



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg

Second Sunday of Advent [Year A] (4th December, 2016)

Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshkinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474



Thought for Advent: "When we review the year that has passed, one word we probably won't use is boring. It has been an eventful few months. For some there is a sense of unease and anxiety about the future, yet Advent calls us to be ready, to prepare not next week, or next year or even tomorrow, but to prepare now for the coming of the Lord is near. Our Father in Heaven is coming among us in unconditional love."

Fr. Patrick Lagan CC, St. Eugene's Cathedral Derry

Liturgy Schedule for the Second Week of Advent [Year A] (4 th December – 11 th December, 2016)			
Saturday 3rd December St. Francis Xavier (priest)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions	
Sunday 4th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Gerald McGurk (2 nd Anniversary) 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass	
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON MONDAY 5 TH AND TUESDAY 6 TH DECEMBER			
Wednesday 7th December Second Week of Advent	Our Lady of the Wayside	8.00pm Mass	
Thursday 8th December Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass	
Friday 9th December Second Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
Saturday 10th December Do This in Memory (week 4)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 11th December Third Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass	

COLLECTION • Weekly (27th November): £1,060 • **Retired Priest:** £765
If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Packie Vincent Morris (Carnanrancy)** who was buried on Saturday of this week – our prayers go to his family, friends and neighbours who mourn his death. We also pray for the repose of the soul of **Gerald McGurk** and **Kelly McKenna** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptism: We congratulate the parents and family of **Fianna Marie Potter** who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday 26th November in St. Patrick's Church.

New Altar Server's Practice: The first practice will take place on Wednesday 7th December at 6.30pm in St. Patrick's Church and last 45 minutes. A parent or guardian is asked to be present as some Child Safeguarding Information will be shared.

Pilgrimage to Knock: There will be a bus going en route from Cookstown through Omagh to Knock to the annual all-night vigil for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday 8th December. Pick-ups will be along the main Cookstown Road, Omagh bus station and Cravanagh Park and Ride on Wednesday 7th December around 6.00pm. **Bus:** £15 • **Meals:** £12 (optional) • For more info call Mona on (028) 8673 7954 or Una on 07743 575 969

Pilgrimage to Medugorje: Wednesday 6th to Wednesday 13th September, 2017
 £619 for half-board (£499 if paid by Friday 9th December) • *Price increase due to falling rate of sterling*
 Contact Maria ASAP on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Parish Graveyards – Ice Warning: During these winter months in particular it is important we take particular care in the parish graveyards, especially on these frosty mornings. While there have been major improvements in some of these graveyards it is impossible to salt them every time there is a major frost.
 So please be careful at all times, thank you *Fr. E. Gallagher PP*

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 • Psalm 145:6-10, R/ cf Is 35:4 • James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11 • Lectionary 1:46 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 2]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
<u>Saturday 3rd December</u> The family of Cira McLaughlin	Second Sunday of Advent	<u>Sunday 4th December</u> The family of Ryan McGlinchey
<u>Saturday 10th December (DTIM wk. 4)</u> The family of Shea Tracey	Third Sunday of Advent	<u>Sunday 11th December</u> The family of Orla Morris
<i>If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented</i>		

44th Annual Eucharistic All-Night Vigil: Wednesday 7th December, beginning with confessions in the Chapel of Reconciliation from 10.00pm, followed by the Vigil at midnight in the Basilica with Rosary, Candlelight Procession, Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour with Fr. Brendan Walsh, S.C.A. Concelebrated Mass will then take place at 4.00am with Fr. Freddy Warner, S.M.A. Watch the Vigil live online at knockshrine.ie/watch.
For more information call (094) 93 88100 or email info@knock-shrine.ie

Strange Occurrences in a Small Irish Village DVD: A fascinating film about an extraordinary story. The acclaimed feature documentary from the team behind award-winning film 'One Million Dubliners', examines the phenomenon of Knock Shrine, from the testimonies of those that witnessed the Apparition in 1879, to those that play a central role in Knock Shrine and village today.
Now on sale at Knock Shrine Bookshop, Knock Museum and online at knockshrine.ie. An ideal Christmas gift!

Flaxmill Centre, Drumduff – Upcoming Events: *For more information call (028) 8076 1848*
Grand Christmas Bazaar: Friday 9th December from 8.00pm. Lots of very valuable prizes to be won.
Christmas Fancy Dress Party: Sunday 11th December from 4.00pm. Children dress up as your favourite character and join in fun, games and crafts. Santa will drop in with presents for all children. £5 per child (adults free)
Old Time Dance: Wednesday 13th December from 9.30pm, with Larry & Co.

St. Anthony's Retreat Centre and Columba House, Derry – Christmas Cards:
 Proceeds from the sale of these cards go to St. Anthony's Retreat Centre, Burnfoot, Co. Donegal

Free Indoor Cycle Qualification: Course will take place Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th January from 10.00am to 4.30pm. There are 2 places available with a minimum qualification of Level 2 Fitness Instructor to be considered.
Call Darryl on 07979 378 732

Sperrin Óg GFC – Open Exhibition and Coffee Morning to Recognise 25th Anniversary: Sunday 4th December from 9.30am to 2.00pm in Greencastle Community Centre to launch the 25th year of celebrations. All past and present players, members and community are invited for a great chance to catch-up and look back on the memories from the past 25 years. *We look forward to seeing you there*

Greencastle's First Blood Donation Clinic: Greencastle community invite you to save a life for Christmas by donating blood on Wednesday 14th December. You can donate between 2.00pm - 4.00pm and 5.15pm - 8.00pm at Greencastle Community Centre.

Foyle Hospice – Appeal for Volunteers in Run-Up to Christmas: If you have a couple of hours to help with a bag pack in M&S, Foyleside please call Sharon Williams, Volunteer Services Coordinator on (028) 7135 1010.

Little Stars Daycare, Gortin – Christmas Craft Fair: Tuesday 6th December from 7.00pm to 9.30pm.
Entry is £3 with festive refreshments served • Everyone welcome

Rouskey Community Centre – Christmas Baking Demonstration: Monday 12th December at 7.00pm. Includes Irene's carmel squares and scones, Teresa's mince pies and Christmas Cake decorating and Jacqueline is going to treat us to a Carrot Cake. *Admission: £5*

The Net – December Edition: Now on sale, with coverage including:

- Aghyaran Day of Renewal • Novena blessings for Cappagh and Christ the King Youth Choir
- St. Joseph's PS, Drumquin Golden Jubilee • Drung harvest time thanksgiving • Dungiven Choir launches CD
- Fahan Nazareth House thanks for garden funds • Galliagh marks St. Joseph's Church's 60th anniversary
- Life of Virginity ceremony in Galliagh • Great response to Granaghan prayer vigil
- Omagh Churches Forum explores role of religion • St. Eugene's Holy Door closing ceremony
- Waterside celebration for Syro Malabar community • Another amazing COR weekend
- Successful Search fundraiser • St. Joseph's Young Priest Society welcomes Claudy branch
- Cappagh faith story • Holy Land pilgrim reflects • Derry Knights of Columbanus Centenary
- Children's Catechism Club • Parish Post-its

For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call/text 07809 292 852

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayers)
Universal – End to Child-Soldiers: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.
Evangelisation – Europe: That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership: In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.
For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

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

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

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
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass

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

Family Care Society: We are presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children.
 For more information contact us via the following details (offices open weekdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm)
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The Apostolate prayer card offers us a special opportunity to spend ten minutes each day in pray for a priest.
 The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are: *prayerforpriests.com*
Rosemary Johnson 07810 387 825 - brendan_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk • **Ethna Hill** 07528 249 838 - ethna776@yahoo.com
Siobhan Sweeney 07880 588 041 - siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk • **Eamon Cassidy** 077435 02165 - e_cassidy@hotmail.com

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

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

Parish Liturgy for December, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Kevin / Ryan Clarke	Catriona McCullagh	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Aileen Tracey	Grace Coneely
Collectors	Noel McElhatton Francis McLaughlin	Patrick Tuohey Peter Tracey	Brendan Daly Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke

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

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/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 entrances*

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

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2015 Parish Statistics			
Baptisms 6 Boys 8 Girls	Confirmations 8 Boys 8 Girls	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation 10 Boys 9 Girls	Marriages 10 within parish 5 outside parish
Station Masses in October 7	Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13th Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE Celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry on Thursday 17 th September in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle		
Funerals 13	Farewell Concert and Presentation Night for Fr. Eugene Hasson Former Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE and now Parish Priest of the Parishes of Lavey and Greenlough took place on Friday 13 th November in GREENCASTLE Community Centre		

Family Care Society – Interested in Adoption? We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.

Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • **Julie or Brian (Derry Office):** (028) 7136 8592
Email: email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Matthew 3:1-12: *John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)*

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to us of the good news of the gospel that God loves us – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have we borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?
3. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

Musings – Preaching in the Wilderness (Matthew 3:1): *Fr. Iomar Daniels (Loughray, Co. Galway)*

Preaching the Church's message is both challenging and demanding. It does seem like 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness.' The Gospel appears unreal and irrelevant when presented in doctrinal terms to many people. Perhaps the message is lost in translation. When John preached, he too found himself in a community where many would have been indifferent to his message, especially the Jews. The Jews felt that they were the favoured people; one step ahead of all others when it came to God's judgement. Just being a Jew was enough to exempt oneself from judgement. Is there some of this in the modern psyche? John had to remind them that life, not lineage, is God's standard of judgement. When we preach today there are three things we should keep in mind as did John, the great preacher. Firstly, our Gospel is one of social concern; the poor need our attention. Secondly, in all we do we are serving God and not ourselves. Thirdly, that God judges us all fairly, without discrimination. This emphasis may help in the 'wilderness' of the modern world.

The Deep End:

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

This second Sunday of Advent we are called to make straight paths for the coming of our Lord. How we prepare is important. We are waiting, and yes waiting can be frustrating. But waiting can also be a time of growth, of inspiration, of dreaming big dreams and imagining the endless possibilities that might come. We should try not to let go of that hope and inspiration.

John appeals to the community who have gathered to open their eyes, to take the opportunity that is at hand and deal with the spiritual crisis which surrounds them. John is calling for a radical change of heart. The decisive moment is coming where people must take a new path. What can we do to help build communities where leaders produce good fruit? What can we do to respectfully challenge those who do not? Today we pray that God's Spirit enlivens our heart, our work and our world.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 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. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

Tuesday 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.

Thursday 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'. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE Website: childrenincrossfire.org • **Email:** events@childrenincrossfire.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 9898

Advent Appeal: Boxes for this appeal are available at the church porch over the next few weekends. Please consider taking one for this very worthy charity and during this season of excess please remember in the run up to Christmas the children and communities supported by this charity in countries across the world.

Camino De Santiago Walking Challenge: Thursday 30th March to Tuesday 4th April. Walk the way of St. James.

Places are limited

Hearing Aid Support Sessions: Do you wear NHS hearing aids? Offering advice on how to use and maintain your hearing aids and information on hearing loss / tinnitus. NO appointment required.

Call Sheena on (028) 8225 1446 / 07553 353 980

If you have a concern we offer a free hearing check. NHS batteries distributed

Rural North West Community Support, Newtownstewart

Monday 12th December from 10.30am to 12 noon

Derg Valley Health Living, Castlederg

Tuesday 20th December from 10.30am to 12 noon

Strule Family Practice, Omagh Health Centre

Wednesday 21st December from 2.00 to 3.00pm