



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
First Sunday of Advent [Year C] (2nd December, 2018)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474

Pope Francis speaks to Ireland *Croke Park [Saturday 25th August]*
 "The poet says that "to err is human, to forgive divine". And that is true: forgiveness is a special gift from God that heals our brokenness and draws us closer to one another and to him. Small and simple acts of forgiveness, renewed each day, are the foundation upon which a solid Christian family life is built. They force us to overcome our pride, our aloofness and embarrassment, and to make peace."

Liturgy Schedule for First Week of Advent [Year C] (2nd December – 9th December)

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| Saturday 1st December First Sunday of Advent | St. Patrick's | 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Packie Vincent Morris (2 nd Anniversary) |
| Sunday 2nd December | St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside | 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass |
| <i>Please note that the will be NO MASS on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th December</i> | | |
| Wednesday 5th December | St. Patrick's | 12 noon – 7.15pm Adoration 7.30pm Mass |
| Thursday 6th December St. Nicholas (bishop) | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass followed by Confessions |
| Friday 7th December Immaculate Conception | St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside | 10.00am Mass 8.00pm Vigil Mass of Holy Day |
| Saturday 8th December Second Sunday of Advent | St. Patrick's | 11.00am Mass of Holy Day 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Gerald McGurk (4 th Anniversary) |
| Sunday 9th December | St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside | 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass |

COLLECTIONS **Weekly:** £1,400 • **Retired Priests:** £620 *Thank you for your generosity*

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Jacinta Haughey (nee McCullagh) of Dublin (formerly Sheskinshule)** who was buried this week and for the souls of **Packie Vincent Morris (2nd), Michael McCullagh (13th) and Kellie McKenna (13th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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

Knock Shrine – All-Night Vigil: Friday 7th and Saturday 8th December. Confessions from 10.00pm. Vigil starts at 12 midnight, with Rosary, Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour with Fr. Brendan Walsh SCA. Concelebrated Mass at 4.00am. Chief Celebrant His Excellency Archbishop Okolo, Papal Nuncio. *knockshrine.ie*

Children in Crossfire – Advent Boxes: Now available at the back of the church. Within you will read a story of hope from a young girl called Tenaye, found living on a graveyard in Ethiopia and her life transformed from the help of Children in Crossfire. *Please take a box home over Christmas and return it the chapel in January*

Pilgrimage to Knock in Celebration of Feast of the Immaculate Conception: All-Night Vigil Friday 7th and Saturday 8th December. Pick up at Creggan crossroads or recycling plant. Returning on Saturday 8th December at approximately 9.30am. Fare £15. Meal (optional) €15. £10 deposit required to secure seat. *Call Una on 07743 575 969 or Mona on (028) 8673 7954*

The Priests – Christmas Concert: Sunday 30th December at 7.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh. Tickets: £25, available from Drumragh Parish Office, 48 Brook St., Omagh, (028) 8224 2092 (office hours), or Top News, George St, Omagh, (028) 8224 0084. Purchase early to avoid disappointment. *Perfect as a Christmas gift*

Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje – Special Offer: Tuesday 3rd September to Tuesday 10th September. Cost includes half board and all taxes and insurance is £539 if paid by Sunday 16th December (£639 after this date). *To book call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 / 07768 395 038*

Next Week's Readings: Baruch 5:1-9 • Psalm 125, R/ v 1 • Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
 Luke 3:1-6 • Lectionary 1:30 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

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| 6.00pm Saturday Vigil | Offertory Gift Rota | 9.00am Sunday Morning |
| Saturday 1 st December The family of Aimee Fox | First Sunday of Advent | Sunday 2 nd December The family of Rian Slane |
| Saturday 8 th December The family of Chloe Conway | Second Sunday of Advent | Sunday 9 th December The family of Michael McAleer |
| If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented | | |

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October): 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing. Book 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*

Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thursday 4th to Tuesday 9th July. The Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry is now taking enquiries and initial expressions of interest from anyone who might intend to participate in it. Christmas vouchers that you can give as a gift to someone wishing to participate in the pilgrimage can now be ordered. The opening hours of the Pilgrimage Office are Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Immaculate Conception Rosary: Saturday 8th December at 7.30pm at Crockanboy Hill, Greencastle.
 All welcome • Wrap up warm • Bring a torch
"Abandon yourself in the hands of Mary. She will take care of you" St. Padre Pio

Parish Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday 6th December at 7.30pm in the Parochial House

Derry Diocesan Trust – Part-Time Financial and Administrative Secretary Required: For Long Tower Parish (St. Columba's), Derry. 25 hours per week, Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.00pm. For full details visit derrydiocese.org. For application pack email office@derrydiocese.org or call (028) 7126 2302. Completed applications must be returned to Bishop's House, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email no later than 5.00pm on Monday 10th December. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer*

Diocesan Youth Ministry Team – Advent Youth Retreat: Saturday 8th December in the Waterside Parish Centre, Chapel Road, Derry, 10.30am - 4.00pm. Open to all young people aged 16-18 years of age. Those completing the Pope John Paul II Award are particularly welcome. A range of fun and faith activities planned. Email padraig.delargy@derrydiocese.org or call +44 28 7126 4087 to book or make further enquiries. Parental consent required. Consent Forms available from your Parish Priest; and by visitinherrydiocese.org. *Lunch will be provided*

Priory Institute – Online Advent Retreat: Starts Sunday 2nd December. Taking the format of Lectio Divina, it will be facilitated by some Irish Dominican brothers and their collaborators. Cost: €40. For more info or register online visit prioryinstitute.com. Info can also be gotten by emailing enquiries@prioryinstitute.com or calling +353 (0)1 4048 124

Rouskey Community Centre – Christmas Shopping Trip: *Call Bridie on 07591 047 556*
 Rouskey CDA organising bus trip to Belfast Castle Craft Fair and then onwards to Belfast Shopping or St. George Market on Sunday 9th December. Leaving Gortin at 10.00am, onwards to Rouskey 10.10am, Greencastle 10.20am and Creggan 10.30am. *£10 deposit will secure seat*

First Aid Awareness Training: For parents, grandparents and carers in Omagh. Covering CPR, recovery position, choking, febrile seizures and much more. 2 hours training at £20 per person, includes refreshments and paediatric first aid book. Group bookings available for 4 up. *Call Ann on 07866 410 105 or email ann@acresconsultancy.com*

Greencastle Community Association – Bazaar: Sunday 2nd December commencing 4.30pm.
Many fantastic prizes including a 55" Smart TV

The Priests – Twelve Days of Christmas Concert
 Thursday 3rd January in the Guildhall, Derry • Tickets available at the Millennium Forum, (028) 7126 4455

Camowen Farmers Group – Making Tax Digital: Presented by DAERA on Monday 3rd December at 8.00pm sharp at the Milestone Centre, Carrickmore. How VAT records are submitted is changing for farmers and this meeting will provide information on how this will affect the business. *Everyone is welcome to this public meeting*

Save Our Sperrins (SOS) – Public Information Meeting: Wednesday 5th December at 7.30pm in the Owenkillew Community Centre, Gortin to discuss the environmental and health effects of the proposed goldmining and processing operation at Greencastle / Curraghinalt.

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

Pope Francis' Intention for December (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Evangelisation – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith:
 That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| Parish Liturgy for December, 2018 | St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) | St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass) | Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass) |
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| Readers | Roisin Hood | Mary Clarke | Anne McDermott |
| Eucharistic Ministry | Frankie Bradley | Maria Bradley | Josephine Clarke |
| Prayers of Intercession | Eimear Bradley | Lauryn Hollywood | Colleen Brogan |
| Collectors | Margaret Morris Michael McNamee | Frank Keenan Eoghan Clarke | Brian Donnelly Perry McCrory |
| Altar Society | Mary Bradley, Helen Tracey, Louise O'Brien, Alannah Coyle and Clodagh McKenna | Ann McDermott, Carmel McCrory, Lucy-Marie McCrory and Leanne Morris | |

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/thebigknit

Catholic Engaged Encounter Course: For details / booking: marriageencounter.ie • (028 2763 8512
 Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March in Our Lady and St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

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

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

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

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

Foster Carers Needed: The Western Trust urgently needs people to come forward who can offer a loving home to foster children. At present there is a greater number of children in need of homes than there are foster carers available. If you have room in your home and in your heart to care for a child, please contact:
 Vanessa Nelis – WHSCT Recruitment Officer for Fostering
Tel: (028) 8283 5264 **Mob:** 07554 552 989 **Email:** vanessa.nelis@westerntrust.hscni.net

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: 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

Accord Marriage Preparation Courses: Planning to get married in 2018 / 2019?
 Book with Accord by visiting accord-ni.co.uk. Course dates available in 2018 are as follows:
 Friday 7th and Saturday 8th December

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

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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:
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.
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'.

Seeing your life through lens of Gospel – Luke 21:25-28, 34-36: John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)
 1. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seems that your world is 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.?

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

IMPORTANT DATES
Service of Light (P7) Thursday 31st January, 7.30pm • **First Confession** Thursday 28th March, 7.30pm
Confirmation Saturday 6th April, 12 noon • **First Holy Communion** Saturday 11th May, 12 noon

The Deep End – Be Prepared... *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*
 Have you ever heard the story of the ant and the grasshopper? It tells the tale of a grasshopper who has spent the summer singing and so is not prepared when winter comes, whereas the ant has been working hard all summer and has stored up enough food for winter. Like many of Aesop's Fables, it has a stark moral lesson, in this case about the virtue of hard work and being prepared for the future.
 Of course, Advent is about looking forward to Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is a special time of preparation to welcome him anew into our lives. But today's readings remind us that Advent is also about looking ahead to another time, the second and final coming of Jesus at the end of time. 'Advent' comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning 'coming'.
 The problem, of course, is that we have no idea when this will happen. Unlike the ant and the grasshopper, we have no way of knowing when the seasons will change. We don't even know when the sun will set on our own individual lives. All we can do is to be prepared and to 'stay awake' – to live now in such a way that when we meet Jesus, we will be ready. This readiness is less a practical skill than a condition, or a way of life. Look at how St Paul describes it: he talks about increasing our love for one another, and continually making progress in living the life that God wants. That is how we store up treasures here on earth to make sure we are ready for the heavenly things to come.

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*

| 2017 PARISH STATISTICS | | |
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| Baptisms (26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls | First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls | Confirmations (15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls |
| Marriages (5) 2 within parish • 3 outside parish | | Funerals (12) 11 within parish • 1 outside parish |
| April: Parishioners and pupils of Dean Maguirc College took part in Holy Thursday mass in RTÉ Studio in Dublin on Thursday 13 th April | | |
| December: Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began 13 th December in St Patrick's Church | | |