

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
First Sunday of Advent [Year B] (3rd December, 2017)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474

Thought for Week: "Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in You." *St. Augustine of Hippo*

Liturgy Schedule for the First Week of Advent [Year B] (Sunday 3rd December – Sunday 10th December)

Saturday 2nd December	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Gerard McGurk (3 rd Anniversary)
Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am 11.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass
Monday 4th December St. John Damascene (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Tuesday 5th December	St. Patrick's	NO MASS	
Wednesday 6th December St. Nicholas (bishop)	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.30pm 7.00pm to 7.20pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament Confession • 7.30pm Mass
Thursday 7th December	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	10.00am 8.00pm	Mass Vigil Mass for Feast of Immaculate Conception
Friday 8th December Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St. Patrick's	11.00am	Immaculate Conception Mass for Intentions of the Parish Legion of Mary
Saturday 9th December	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am 11.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass

COLLECTIONS [19th November] Weekly: £1,150 • [26th November] Weekly: £970 Retired Priests: £755

Baptism: We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the parents, godparents and family circle of **Corey Gerard Conway** who was received into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 25th November in St. Patrick's Church

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the souls of **Packie Vincent Morris (1st), Gerard McGurk (3rd), Charlie and Mary Morris, Michael Gillen (29th), Kelly McKenna (12th) and Michael McCullagh** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Adoration Renewal: Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins on Wednesday 6th December at 12 noon in St. Patrick's Church. Those who have volunteered to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament should have received or will receive their invitation and instruction card over this weekend or over the next few days. If you do not receive the card please contact either Maria Bradley or Mary Tracey. If you did get the chance to volunteer please contact one of the above. New volunteers are always welcome. Any parishioner is both welcome to spend some time with the Lord in the Eucharist every Wednesday and in fact are encouraged to do so. Adoration concludes just before 7.30pm when there is mass and at 7.00pm when there is no mass. Once more please pray for the success of this important parish initiative and for those who have committed themselves to an hour each week of Eucharistic Adoration.

45th Eucharistic All-Night Vigil: Thursday 7th and Friday 8th December at Knock Shrine. The programme for the night at 10.00pm with confessions until 12 midnight in the Chapel of Reconciliation. The vigil will begin at 12 midnight in the Basilica with Rosary, Candlelight Procession, Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross. Mass will take place at 4.00am with main celebrant Fr. Freddy Warner and concelebrant Fr. Brendan Walsh. St. John's Rest and Care Centre will be open all night to facilitate pilgrims who are attending the vigil.
For info call (094) 938 8100

Meeting for New Altar Servers and Their Parents: Thursday 7th December 7 at 6.30pm in St. Patrick's Church to begin practice and explain Safeguarding arrangements for altar servers and filling in of consent forms etc.

Parish Child Safeguarding: This weekend we announce that our Parish Safeguarding Representative Brigid Keenan has stood down after many years in this role, we thank her for the hard work and commitment she brought to the role of ensuring best practice in our parish. Brigid is now Chair of our Parish Adoration Committee and we thank her for taking on this new role. We also announce that Julie Tracey and Una Tuohey have taken up the role of Parish Safeguarding Representatives and we thank them for their generosity in accepting the invitation and look forward to working with them to ensure that Safeguarding is a priority in the Parish of Greencastle.

All Ireland Consecration to Jesus through Mary: Sunday 5th November to Friday 8th December.

Pope Francis' Intention for December (please remember this in your personal prayers)
The Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 • Psalm 84:9-14, R/ v 8 • 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Mark 1:1-8 • Lectionary 1:27 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Parish Liturgy for December, 2017	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Catriona McCullagh	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Lauryn Hollywood	Grace Conneely
Collectors	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Brendan Conway Eugene Tracey	Sean Clarke Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Helen Tracey and Mary Bradley		

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 2 nd December The family of Aoibheann McNamee	First Sunday of Advent	Sunday 3 rd December The family of Gearoid McNamee
Saturday 9 th December The family of Dannin Tracey	Second Sunday of Advent	Sunday 10 th December The family of Darragh Morris

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented
 We need new volunteers in every aspect of life

Medjugorje Special Offer: Tuesday 28th August to Tuesday 4th September. £519 if paid before Friday 8th December.
Contact Maria at (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Children in Crossfire – Advent Boxes: Now available at the doors of the chapel. We ask if you can take a box, place it in your home over Christmas and return it in January. Funds raised will provide vital health care and nutrition to some on the world's most vulnerable children in Tanzania and Ethiopia.
For more information call Shauna on (028) 7126 9898

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events: Call (028) 8164 8719 / 07704 526 870 for information

Cearclann Chultúrtha do Pháistí / Cultural Workshop for Children: Sunday 3rd December from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Gortin GAA clubrooms. For páistí bunscóile / primary school children from 6 years. Participants will make Christmas decorations, learn festive phrases and songs in Gaeilge and enjoy refreshments!
Leader: Úna Kelly • **Cost:** £3 per child with concessions for families
We thank Gortin GAC for the use of their premises and Pobal ar a'n lúil, Craobh na hOmaí for their support

Singing Classes with Ciara Fox: Sunday 10th December at 2.30pm in Leo McCullagh's, Plumbridge.
We wish to thank Leo for the use of his premises while the hall undergoes repairs

Green Elves Playgroup – Bingo Club: Starts Wednesday 6th December at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.30pm).

Institute of Irish Leadership – Upcoming Events:	Email: kathleenburnsill@gmail.com • Tel: (028) 8775 7800
Walking Group:	Meet every Monday in Pomeroy Forest Car Park, 11.00am-12.00pm
Women's Health Programmes (with trained tutor):	Wednesday 6 th December, 10.30am-1.00pm
Month's Mind Masses:	Now taking bookings for light refreshments afterwards

Foyle Hospice – Breakfast with Santa: Saturday 9th December, 9.00am to 10.30am, Foyle Hospice Day Centre.
Call us on (028) 7135 9888 to book your tickets

Greencastle Community Association – Big Bazaar: Sunday 10th December from 4.00pm (lasts about one and a half hour).
Many fantastic prizes to be won including a 55" LED Ultra HD TV

Greencastle 5 Mile Road Run • Tuesday 26th December • 10.30am walk • 12noon run • £12 entry fee
 Enter online at greencastle5.com • Proceeds in aid of Care for Cancer • Call 07767 718 029 to find out more

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

Flaxmill Centre, Drumduff Sixmilecross – Upcoming Events:	Tel: (028) 8076 1848
Old Time Dance	Wednesday 5 th December at 9.30pm <i>With Larry & Co.</i>
Grand Christmas Bazaar	Friday 8 th December at 8.00pm <i>Lots of valuable prizes to be won</i>

Prayer to Blessed Michael Archangel: Blessed Michael the Archangel, defend us in our hour of conflict. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God restrain him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust Satan down to hell and all the evil spirits, who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen

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

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

Family Care Adoption Services: We are seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children
For a free information pack contact us using any of the following details
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 / (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages: Airport Transport and 7 nights B&B €279 – Call for flight info.
Tel: 01 443 4510 • **Email:** reservations@med-irishcentre.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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme of emigration.
If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office
Email: t.mcmenamin@derrydiocese.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

Children in Crossfire Recruitment – Office Based Volunteer and Parish-Based Volunteers for Advent:
Please call (028) 7126 9898 or email shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org as soon as possible
By volunteering together we can make a difference! Thank you.

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

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

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Mark 13:33-37: John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. The coming of the Lord is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces – good things that happened when they were not anticipated.
2. Perhaps some of these were moments when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in you and around you, and this enabled you to be open to the moment of grace. Recall the contrast with moments when that alertness and awareness were not present.
3. The servants were given charge of the household 'each with their own job'. Identify with the servants as people given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person? What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God?
4. Jesus says that what he is saying to his disciples he is saying to all. Have there been times when you have been a messenger of hope to others, encouraging them to wait for a moment of grace. Who have been the ones to encourage you?

The Deep End – Keep Awake:

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

We are surrounded these days by the commercial 'circus' of Christmas shopping and 'getting ready'. It might seem far removed from the story that we are celebrating; the story of a poor refugee family 2,000 years ago who had a very special delivery. The story of God choosing to intervene in human history in such an intimate and shocking way; God choosing to be born into a situation of poverty and danger. It is good to ask ourselves at this time of year, what are we getting ready for? Advent is a wonderful season which invites us to use our waiting to grow spiritually. We are invited to make space for ourselves and for God in the midst of the rushing. Can we stop and be still and ask ourselves: 'Where do I see God being born around me today?' In those I meet? In kind words and gestures? In my community? In my own heart?

Have a more 'aware' Advent. Be mindful in all you do. Be aware in your rushing, be aware as you stand in that queue, be aware as you eat, be aware of your feelings, be aware of your thoughts. By watching all of this we become more awake, more able to recognise our true selves and more able to see God being born continuously each day within us and around us. Our awe and wonder grows and we can be prepared for the coming of the Gift himself. How we prepare determines what will be.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 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.

Wednesday 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 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'.

2016 Parish Statistics

Baptisms (18) 7 Boys 11 Girls	First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (16) 10 Boys 6 Girls	Confirmations (21) 10 Boys 11 Girls
Marriages (16) 7 within parish 9 outside parish	Funerals (10) 8 within parish 2 outside parish	Station Masses in October 8

Events The death of retired Bishop of Derry Most Rev. Dr. Edward Daly is announced on Monday 8th August
Mass with Padre Pio Relic Celebrated in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday 5th October