first day when she said 'yes' to God's call. It can be easy to forget that the Mother for whose intercession we often ask, is the same young woman who was 'deeply disturbed' by the words of the angel Gabriel. Her first response was fear and confusion – What can this mean? How can this come about?

Like the prophets before her, Mary doubted her ability to carry out the task God was setting before her. Yet she showed the greatest leap of faith with her 'yes' to God's plan. 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me' is her trusting response.

How can we say 'yes' to God today? Where can we make space in our lives for God to make his home in us? Nothing is impossible to God. What wonders he can work if we just say yes!