



**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent [Year A] (4<sup>th</sup> April, 2011)**  
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
 Website: greencastleparish.com    Tel: (028) 8164 8474    Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com



**We welcome Fr. Colm O'Doherty to celebrate our Vigil Mass at 6.00pm this evening.**  
**As our Diocesan representative to Trócaire he will speak on the mission of this outreach to the world.**

Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Lent [Year A] (4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011 – 10 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011)			
<b>Saturday Evening Vigil</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday	
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> Fourth Sunday of Lent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>9:00am</b> Mass: Misso Pro Populo <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <i>Sick and Housebound will be visited</i>	
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>10.30am</b> Prayer Guides' Reflection	
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass	
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass	
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	<b>6.30pm</b> Confessions <b>7.30pm</b> Stations of the Cross <b>8.00pm</b> Mass: Joe McGarvey (3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)	
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass	
<b>Saturday Evening Vigil</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday:	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	Felix McAnaney (9 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) <b>9:00am</b> Mass: Misso Pro Populo <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass	

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£950**. Please support your community by using your envelope even if you must attend Mass outside your parish, thank you. Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes. 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. **Emigrants' Commission of the Episcopal Conference:** Thank you for the **£370** raised for this special collection last weekend.

**Remembering Our Dead:** As a parish faith community we offer our sympathy and prayerful support to the family of **Annie Morris (Aughascribba)** whose requiem took place here in the parish last Tuesday. We also pray for **Joe Daly** and **Joe McGarvey** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Sick and housebound** will be attended Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

**St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends:** This will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00pm.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Ezekiel 37: 12-14; Psalm 129; Romans 8: 8-11; John 11: 1-45  
 (Lectionary I, page 305) **(Sunday: Year A) (Weekday: Year 1)**

**Lotto Results:** C – I – V – Q – Y (1 winner with 3 letters – £100) **Next Jackpot:** £4,600

**Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the  
 Parochial House by the Wednesday evening prior to publication**

Week	6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
<b>53</b>	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April The family of <b>Michelle O'Brien</b>	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April The family of <b>Rachel McAleer</b>
<b>54</b>	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> April The family of <b>Aine Lucas</b>	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April The family of <b>Sean Og McCann</b>
<b>55</b>	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> April * The family of <b>Caoimhe Warnock</b>	Palm Sunday	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April The family of <b>Gary McElhatton</b>
<b>56</b>	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April The family of <b>Tiernan Teague</b>	Easter Sunday	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April The family of <b>Patrick McElhatton</b>
<b>57</b>	Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> April The family of <b>Grace Conneely</b>	Second Sunday of Easter	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May The family of <b>Meaghan Clarke</b>

**\* Do This In Memory Week 8**  
 As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.

**Gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist:** The final prayer session with the Prayer Guides will take place in Greencastle next Tuesday morning after Mass. Please attend if you can. This part of our preparations for the Eucharistic Congress (in 2010) will conclude with Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm for the combined parishes of *Drumragh, Cappagh, Greencastle, Newtownstewart, Castlederg, Drumquin and Gortin* for the Eucharistic Congress in 2012. Thank you for your participation.  
*Check out the website at eucharist2012.com*

**Sacrament of Confirmation (Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00pm):** Bishop Francis Lagan (retired Auxiliary Bishop) will come to Greencastle to impart the Sacrament of Confirmation to our young people. Please include the candidates for Confirmation, their families, their sponsors and the Bishop in your personal and family prayers in anticipation of the ceremony.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm.** To nurture your own faith and give good witness to the next generation.  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April** Bishop Lagan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with us at Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg at 5.00pm. The parents, families and sponsors of the candidates of are invited to receive the Sacrament the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the weekend beforehand  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm** To nurture your own faith and give good witness to the next generation.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July):** Anyone wishing to work on this year's pilgrimage as staff (nurse, carer, doctor, wheelchair pusher) please ensure that your application is submitted promptly so Safe-Guarding documentation may be obtained.

**If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern** or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI or local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities.  
*See poster at church entrances*

<b>BADA</b>	<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b> Dance. Music by <i>The Lakelanders</i>	<b>Friday Night</b> Card playing at 8.30pm
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**Pioneer Total Abstinence Association – Annual Buffet and Dance:**  
 The Shepherd's Rest on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30pm. Tickets are £12.50. Anyone who is eligible for a Gold or Silver pin should contact the committee ASAP

**ACCORD – Time for a New Challenge:** ACCORD is a voluntary agency of the Catholic Church providing services to couples preparing for or seeking a deeper commitment within the sacrament of marriage. The Omagh Centre is seeking new members to train as facilitators. We are looking for people who are currently married 5 years in the Catholic Church or currently in a marriage recognised by the Catholic Church, have the ability to convey a positive attitude to marriage, have an openness and commitment to working within a Catholic organisation, relate easily to people, are able to be part of a team and are sensitive, warm, caring and accepting. An Information evening regarding this will be held in Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street, Omagh on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 8.00pm. Please feel free to come along, no commitment needed, have your questions answered and learn more about what ACCORD can offer you.  
*Tel: 028 82242439*

**Trócaire – please support our Lenten Campaign as generously as you can this year**

## Dates for the Diary in 2011

### Sacramental Celebrations

<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>5.00pm</b> Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop Lagan)
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion
Feast of the Ascension		

### Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	St. Patrick's
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside

### Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish (St. Patrick's)

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October
The weekday Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church while the Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am in Our Lady of The Wayside Church.			

### Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July)

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>7.00pm</b> (after Vigil Mass)
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>12.00am</b> (after 11.00am Mass)
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>8.00pm</b> Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year)

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Palm Sunday	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Third Sunday of Easter	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Feast of Corpus Christi	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass

**Couples planning to Marry in 2011** please confirm your details with Fr. Hasson as soon as possible.

### ACCORD Marriage-Preparation Courses

8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> April	13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> May	10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> June
Applications to the Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Tel: (028) 8224 2439. Email: <a href="mailto:accordomagh@btopenworld.com">accordomagh@btopenworld.com</a> Courses are limited to <b>15 couples</b> . Course should be completed at least <b>six months</b> before your wedding.		

### Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for April (please remember these in your personal prayers)

- General:** That the Church may offer new generations, through the believable proclamation of the Gospel, ever new reasons of life and hope.
- Missionary:** That missionaries, with the proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may bring Christ to all who do not yet know Him.

**Sperrin View Livery Equestrian Weekend in Aid of Foyle Hospice:** Sponsored Horse Ride Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Sponsored Horse Drive Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, routes available for all abilities and levels, refreshments provided on both days, entry fee £25 per event.

Contact Kathleen, Sperrin View Livery, Glendera Road, Feeny, 07709159016 or Jamie 07871970997

**Collection for Moldova:** A collection of clothes etc. will take place in St. Colmcille's GFC Grounds, Carrickmore during the month of March. Bags or boxes of all types of ladies', gent's and children's clothes and shoes, bed linen, curtains, towels, crockery, cooking utensils and small items of furniture etc. can be left in the GREEN CONTAINER between 11.00am and 8.00pm daily. The container will be locked nightly. To donate larger items of furniture, contact any of the persons listed below. Everything will go to United Christian Aid, Craigavon where it will be sorted. The proceeds will go directly to Moldova to help UCA support the poorest families. Contact Briege (028) 8076 0667 / 07867 934684; Conor (028) 807 61594 / 07585 223195 or Collette (028) 807 61493

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July):

Cost: £599. Booking forms available in the Sacristy at St. Patrick's now.

## Eucharistic Novena Prayer 2012

Lord Jesus,

You were sent by the Father to gather together those who are scattered.

You came among us, doing good and bringing healing, announcing the Word of salvation and giving the Bread which lasts forever. Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts, enliven our hope and open our minds, so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith we may recognise you in the Scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body and lead us to walk humbly on the earth, in justice and love, as witnesses of your resurrection. In communion with Mary, whom you gave to us as our Mother at the foot of the cross, through you may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father in the Holy Spirit and in the Church, now and forever. Amen.

**Trócaire – Reflection Day:** For young adults (18 – 35) on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. The day is aimed at giving young adults the opportunity to explore how our faith relates to experiences of justice and injustice in today's world and to inspire us to work for a more just world. Those participating in World Youth Day in Madrid this year might be particularly interested. Cost €40 (€25 for students and unwaged), including meals and Friday night accommodation on campus.

### Classes offered at Rouskey Community Centre:

**Tai Chi:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May. £20 for 4 weeks. Tutor: Sean O'Kane.

**Flower Arranging:** Over 55s with Pearl Feathers, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm, 4 weeks. £5. *Materials not included*

**Felt Making:** Over 55s with Teresa Pontz. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm. Participants will be making small felt bags.

**Keep Fit:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm, 4 weeks. £15.

**Take a Look at Our Diocesan Website:** The website is regularly updated with news and resources for use in parishes. During Lent a special feature will be full of resources to assist individuals or parish groups who wish to undertake Lectio Divina using the Sunday gospels. Hope you find it helpful!  
*derrydiocese.org*

**Age NI First Connect Service:** We offer emotional and practical support at difficult times to people later in life. The First Connect Coordinator will visit each client at home or at an alternative suitable venue to discuss their needs and provide them with information on the services that are available. This could be as simple as involving them in the community by organising access to a day centre or community group, a benefits check to ensure they are getting what they are entitled to, providing home safety measures etc. In agreement with the client, the First Connect Coordinator will signpost them to the services and make sure they are in place.

*For more information or to make a referral to the First Connect service contact Age NI at: Freephone 0808 808 7575. Alternatively you can contact the First Connect Coordinator for the Western Area, Eimear McKearney on (074) 2562 0194 or email [eimear.mckearney@ageni.org](mailto:eimear.mckearney@ageni.org)*

**Suicide Awareness Training, Cookstown:** Free Training is being offered by PIPS Suicide Prevention at Gortalowry House, 94 Church Street, Cookstown, BT80 8HX on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Institute of Irish Leadership (20 The Diamond, Pomeroy) – Flower Arranging Classes:** Commencing Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March (7.00pm to 10.00pm). 10 weeks accredited. *For more details contact Kathleen (028) 8775 7800*

**Camara:** This is a charity which takes in used computers, refurbishes them and sends them to schools and colleges in Africa. In 2011 we will refurbish over 10,000 computers which will be supplied to schools in Uganda, Lesotho, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Tanzania and Rwanda. Every summer Camara sends teams of Volunteers for four very busy weeks to Africa to assist our local partners deliver essential training to teachers in the schools we supply. The assignment is for four or five weeks, departing Ireland in early July or early August depending on destination.

*Camara Belfast, Unit 23 and 24 Townsend Enterprise Park, Townsend Street, Belfast BT13 2ES  
Tel: (028) 9033 2470 Email: [belfast@camara.ie](mailto:belfast@camara.ie) Online: [camara.ie](http://camara.ie)*

**Foyle Hospice – Free Adult Counseling Service:** Offered on Tuesdays to help support those with a life limiting illness and their families / carers. Counseling is also available for the bereaved and there is a children's bereavement support group. *For more info please contact the Hospice on (028) 7135 1010*

**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 between 3 and 8 years 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

**Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau:** The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying? For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo. Phone 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at [www.knockmarriagebureau.com](http://www.knockmarriagebureau.com) and read about the workings of the Bureau.

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

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April – St. Isidore (bishop and Doctor of the Church)** Bishop of Seville, where he died in 636.

Completed the Mozarabic liturgy which is still celebrated today.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – St. Vincent Ferrer (priest) [1350-1419]** Dominican priest, preached missions throughout his native Spain, France and Italy. Helped bring unity to the Church, during the Great Schism between the Avignon and Roman claimants to the papacy.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – St. John the Baptist de la Salle (priest) [1651-1719]** Devoted his life to the care and education of poor children and to the training of teachers. Formed his companions into the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Patron Saint of teachers.

#### Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 9:1-41:

A long story like the one we have today provides many different points of entry for prayer. Read the story and stay with what resonates with you. Some possible points of entry are:

1. The blind man was healed. Can you recall occasions when some blindness of yours was taken away and you could see in a new way? What was that experience like for you?
2. The Pharisees claimed to be the ones who could see, who knew where God was to be found, when in fact they were blind. It was the man born blind who showed himself open to see the hand of God at work in what happened. There can be some of each in us. What has helped you to be open to seeing the hand of God at work in your life? Who have been the Jesus people who have led you to this point?
3. There are many characters in the story: Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents and the Pharisees. Put yourself in the position of each one and see what you learn from identifying with them.

John Byrne OSA ([john@orlagh.ie](mailto:john@orlagh.ie))

#### The Deep End – Live as Children of Light:

We associate darkness with the negative, and indeed this has caused much prejudice in our world. But light can also be terrifying, blinding, and dangerous. A street child in India once greeted me with the words, 'Black is beauty, white is danger'. Could I disagree with him? No. This brings me to Lent. How is it going? How is that long hard look at our relationships with the world going? The Second Reading calls us to live in the light.

Living in the light is not only about being happy but committing oneself to justice and compassion for all human beings. Instead of hiding ourselves and hiding injustices, we must first realise that we are children of light; accept that we are children of light. Then, we must recognise that light bears fruit and that fruit is goodness, justice and truth. As the saying goes, 'better to light a candle than blame the darkness'. The smallest candle will break the darkness but that candle will always have to give of itself in order to give light.

Jane Mellett ([janemellett@yahoo.com](mailto:janemellett@yahoo.com))

#### Questions people ask:

- Q. Somebody at a prayer meeting said that a person who lives a sinful life will be punished by God with all sorts of bad luck. Is that correct?
- A. That idea is there in the early Old Testament but it is certainly not the mind of Jesus Christ. There had been a development of doctrine in the meantime. In today's Gospel Jesus dismissed the claim that a man's blindness was because of sin on his own part or by his parents. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of God's love for all people, sinner as well as saint, causing his rain to fall and sun to shine on all, without discrimination. God's love for all his creatures is never vindictive, even when people live sinful lives.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap ([silvesteroflynn@gmail.com](mailto:silvesteroflynn@gmail.com))

**The Sacrament of Confirmation:** In the Church's teaching Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ for the conferral of sanctifying grace and the strengthening of the union between individual souls and God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in its paragraphs (1302-1303) teaches:

*It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.*

*From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:*

- it roots us more deeply in the divine affiliation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15);
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:

*Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.*

The roots of confirmation are found in Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17, "Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit." See also the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 14 where Christ speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

In the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, the sacrament is customarily conferred only on persons old enough to understand it, and the ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop.

"The practice of the Latin Church more clearly expresses the communion of the new Christian with the bishop as guarantor and servant of the unity, catholicity and apostolicity of his Church, and hence the connection with the apostolic origins of Christ's Church."

Reserving administration of the sacrament to a bishop, who cannot be present at every infant baptism, means that large groups of older children and young adults are confirmed together, making the occasion something of a rite of passage and an opportunity to profess personal commitment to the faith. However, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1308 warns: "Although Confirmation is sometimes called the 'sacrament of Christian maturity,' we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need 'ratification' to become effective."

In the early twentieth century, Pope Pius X encouraged the admission of children to reception of the Eucharist as soon as they reached the age of reason, in contrast to the later age at which they had been admitted for some centuries.

Since the age for confirmation remained as before, those being confirmed generally received the Eucharist several years earlier. However, the three sacraments of Christian initiation, baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, are increasingly conferred, within the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, in the traditional order, which is obligatory when an adult is baptised.

The Catholic Church teaches that, like baptism, confirmation marks the recipient permanently, making it impossible to receive the sacrament twice.

One of the effects of the sacrament is that "it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1303). This effect has been described as making the confirmed person "a soldier of Christ".

The same passage of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* also mentions, as an effect of confirmation, that "it renders our bond with the Church more perfect". This mention stresses the importance of participation in the Christian community.

The "soldier of Christ" imagery, which remains valid but is downplayed if seen as part of the once common idea of confirmation as a "sacrament of maturity" was used as far back as 350 by St. Cyril of Jerusalem. In this connection, the touch on the cheek that the bishop gave while saying "Pax tecum" (Peace be with you) to the person he had just confirmed was interpreted as a slap, a reminder to be brave in spreading and defending the faith: "Deinde leviter eum in maxilla caedit, dicens: Pax tecum" (Then he strikes him lightly on the cheek, saying: Peace be with you). When, in application of the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the confirmation rite was revised in 1971, mention of this gesture was omitted. However, the French and Italian translations, indicating that the bishop →

← should accompany the words "Peace be with you" with "a friendly gesture" (French text) or "the sign of peace" (Italian), explicitly allow a gesture such as the touch on the cheek, to which they restore its original meaning. Information on other effects and broader matters concerning this sacrament can be found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285-1321.

Confirmation name. In many English-speaking countries and in German-speaking lands it is customary for a person being confirmed in the Catholic Church to adopt the name of a saint with whom he/she feels a special affinity, thus securing an additional patron saint to be his/her protector and guide. The saint's name is often used in conjunction with the confirmer's middle name, and is without effect in civil law, unless, of course, the confirmer and pursues the appropriate legal avenues.