



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (3rd February, 2013)
 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 Fourth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (4 th February, 2013 – 10 th February, 2013) | | |
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| Saturday Evening (2nd February) Vigil Mass for Sunday | St. Patrick's | 5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass: Service of Light and Commitment for Confirmation Candidates |
| Sunday 3rd February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] St. Blaise [Not celebrated this year] | St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside | 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass |
| Monday 4th February Fourth Week in Ordinary Time | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Tuesday 5th February St. Agatha (virgin and martyr) | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Wednesday 6th February St. Paul Miki and Companions | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Thursday 7th February St. Mel (bishop) | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Friday 8th February Fourth Week in Ordinary Time | St. Patrick's | 8.00pm Mass |
| Saturday Morning (9th February) Fourth Week in Ordinary Time | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Saturday Evening (9th February) Vigil Mass for Sunday | St. Patrick's | 5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) |
| Sunday 10th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] St. Scholastica [Not celebrated this year] | St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside | 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Ellen O'Neill (Anniversary) |

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| Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to £970 . |
| Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Bernadette Slane and Brigid Fox , whose anniversaries occur at this time. We also pray for Fr. Joseph Doherty, Rose Devenney, Kitty Teague, Annie Tracey and Peter Daly , the most recently enrolled members of the Derry Diocesan Society. |
| Sick and Housebound: These will be attended Sunday 3rd February , this is because Fr. Hasson will attend a Diocesan Priests' Conference on Monday 4 th February. Please let them know if you live nearby. |
| St. Valentine's Ball: Youth 2000 invites all young adults between the ages of 18-35 to this showpiece event on Saturday 9 th February in the Armagh City Hotel. <i>For more details visit youth2000.ie or call 00353 1675 3690</i> |
| Do everything calmly and peacefully. Do as much as you can as well as you can. Strive to see God in all things without exception, and consent to His will joyously. Do everything for God, uniting yourself to him in word and deed. Walk very simply with the Cross of the Lord and be at peace with yourself. <i>St. Francis de Sales</i> |
| The only cure for sagging or fainting faith is Communion. Though always itself, perfect and complete and inviolate, the Blessed Sacrament does not operate completely and once for all in any of us. Like the act of Faith it must be continuous and grow by exercise. Frequency is of the highest effect. Seven times a week is more nourishing than seven times at intervals. <i>JRR Tolkien</i> |
| I see advertisements all the time for Bullying Prevention and We Teach Bully Prevention. Bullying, or the perception of bullying cannot be prevented as long as people interact with each other; the only possible way would be to stay isolated alone, forever. However, you can teach kids how to handle and deal with people who they feel are bullying them. |
| Blessed Teresa of Calcutta frequently said that the worst poverty is not knowing Christ, and that if we would just open our eyes and look around, we'd see that people all over the world are hungry for God. |
| Pioneer Committee – Temporary Pledge for Lent: Tuesday 5 th February at 7.00pm. <i>Contact any Committee member</i> |
| Next Sundays Readings: Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8; Psalm 137:1-5, 7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11; (Lectionary I, page 849) (Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 1) |
| Lotto Results: B – D – I – R – X (2 people with 4 letters – £50 each) Next Jackpot: £2,750 |

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| 6.00pm Saturday Vigil <u>Saturday 2nd February</u> The family of Ryan Coyle | Offertory Gifts Rota Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.00am Sunday Morning <u>Sunday 3rd February</u> The family of Eoin McCullagh |
| <u>Saturday 9th February</u> The family of Cayla Donnelly | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | <u>Sunday 10th February</u> The family of Shea McElhatton |
| <u>Saturday 16th February</u> The family of Cathal Keenan | First Sunday of Lent | <u>Sunday 17th February</u> The family of Sorcha-Rose Meenan |
| <u>Saturday 23rd February*</u> The family of Shea McAleer | Second Sunday of Lent | <u>Sunday 24th February</u> The family of Eunan Morris |
| First Confessions (Reconciliation) is scheduled for Friday 1st March at 6.30pm As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task. *Do This In Memory Program (week 6) | | |
| Service of Light and Commitment The "Service of Light and Commitment" takes place at 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 2 nd February (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time) and will highlight the importance of all three elements; parish, school and family working together for the formation of our young people. Eleven young parishioners will receive the sacrament of confirmation in our parish this year. After the Gospel the children will be called forward to stand before the sanctuary. The parents will then be invited to stand behind your child and if the child's sponsor can be present, he or she will be invited to form a third row. Fr. Hasson will lead the prayers. Please bring the child's baptismal candle. | | |
| Divine Mercy Conference: For the first time in Ireland, this year's Divine Mercy Conference will be streamed live from the RDS to the Plaza, Buncrana on Saturday 16 th and Sunday 17 th February. Doors open 9.00am each day. Mass will be celebrated in the Plaza on Saturday 16 th at 5.00pm (Fr Roland Calhoun), and on Sunday 17 th at 3.15pm (Fr. Rafal Januszewski). Website: divinemercyconference.com Email: btflan14@gmail.com Tel: Marie at 074 936 2617 / Brian at 087 4196 045 / Parish Office at 074 9361 253 | | |
| Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July): The cost is £575. 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). Special forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available. Gift vouchers are also available for whatever amount you wish to give, contact Rosemary. The office is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. | | |
| Ards Friary Retreat and Conference Centre, Creeslough, Co. Donegal: Saturday 16th and Lenten Retreat directed by Fr. Eddie Butler (Birmingham Diocese) // €85 (residential) Sunday 17th February The theme is <i>By His Wounds we are Healed: A Journey with Christ to Easter</i> Website: ardsfriary.ie Email: info@ardsfriary.ie Tel: 00353 7491 38909 | | |
| Dalradian Gold Ltd. – Public Meeting: Tuesday 5 th February at 8.00pm in Owenkillew Community Centre, 62 Main Street, Gortin, BT79 8NH. An update on their planned exploration programmes including plans to submit an application to Planning Services for the extension of the existing exploration tunnel at Curraghinalt will be shared. (028) 8224 6289 // dalradian.com | | |
| Indulgences for the World Day of the Sick: <i>Vatican City (Monday 28th January) [VIS]</i> Benedict XVI will grant Plenary Indulgence to the faithful participating in the 21 st World Day of the Sick to be celebrated 7 th –11 th February in Altötting, Germany according to a decree published today and signed by Cardinal Manuel Monteiro de Castro and Bishop Krzysztof Nykiel, respectively penitentiary major and regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary. Persons following the example of the Good Samaritan, who "with a spirit of faith and a merciful soul, put themselves at the service of their brothers and sisters who are suffering or who, if sick, endure the pains and hardships of life ... bearing witness to the faith through the path of the Gospel of suffering" will obtain the Plenary Indulgence, once a day and under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Holy Father), applicable also to the souls of deceased faithful: A) each time from 7 th –11 th February in the Marian Shrine of Altötting or at any other place decided by the ecclesiastical authorities, that they participate in a ceremony held to beseech God to grant the goals of the World Day of the Sick, praying the Our Father, the Creed, and an invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Faithful in public hospitals or any private house who, like the Good Samaritan, charitably assist the ill and who, because of such service, cannot attend the aforementioned celebrations, will obtain the same gift of Plenary Indulgence if, for at least a few hours on that day, they generously provide their charitable assistance to the sick as if they were tending to Christ the Lord Himself and pray the Our Father, the Creed, and an invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, with their soul removed from attachment to any form of sin and with the intention of carrying out as soon as possible that which is necessary to obtain the plenary indulgence. The faithful who because of illness, advance age, or other similar reasons cannot take part in the aforementioned celebrations will obtain the Plenary Indulgence if, with their soul removed from attachment to any form of sin and with the intention of carrying out as soon as possible the usual conditions, spiritually participating in the sacred events of the determined days, particularly through liturgical celebrations and the Supreme Pontiff's message broadcast by television or radio, they pray for all the sick and offer their physical and spiritual suffering to God through the Virgin Mary, 'Salus Infirmorum' (Health of the Sick). B) Partial Indulgence will be conceded to all the faithful who, between the indicated days, with a contrite heart raise devout prayers to the merciful Lord beseeching assistance for the sick in spirit during this Year of Faith. | | |

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| <p>Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for February (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>General – Migrant Families: That migrant families, in particular mothers, may be sustained and accompanied in their difficulties.</p> <p>Missionary – Peace: That people experiencing war and conflicts may lead the way in building a future of peace.</p> |
| <p>Certificate in Lectio Divina Facilitation at Drumalis: Drumalis, in association with St. Mary's University College are delighted to announce the launch of a new certificate course in Lectio Divina Facilitation, beginning in January 2013. For further details or to book a place, please contact Drumalis on (028) 2827 2196 / (028) 2827 6455 (Mon- Fri, 9.00am-5.00pm), maura@drumalis.co.uk.</p> |
| <p>Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013: For information contact (028) 8224 1888 or Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Monsignor Danny Monaghan and Maria Bradley from Sept. 4th - 11th. Price £499 which includes Half Board and insurance. <i>Call Maria at (028) 8164 8357 for further details</i></p> <p>April and May Pilgrimages: £470. Cost includes return flights, one week's accommodation, meals and transfers. <i>Call Group Leader Jim McGread (028) 8234 1888 for further details</i></p> |
| <p>Pilgrimage to Rome and San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy (Monday 26th August – Monday 2nd September): With Father Francis Bradley. Staying four nights at the Irish College, Rome taking in the sights of the Eternal City and an Audience with the Holy Father, and three nights at the Shrine of Padre Pio, taking in the shrine of Manoppello and the Abbey of Montecassino. Price £850, including all coach transfers to/from Dublin and whilst in Italy, flights with Aer Lingus, accommodation on a half board basis in Rome and full board in San Giovanni, and the assistance of a Travel Representative throughout (single supplement at £20 per night). A £200 deposit before Thursday 31st January will secure you a seat. <i>For more info call Fr. Bradley on (028) 7136 2475 [W] / (028) 7135 1718 [H] or email fbradley@derrydiocese.org</i></p> |
| <p>Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Upcoming Events:</p> <p>A Talk on the Men who Built Britain 6 Week Funded Community Pharmacy Project (enrol now) History of Irish Labour in the British Construction by Ultan Cowley</p> <p><i>Full / half day conference facilities available</i> T: 028 87 757800 E: kathleenburnsill@gmail.com 20 The Diamond, Pomeroy, Co Tyrone http://instituteofirishleadership.org/</p> |
| <p>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? <i>For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry) email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net</i></p> |
| <p>St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends: Saturday 9th March at 3.00pm. Bishop Lagan will celebrate. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion at this Mass please contact the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email ddcc@derrydiocese.org.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> |
| <p>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. <i>Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)</i></p> |

| Parish Liturgy for February, 2013 | 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 | Aisling Donaghy | Monica Coyle | Martina McBride |
| Eucharistic Ministry | Kathleen Bradley | Louise Coyle | Peter Noel McAleer |
| Prayers of Intercession | Eimear Bradley | Aidan Clarke | Enda Bradley |
| Collectors | Gerry McDermott Noel McElhatton | Patrick Tuohey Michael Bradley | Sean Clarke Brian Gillen |
| Altar Society | Rosemary, Shauna and Ciara McNally | | Anne McDermott Martina McBride |
| 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. | | | |
| 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. | | | |
| ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com 8 th and 9 th March 12 th and 13 th April 10 th and 11 th May 7 th and 8 th 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 | | | |
| God speaks in the silence of the heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. And this listening and this speaking is what prayer is meant to be... <i>Mother Teresa</i> | | | |
| Dun Uladh – Upcoming Classes: | | Refreshments served. For More info Contact (028) 8224 2777 | |
| Traditional Music Classes for banjo, flute, fiddle, concertina, singing, accordion, adult tin whistle and uilleann pipes | | Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm | |
| Irish Language | | Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm Fridays from 10.00am to 11.30am | |
| Ciorcal Comhrá | | Fridays from 11.30am to 1.00pm | |
| 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</i></p> | | | |
| 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 21 st 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. <i>For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager noel@foylehospice.com, (028) 7135 9888</i> | | | |

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| Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann: Guitar lessons will be commencing in St. Peter's Primary School on Monday 28 th January at 6.30pm. Anyone interested should call (028) 8164 8719 or 07842 903 949. | |
| South West College (Cookstown, Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh): Now enrolling for January and February short courses. 40% off tuition fees on all courses. <i>For more info call 0845 603 1881 or visit swc.ac.uk</i> | |
| Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Classes: | |
| Pilates with Breda | Monday 14 th January at 7.00pm for 5 weeks at £25 (money must be paid in full). I will be in Centre Thursday 10 th January from 7.00pm to 8.00pm |
| Zumba | Begins Monday 14 th January at 8.15pm. £4 per night for all age groups. Classes for over 50s and people with physical conditions will start Friday 18 th January at 10.00am |
| Crocheting and Knitting with Mary | Begins Friday 18 th January at 2.00pm for £5. For beginners and amateurs. Open to all and a great opportunity to learn new stitches and patterns. |
| Drama / Dance with Clíodhna | Academy classes will return Wednesday 16 th January, £2.50. P1, P2 and P3 (6.00pm to 7.00pm) // P4 upwards (7.00pm to 8.00pm). |
| Contact Bridie on (028) 8164 8706 or 07847459428 / 07591047556 or leave and message on phone. For the hire of the centre or equipment contact Sheena on (028) 8164 8186. | |

| IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2013 | | |
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| Sacramental Celebrations | | |
| Friday 1st March | St. Patrick's | 6.30pm First Confession |
| Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter | Our Lady of the Wayside | 2.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Monsignor Eamon Martin) |
| Sunday 12th May Feast of the Ascension | St. Patrick's | 11.00am First Holy Communion |
| Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | | |
| Sunday 5th May | St. Patrick's | |
| Sunday 25th August | Our Lady of the Wayside | |
| Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish | | |
| Wednesday 22nd May Thursday 11th July Friday 30th August Saturday 19th October | St. Patrick's | |
| Sunday 7th April | Our Lady of the Wayside | |
| Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (6 th and 7 th July) | | |
| Saturday 6th July | St. Patrick's | Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 7th July | Our Lady of the Wayside | Directly after 11.00am Mass |
| Saturday 2nd November | St. Patrick's | 6.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year) |

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| 'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion | | |
| Saturday 23rd March | Sixth Palm Sunday | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Thursday 28th March | Holy Thursday | 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| Saturday 13th April | Third Sunday of Easter | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Saturday 1st June | Feast of Corpus Christi | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |

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| Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 4:21-30: | | <i>John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)</i> |
| 1. | The people of Nazareth could not accept that this local boy was one to teach them. It can be difficult for us to see those close to us as people through whom God is going to reveal some truth to us. Yet what a difference when we drop our prejudices and are open to what is being said. Perhaps you have experienced this? | |
| 2. | The anger of the people arose when Jesus confronted them with God's inclusive ways. God was 'their God' and God's blessings were for them. Jesus reminded them that this is not God's way. When have you been challenged to think in new ways and not to be excluding some people from your thoughts or concerns? Was there good news for you in the challenge? | |
| 3. | Jesus continued his work despite the opposition. Have there been times when despite opposition you have been able to 'walk through the people' and 'continue on your way'? Have you seen this courage in others? | |

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| Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider <i>The Mystery of Work</i>: 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. |
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| Questions people ask: | <i>Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)</i> |
| Q. | The words at the consecration of the wine at Mass are changed from 'shed for you and for all men' to 'poured out for you and for many'. Why the change from 'all' to 'many'? Does it mean that others are excluded? |
| A. | The word 'many' is not meant to exclude anybody. There are several places in the New Testament telling us that Jesus died for the salvation of all people. However, the accounts of the Last Supper speak of the precious blood shed for many. The text of the Mass follows the words of the Last Supper as closely as possible and that is the reason for saying 'many' rather than 'all'. |

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| The Deep End – A Fortified City? | <i>Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)</i> |
| The prophets of the Old Testament often needed a pep talk before they set about their mission. Jeremiah's first reaction when God called him to be a prophet was 'Ah Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy'. Prophecy was not an easy path; there would be challenges and persecution, people would refuse to listen to him, his own friends would turn against him and there would even be plots against his life. In the First Reading, God offers Jeremiah some words of reassurance: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you... I will make you into a fortified city... I am with you to deliver you'. In spite of the obstacles ahead, Jeremiah had no need to fear. God would be with him and would give him strength. Following in the footsteps of the prophets, today's Gospel sees Jesus face a plot against his life. As he speaks in the synagogue, the people are at first astonished by his words, but then become uncomfortable. 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' they ask. They turn against him and are so enraged that they lead him out of town and try to throw him off a cliff. But God is with him and he is kept safe. Today's Psalm tells us that God is our rock, our refuge, our stronghold. He knows the challenges we face, yet he has a plan for our lives. He is our strength. | |

| This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints: | |
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| Sunday 5th February – | St. Agatha (virgin and martyr) Died a martyr for the faith at Catania in Sicily in the 3 rd century. Patron Saint of bell-founders. |
| Wednesday 6th February – | St. Paul Miki and Companions Paul Miki, a Japanese Jesuit, and his twenty-five companions were martyred in Nagasaki, Japan. They were the first martyrs of East Asia to be canonized. They were killed simultaneously by being raised on crosses and then stabbed with spears. Their executioners were astounded upon seeing their joy at being associated to the Passion of Christ. |
| Thursday 7th February – | St. Mel (bishop) St. Mel or Moel died in 488. He is said to have been a Briton who came to Ireland with St. Patrick, his uncle, with whom he worked until he was ordained in Ardagh. He helped evangelise Ireland while supporting himself through manual labor. |
| Sunday 10th February – | St. Scholastica (virgin) A saint of the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Born in Italy, she was the twin sister of St. Benedict of Nursia. [Not celebrated this year] |

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| MARA (Maximising Access to Services, Grants and Benefits in Rural Areas) |
| The MARA Project is an inter-departmental regional project funded by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and delivered by the Public Health Agency (PHA). The MARA project was officially launched on Thursday 15 th March 2012 by both the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle O'Neill and the Minister for Health, Edwin Poots. |
| What is the aim of the MARA Project? |
| The aim of the project is to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in rural deprived areas in Northern Ireland, by making them aware of, or helping them access local services, grants or benefits thus supporting those rural dwellers living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion. → |

← Who will deliver the MARA project?

PHA will commission 13 community lead organisations in rural areas, who will recruit and train enablers to undertake approximately 12,000 household visits. These visits will take place over the period April 2012 to November 2014 from which identified households will be signposted to various services, grants and benefits. The households identified for visits incorporate older people, carers, disabled people, lone parents, ethnic minorities, lone adults, farming families and/or low income families.

Why the MARA approach works?

The MARA project builds upon the success of Phase 1 which targeted the top 88 rurally deprived super output areas. The evidence and experience from Phase I indicates that access to the most difficult to reach and those suffering greatest inequalities and disadvantage requires a more innovative, extensive and personal approach to that traditionally used. The home visit which is carried out by trained enablers requires a supportive and sympathetic approach that will build trust and commitment and encourages people to avail of services, benefits and grants which they may not otherwise have known about or felt that they were not entitled to.

MARA Household Visit

During the household visit, identified households will complete an assessment form which will help assess eligibility for various grants or benefits they may be entitled to. The home visit will also identify local and regional services the rural dwellers may be interested in attending or availing of. Households will be asked to sign a consent form that details the referrals identified and these will then be either automated or manually made by the community lead organisation to various referral partners. The referral partners will then, as necessary, contact the householder directly to process the referral. The services, grants and benefits that householders may be referred to include rural community transport, smart pass (for free or reduced travel), energy savings schemes (warm homes), assessments from occupational therapists (OTs) for disabled facilities grants, home safety checks, benefit entitlement checks and any other local or regional services available in their area. Households who have been referred for services will receive a second visit to establish if the various referral partners have been in contact and to understand how referrals are progressing with a view to ensuring all referrals are processed in a timely manner. The second visit will also further address the social exclusion element of the MARA project i.e. referring householders to local services. It should be noted that the MARA Project cannot guarantee households will receive any or all of the services, grants or benefits they are referred to. The referrals associated with the MARA Project may, in some instances, take some time to be processed.

Saying 'I Believe in God the Father Almighty' is saying 'I Believe in the Power of God's Love'

Vatican City (Wednesday 30th January) [VIS]

The first and most fundamental definition that the Creed teaches us about God is that He is the Almighty Father. This was the theme of Benedict XVI's Wednesday catechesis during today's general audience that was held in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

"It isn't always easy today to speak about fatherhood," the Pope began, "...and, not having adequate role models, it even becomes problematic to imagine God as a father. For those who have had the experience of an overly authoritarian and inflexible father, or an indifferent, uncaring, or even absent one, it is not easy to calmly think of God as Father or to confidently surrender themselves to Him. But Biblical revelation helps us to overcome these difficulties by telling us about a God who shows us what it truly means to be a 'father'. Above all it is the Gospel that reveals to us this face of God as Father, who loves us even to the point of giving us the gift of His Son for the salvation of humanity."

In the light of the Scriptures and the writings of the evangelists, the Holy Father explained that God is our Father because "He has blessed us and chosen us before the foundation of the world. He has truly made us His children in Jesus. And, as Father, God accompanies our existence with love, giving us His Word, His teaching, His grace, His Spirit. ...If He is so good as to 'make His sun rise on the bad and the good and ... rain to fall on the just and the unjust', then we can always, without fear and in complete faith, entrust ourselves to His forgiveness as Father when we choose the wrong path."

Tracing the history of salvation, Psalm 136 repeats "for his mercy endures forever", and the pontiff emphasized, "The love of God the Father never fails, never tires of us. ... Faith gives us this certainty that becomes the sure rock upon which to build our lives. We can face every difficulty and every danger, the experience of the darkness of times of crisis and pain, sustained by the confidence that God does not abandon us and is always near to →

← save us and bring us to everlasting life."

The kind face of the Father who is in heaven is fully shown in the Lord Jesus. "Knowing Him we know the Father and seeing Him we can see the Father. ... Faith in God the Father requires that we believe in the Son, through the action of the Spirit, recognizing the Cross that saves as the definitive revelation of divine love. God is our Father, forgiving our sins and bringing us to the joy of the risen life."

"We can ask ourselves, how is it possible to imagine an all-powerful God by looking at the Cross of Christ? ... We would certainly like a divine omnipotence that corresponded to our thoughts and our desires; an 'almighty' God ... who vanquishes our adversaries, who changes the course of events, and who takes away our pain. ... Faced with evil and suffering, ... it is difficult for many of us to believe in God the Father and to believe that He is all-powerful." "Faith in God the Almighty, however, leads us to follow very different paths: learning to understand that God's thoughts and God's paths are different from ours and that even His omnipotence is different?it isn't expressed with mechanical or arbitrary force... Actually, God, in creating free creatures, in giving us freedom, gave up a part of His power, allowing us the power of our freedom. Thus He loves and respects love's free response to His call. His omnipotence isn't expressed in violence or destruction but rather through love, mercy, and forgiveness; through His tireless call to a change of heart, through an attitude that is only weak in appearance, and which is made of patience, clemency, and love."

"Only the truly powerful can endure evil and show compassion. Only the truly powerful can fully exercise the power of love. And God, to whom all things belong because He made them all, reveals His strength by loving everything and everyone, patiently awaiting our conversion because He wants us as His children. ...The omnipotence of love isn't a worldly power, but is that of total gift and Jesus, the Son of God, reveals to the world the Father's true omnipotence by giving His life for us sinners. This is the true ... divine power: responding to evil not with evil but with good, responding to murderous hatred with a love that gives life. Evil is thus truly vanquished, because it is washed by God's love. Death is thus definitively defeated, because it is transformed into the gift of life. God the Father resurrects His Son. Death, the great enemy, is swallowed up and deprived of its sting and we are freed from sin; we can grasp our reality as children of God."

"So, when we say 'I believe in God, the Father Almighty', we express our faith in the power of God's love who?in His Son who died and rose again?conquers hate, evil, and sin and gives us eternal life, a life as children who desire to remain forever in the 'Father's House'."