

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry

Saint Patrick's Church
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Broughderg

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. 4th October, 2009 – *Day for Life*

The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

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Today is the Catholic Church's 'Day for Life in Ireland': This day, dedicated to celebrating the sacredness of life will focus this year on the theme of suicide. Check out dayforlife.org for more information.

Liturgical Schedule for the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time. 4th October – 11th October, 2009

Sunday 4 th October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass
Monday 5 th October Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass <i>Sick and housebound will be visited</i>
Tuesday 6 th October Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Wednesday 7 th October Our Lady of the Rosary	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Thursday 8 th October Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Friday 9 th October Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	8:00pm Mass
Saturday 10 th October Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 11 th October Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

Confession Schedule

Saturday 11 th October	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 12 th October	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£980**.
Please support your parish by using your envelope even if for some reason you must attend Mass outside your parish – Thank you.
Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are promptly returned to those parishes.

Fr. Hasson extends his sincere thanks to all who offered him and his family circle support last weekend, with special thanks to Fr. Terry Bennett (Dalgan Park and Omagh). **Children in Crossfire** are recruiting enthusiastic individuals to participate in the Barcelona Half Marathon in February, 2010 and Cycle Vietnam in April, 2010. A registration fee is requested and minimum sponsorship applies. If you are interested in either of these challenges, please contact Sarah on (028) 7126 9898 or email events@childrenincrossfire.org

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association: Meeting on Tuesday 6th October at 7.00pm.

Annual Dance in Broughderg Community Centre: Friday 16th October.

Dean Maguire College Annual School Mass: St. Colmcille's Church, Tuesday 6th October at 9.30am.

The Pope's Intentions For October, 2009: General: That Sunday may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the Risen Lord, participating in the Eucharist. **Mission:** That the entire People of God to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may eagerly assume their own missionary responsibility and consider it the highest service they can offer humanity.

Email received from Pat Clarke (Chairman of Naomh Pdraig GAA, Greencastle) this week:
Commiserations to the Minor team on losing in the championship final last Saturday
Thanks to all those who helped in any way at the Hurling Final last Sunday
Greencastle v Cookstown – Championship Semi-Final on Sunday at 2.00pm, Pomeroy. Come support our team

Our parish wishes **Naomh Pdraig Senior footballers** success in today's championship semi-final.

Next Sunday's Readings: Wisdom 7:7-11; Psalm 89; Hebrews 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-3. Lectionary I, page 810

Lotto Numbers: 10, 13, 16, 19 (3 winners with 3 numbers – £20 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,600

Serving Our Faith Community in Greencastle Parish

10 th / 11 th October, 2009	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)
Prayers of Intercession	Enda Bradley	Lucy Hood
Offertory Gifts	The family of Noel McKenna	The family of Sean and Tara Coneely
Prayers of Intercession:	We need committed and responsible teenagers to lead these prayers for us at each Sunday Mass, will you volunteer?	

Pilgrimages and Retreats

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (16th – 21st July, 2010): Cost £629 – payable in instalments. Application forms are now available in the sacristy (Greencastle). Forms for those in need of special care or those aged 80 or over are available only from the Pilgrimage Office, Derry. Telephone: (028) 7126 0293.

IHCPT – Young People's Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Easter 2009): Around 500 young people from all over Ireland spend a week on pilgrimage in Lourdes with the IHCPT, The Irish Pilgrimage Trust at Easter. (www.irishpilgrimage.com) The Irish Pilgrimage Trust welcomes applications from young people with:

- A Physical Disability or illness/suffering/trauma/bereavement (aged 11-18).
- A learning disability (aged 11-21)
- Jet Set Group- Physical Disability (18-25)
- Jet Set Group-Learning Disability(21-30)
- The organisation also has Family Groups for very seriously ill children under the age of 9, accompanied by a parent or close relative

The IHCPT covers the cost of those young people selected to travel. If there is a young person that you feel would be eligible and would benefit from a trip to Lourdes or you would like further information about the pilgrimage please contact Damian on 07968312770 or IHCPT, Kilcuan, Clarenbridge, Co Galway, Tel: 00353 91 796622 for further details and an application form. Please note closing date for applications is Saturday 31st October, 2009

St. Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot. Co. Donegal: A space of quiet, prayer and solitude. Available for individual retreats and spiritual guidance. Residential accommodation and meals in the Centre's hermitages. Promotions offer €45 per night. *"Come away by yourself to a desert place and rest for a while."*
Contact Fr. Neal Carlin on 00353 74936 8370 or sacre@eircom.net for enquiries and bookings.

Youth in the Community

'Choosing your Future': A conference with **Jean Vanier** in the Millennium Forum, Derry – Wednesday 21st October – 10.00am to 1.30pm. This conference is for young people but there are a limited number of tickets available for adults at £15. To book contact The Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or ddcc@derrydiocese.org

Sacred Heart College, Omagh presents 'Memorable Melodies': A fundraiser to purchase resources for the Music department, in the Strule Arts Centre, 22nd October at 7.30pm. Your support and attendance will be welcomed. Tickets available in the Strule Arts Centre or at struleartscentre.co.uk

Parish Stations: If you are willing to host a Station Mass in your home during the month of October, 2009, please sign the schedule in the sacristy in Greencastle. Fr. Hasson will be available on the following dates:

Monday 5th; Tuesday 6th 13th, 20th; Wednesday 7th, 14th and 21st October

Hosting a 'Station Mass' is a long tradition in the life of our parish communities in the Catholic Church. It reflects our openness to God and our hospitality to our neighbour. Hospitality should be kept as simple as possible. It is important that our priorities have the right focus. Mass in our homes is a blessing to the family and to the local area. It would be a blessing if one family in each townland were willing to host a 'Station'.

Monday 12 th October at 7.30pm	Aughascribba	Annie and Margaret Morris
Monday 19 th October at 7.30pm	Muninamale	RoseAnn and Nuala McGarvey
Monday 28 th October at 7.30pm	Broughderg	Sarah Coyle
Tuesday 27 th October at 7.30pm	Muninamale	Maggie Bradley
Wednesday 28 th October at 7.30pm	Cashel	Kathleen and Michael McCullagh.

Confessions are available 30 minutes before Mass. Thank you to all families who have volunteered to host a Station Mass for your townland during the month of October, 2009.

BADA An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:	
Friday 16th October	Pioneer Association Annual Dance
Friday 23rd October	Card playing from 8.30pm (every Friday night onwards)
Saturday 31st October	Table quiz at 8.30pm

The Loughmacrory Accordion band members would like to take this opportunity to invite any past members of this band, or any other bands to join them in their reformation. A meeting will be held in Loughmacrory Old Hall on Sunday 11th October at 3.00pm. For more information contact 07753 422670.

Help to contain the swine flu impact: Everyone can play their part, and simple measures such as regular hand-washing and using a tissue can go some way towards mitigating this pandemic's impact.
Irish News (18th July, 2009)

Pope tells Young People “You are the hope of the Church”
VATICAN CITY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 (VIS):
At the end of today's Eucharistic celebration the Holy Father addressed a Message to the 10,000 young pilgrims gathered on the esplanade of Melnik near the site of St. Wenceslas' martyrdom. Many of them had spent the night in tents to attend the Mass presided by Benedict XVI.
"Being with you makes the Pope feel young!" the Holy Father told the pilgrims, thanking them for their "enthusiasm" and "generosity". He went on: "In every young person there is an aspiration towards happiness, sometimes tinged with anxiety: an aspiration that is often exploited, however, by present-day consumerist society in false and alienating ways. Instead, that longing for happiness must be taken seriously, it demands a true and comprehensive response. At your age, the first major choices are made, choices that can set your lives on a particular course, for better or worse".
Benedict XVI reminded his audience of "the experience of St. Augustine, who said that the heart of every person is restless until it finds what it truly seeks. He discovered that Jesus Christ alone is the answer that can satisfy his and every person's desire for a life of happiness, filled with meaning and value.
"As he did with Augustine", the Pope added, "so the Lord comes to meet each one of you. He knocks at the door of your freedom and asks to be welcomed as a friend. He wants to make you happy, to fill you with humanity and dignity. The Christian faith is this: encounter with Christ, the living Person Who gives life a new horizon and thereby a definitive direction".
"The Lord calls each of us by name, and entrusts to us a specific mission in the Church and in society". He "constantly renews His invitation to you to be His disciples and His witnesses. Many of you He calls to marriage, and the preparation for this Sacrament constitutes a real vocational journey. Consider seriously the divine call to raise a Christian family, and let your youth be the time in which to build your future with a sense of responsibility. Society needs Christian families, saintly families!"
Pope Benedict continued his Message: "And if the Lord is calling you to follow Him in the ministerial priesthood or in the consecrated life, do not hesitate to respond to His invitation. In particular, in this Year for Priests, I appeal to you, young men. ... The Church in every country, including this one, needs many holy priests and also persons fully consecrated to the service of Christ, Hope of the world.
"Hope! This word, to which I often return, sits well with youth. You, my dear young people, are the hope of the Church! She expects you to become messengers of hope".
The Holy Father then called on his youthful listeners to participate in the next World Youth Day, due to take place in the Spanish capital city of Madrid in August 2011, and he asked them "to live your faith with joy and enthusiasm; to grow in unity among yourselves and with Christ; to pray and to be diligent in frequenting the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Confession".
Having then greeted the young people in various languages, Benedict XVI returned to Prague by car, where he dined at the archbishop's palace with bishops of the Czech Republic.
PV-REP. / MESSAGE YOUTH / MELINK VIS 090928 (570)

Yearning for freedom and truth can never be eliminated
VATICAN CITY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 (VIS):
In Prague Castle at 6 p.m. today, the Pope met with rectors of Czech universities, staff and student representatives, and members of State and Church cultural institutions.
"While some argue that the questions raised by religion, faith and ethics have no place within the purview of collective reason", said the Pope in his address, "that view is by no means axiomatic. The freedom that underlies the exercise of reason - be it in a university or in the Church - has a purpose: it is directed to the pursuit of truth, and as such gives expression to a tenet of Christianity which in fact gave rise to the university".
"The great formative tradition, open to the transcendent, which stands at the base of universities across Europe, was in this land, and others, systematically subverted by the reductive ideology of materialism, the repression of religion and the suppression of the human spirit. In 1989, however, the world witnessed in dramatic ways the overthrow of a failed totalitarian ideology and the triumph of the human spirit", said Benedict XVI.
He highlighted how "the yearning for freedom and truth is inalienably part of our common humanity. It can never be eliminated; and, as history has shown, it is denied at humanity's own peril. It is to this yearning that religious faith, the various arts, philosophy, theology and other scientific disciplines, each with its own method, seek to respond, both on the level of disciplined reflection and on the level of a sound praxis".
Universities are responsible "for enlightening the minds and hearts of the young men and women of today" said the Pope, indicating that this task is "not merely the accumulation of knowledge or skills, but 'paideia', human formation in the treasures of an intellectual tradition directed to a virtuous life".
"The idea of an integrated education, based on the unity of knowledge grounded in truth, must be regained", he insisted. "With the massive growth in information and technology there comes the temptation to detach reason from the pursuit of truth. ... The relativism that ensues provides a dense camouflage behind which new threats to the autonomy of academic institutions can lurk.
"While the period of interference from political totalitarianism has passed", he added, "is it not the case that frequently, across the globe, the exercise of reason and academic research are - subtly and not so subtly - constrained to bow to the pressures of ideological interest groups and the lure of short-term utilitarian or pragmatic goals?"
"The skills of analysis and those required to generate a hypothesis, combined with the prudent art of discernment, offer an effective antidote to the attitudes of self-absorption, disengagement and even alienation which are sometimes found in our prosperous societies, and which can particularly affect the young".
"Not only do the proponents of this positivistic exclusion of the divine from the universality of reason negate what is one of the most profound convictions of religious believers, they also thwart the very dialogue of cultures which they themselves propose. An understanding of reason that is deaf to the divine and which relegates religions into the realm of subcultures, is incapable of entering into the dialogue of cultures that our world so urgently needs".
"This confidence in the human ability to seek truth, to find truth and to live by the truth led to the foundation of the great European universities. Surely we must reaffirm this today in order to bring courage to the intellectual forces necessary for the development of a future of authentic human flourishing, a future truly worthy of man", the Holy Father concluded.
At the end of his meeting with scholars, the Pope travelled to the apostolic nunciature where he spent the night.
PV-CZECH REP. / ACADEMIC WORLD / PRAGUE VIS 090928 (640)

Questions people ask:
Q. How can I overcome the habit of personal sin? I hate myself for doing it but yet I cannot stop.
A. Many people are burdened with fear of a punishing God combined with an exaggerated notion of sexual sinfulness. This combination of fear and guilt causes the mind to focus on the problem to the extent that it becomes an obsession. An obsession is very hard to control. Be gentle on yourself. Let go of exaggerated guilt, accepting sexual thoughts and desires as so normal that the only time to worry about them is when you no longer experience them! If you praised God for human sexuality, maybe the devil would cease using it as a temptation.
Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 10:2-16:

1. Marriages do break down, but in this story Jesus appears as the wise person urging people to seek first the original harmony where possible, rather than seek escape routes when difficulties arise. When have you found that, in marriage or in other relationships, the bonds have been strengthened when you have been prepared to work through difficulties?
2. There are other things that we needlessly and wrongly put in opposition: young and old, male and female, people from different cultures, body and soul. Perhaps at times you have discovered the advantages of exploring the richness in such seemingly opposites.
3. The children in the second story can be taken as representing any group of 'little ones' whose opinion we may be inclined to dismiss. When have you found that you have been taught an important lesson about life, about love, or about faith by people whose views you had been inclined to dismiss?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

The Deep End – Made in Heaven?

Here's a piece of worldly wisdom: A man is incomplete until he's married; then when he is, he's finished! In other words: marriage makes or breaks. The Pharisees in today's Gospel reading (Mark 10:2-16) are aware of this too when they ask Jesus if it's lawful for a man to divorce his wife. Note that it's the legal aspect of marriage they focus on to test him – not a respectful attitude to Jesus or the Law. Law's purpose is to guide, not to entrap. So, too, with God's word.

Today it guides us to an understanding of marriage between a man and a woman as a relationship that lasts. This may be hard to take. So a few questions: if divorce is good for society then should it not be on call? Why limit it to just once or twice? If people who marry want the divorce option down the line should this not be expressed in the marriage ceremony? How could someone marrying, who wants divorce as an option, promise 'to have and to hold for better or for worse until death us do part'? To be honest would they not have to declare: 'to have and to hold for better but not for worse and until one of us decides to divorce'? But who would want to begin their life together saying that in public? Could love be so calculating?

If it could, then perhaps a comment on marriage that the Reader's Digest carried many years ago might still be true: marriage is an illusion and a snore!

Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)