



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

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

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (5<sup>th</sup> February, 2012)**

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

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



Liturgy Schedule for the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (6 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012 – 12 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012)		
<b>Saturday Evening (4<sup>th</sup> February)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6:00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b> Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo) <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> St. Paul Miki and Companions	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <i>Sick and Housebound will be visited</i>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b> St. Mel (bishop)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass: Derry Diocesan Society (members and benefactors)
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b> Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> St. Scholastica (virgin)	St. Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b> Confessions <b>8.00pm</b> Mass: Brenda Brennan (Anniversary)
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b> Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass: World Day of the Sick (elderly or infirm who wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick are invited to be present)
<b>Saturday Evening (11<sup>th</sup> February)</b> <i>Do This In Memory</i>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6:00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Gerald Myles McCullagh (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b> Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo) <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass: Rose Quinn (Month Mind) Bridget and John Quinn (Anniversaries)
<b>Weekly Offerings:</b> Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to <b>£1,000</b> . <i>Please support your community by using your envelope, even if you must attend Mass outside your parish.</i> <i>Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.</i> 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.		
<b>Invitation to Mass:</b> If you are a homemaker, not presently working or are retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily.		
<b>Sick and housebound:</b> These will be attended <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> . Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit inform Fr. Hasson.		
<b>Remembering Our Dead:</b> We pray for <b>Brenda Brennan</b> whose anniversary occurs at this time		
<b>Carmelite Retreat Centre (Termonbacca, Derry) – Marian Devotions:</b> Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February from 7.30pm.		
<b>PTAA - Council Meeting:</b> Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm in St. Patrick's Church.		
<b>Do This In Memory – Our Parish's First Holy Communion Preparation Programme:</b> Our next gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February).		
<b>Cultural Night:</b> This year's cultural night will be held on Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March, we need all singers, dancers and musicians to participate in this event. <i>For any further information contact Gemma on 07799 334 883</i>		
<b>Greencastle Youth Club Rota</b>	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P6 and P7 (Muriel McGuigan and Liz Conneely)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Years 8, 9 and 10 (Marial Tuohey and Angus Donnelly)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P4 and P5 (Simon Warnock and Anne Warnock)
<b>Next Sunday's Readings:</b> Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalm 31:1-2, 5, 11, r/v. 7; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45; (Lectionary I, page 750) <b>(Sunday: Year B) (Weekday: Year 2)</b>		
<b>Lotto Results:</b> C – E – L – P – Z (10 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) <b>Next Jackpot:</b> £6,800		

SERVING OUR FAITH COMMUNITY IN GREENCASTLE PARISH		
<b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>Offertory Gifts Rota</b>	<b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Enda McKenna</b>	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Rachael Tuohey</b>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Shona McKenna</b>	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Laura Tuohey</b>
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Alisha McKenna</b>	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Louise O'Brien</b>
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Shauna McGurk</b>	First Sunday Of Lent	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February The family of <b>Erin Mulholland</b>
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March The family of <b>Dylan McFarland</b>	Second Sunday Of Lent	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March The family of <b>Leanne Morris</b>
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.		
<b>International Eucharistic Congress:</b> <b>This Sunday at St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn Monsignor Eamon Martin, Diocesan Administrator will launch the final phase of preparations for the International Eucharistic Congress which is taking place this year in Dublin from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. He will speak about the meaning of the Congress and the golden opportunity it presents for the Church.</b> The IEC office in Dublin has produced a booklet which contains all the information from the website. It will be available to parishes within the coming weeks but is free with the Irish Independent this Sunday.		
<b>Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests:</b> 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying £20. 2. Likewise, any person whomsoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. <b>Privileges of members:</b> <b>Deceased:</b> 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese ( <b>this will take place in Greencastle on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> ). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. <b>Living:</b> 1. Mass will be offered each month, as listed on the Church notice board. 2. When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Annual Award Ceremony for The Pope John Paul II Award:</b> Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, retired Archbishop of Westminster, will present the awards on Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February for the Derry City and Inishowen Deaneries and on Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February for the County Derry and Country Tyrone Deaneries. Both ceremonies will take place in the Millennium Forum, Derry and will commence at 7.30pm. There are a limited number of tickets available. If you wish to attend please contact the Catechetical Centre as soon as possible on (028) 7126 4087 or email <a href="mailto:admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com">admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com</a> . <b>We congratulate our parishioners Aisling Fox, Lucy Hood and Kevin Clarke, who will be presented with Gold awards</b>		
<b>World Day of the Sick (Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February):</b> In 1992 Pope John Paul II instituted World Day of the Sick to be held each year on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes 'whose shrine at the foot of the Pyrenees has become a temple of human suffering, we approach – as she did on Calvary, where the cross of her son rose up – the crosses of pain and solitude of so many brothers and sisters to bring them comfort, to share their suffering and present it to the Lord of Life, in spiritual communion with the whole Church.' May the Blessed Virgin, 'Health of the Sick' and 'Mother of the Living' be our support and our hope and, through the celebration of the Day of the Sick increase our sensitivity and dedication to those being tested along with the trusting expectation of the luminous day of our salvation, when every tear will be dried forever. May it be granted to us to enjoy the first fruits of that day from now on in the superabundant joy – <i>though in the midst of all tribulations</i> (2 Corinthians 7:4) promised by Christ which no one can take from us. <i>Pope John Paul II (message for the first World Day of the Sick)</i>		
<b>If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern</b> 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. Familiarise yourself with it by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church.		
<b>An Bruach Dearg Community Centre</b> <b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>Every Friday Night</b> <b>Beginning February</b>	Card playing at 8.30pm Pilates/Yoga classes

**General:** ACCESS TO WATER: That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.

**Missionary:** HEALTH WORKERS: That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.

**Enrolling Your Child at Our Lady of Lourdes PS:** Forms are presently available for anyone wishing to enrol their child in Year One for September, 2012. These forms need to be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible.

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Grand Prize:** Every month for a year we are giving away one week's free apartment accommodation for up to 4 people. Text the word PILGRIM followed by your name and county to 60777 (53030 in Ireland) or phone us and we can enter you into the draw for free.

**Website:** [med-irishcentre.com](http://med-irishcentre.com)      **Telephone:** (028) 8224 1888 (NI and UK) // (048) 82241888 (Ireland).

**Family Care Society – Adoption:** Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged under 8 and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?

For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry)  
email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net

**Vincent's, Castle Street, Omagh:** Vincent's is the only SVP shop in this district. It depends on donations from *you*. Our customers really appreciate your gifts, especially good quality clothing. The shops profits are a steady source of income towards the work of SVP (St. Vincent DePaul Society). We realise there is a lot of competition from commercial and charity sources for your donations. We thank you for your ongoing support and appeal to you to continue to support SVP work in the seven SVP conferences in Omagh and district.

*Our SVP van can collect larger amounts of goods or furniture. Our shop number is (028) 8224 9839.*

**Trócaire:** Justin McCullen (Director of Trócaire) sent us a newsletter this week which detailed some of the impact the donations for the special Haiti Appeal taken up after the earthquake there two years ago which killed up to 300,000 people and left so many homeless has had. Lent will soon be upon us and this year's Trócaire Box will tell the story of **Daniel Okweng** from Northern Uganda. Forced to flee their home due to conflict, Daniel and his family have moved back to their family home having spent many years in a camp. It was at this point that their biggest struggle began, to begin life again. With the support of Greencastle parish's contributions Trócaire has been there, helping this family to readjust to the life back home. Working together with the community Trócaire has provided training and support groups to help people cope with the trauma they have experienced.

*Trócaire will greatly appreciate your support for Lent, 2012*

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**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*

**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*

<b>International Eucharistic Congress</b>	Dublin	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June
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<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.30pm</b> First Confession
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b> Fifth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop Hegarty)
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b> Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion

<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St. Patrick's</b>
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**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**      Our Lady of the Wayside

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> August
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October		
The weekday Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church unless a Requiem is needed on the date		

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	St. Patrick's	Directly after <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside	Directly after <b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 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 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Second Sunday in Lent	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>		<b>6.30pm</b> First Confessions (Reconciliation)
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Palm Sunday	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Fifth Sunday of Easter	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Feast of Corpus Christi	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass

Parish Liturgy for February, 2012	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Aisling McDermott	Monica Coyle	Martina McBride
Prayers of the Faithful	Emma Clarke	Kevin Clarke	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Collectors	Gery McDermott Noel McElhatton	Patrick Tuohey Michael Bradley	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Rosemary, Shaun and Ciara McNally		Anne McDermott Martina McBride

Thank you for all you do in our community, anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries must make it known

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** In 2012 the diocese will be going on pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The cost is £599. There are early payment schemes available in the Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry; Pastoral Centre, Maghera; St Eugene's Cathedral; Thornhill Centre and Strabane. Gift vouchers are available from the Thornhill Centre ((028) 7135 1233) and The Diocesan Pastoral Centre ((028) 7136 2475). Vouchers can be used as part or full payment. For further details contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233 or email [thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org](mailto:thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org).

**Foyle Hospice – Leap Into Action (Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February):** Foyle Hospice are encouraging their supporters to be creative in their fundraising efforts and come together on the 29<sup>th</sup> February to help raise vital funds for Hospice Care Services in the North-West region. Whether it is at work, at school, at home or at the gym the Hospice would like everyone to go crazy this Leap Year and try something different. For further information please contact the Fundraising Departments at Foyle Hospice, Fundraising Centre, 61 Culmore Road, Tel: (028) 7135 9888, email [michellemcainn@foylehospice.com](mailto:michellemcainn@foylehospice.com).

### Rouskey Community Notes

**Tai Chi Classes** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm. £20 for 4 weeks.  
**with Sean O'Kane** Need 12 people run class.

Anyone interested in any other classes should contact Bridie on  
 (028) 8164 8706 or 07847 459 428 or leave a message on the phone

### Volunteers urgently needed for the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress 2012:

The 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress 2012 (IEC2012) will take place in Dublin from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. Volunteers will have an integral role to play in the success of the Congress. Between two and three thousand volunteers will be needed during the week of the Congress and also to assist in preparations in the months leading up to the Congress. The Congress is now recruiting volunteers for a wide range of roles such as administration, data entry, stewards, marketing, transport, meet and greet, multimedia, pastoral preparation and much more!

If you would like to get involved please visit the IEC2012 website [iec2012.ie/volunteer](http://iec2012.ie/volunteer) and fill out an online application or request an application form from the Congress office. Induction training sessions will begin **19<sup>th</sup> November in the RDS**. For more information please contact the IEC2012 offices on (01) 2349900.

**50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress:** Bookings to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress are live at [iec2012.ie](http://iec2012.ie). You can book for 7 days, for 3 days or for a single day. You can decide to come as an individual, as a family or as a group. Clergy bookings are live as well. Do not leave it to the last minute! Read more about the different possibilities of booking for the Congress and book now!

Teresa Menendez I Senior Marketing and Publications Officer I 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress 2012.  
 Sandymount Building I RDS I Simonscourt Road I Dublin 4.  
 T: +353 1 234 9904 (Direct) I T: + 353 1 234 9900 (Main)  
 F: + 353 1 667 5050 (Fax). E: [marketing@iec2012.ie](mailto:marketing@iec2012.ie) I W: [www.iec2012.ie](http://www.iec2012.ie)

**The 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress 2012:** This will take place in Dublin from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June under the theme *'The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another'* and expects 25,000 pilgrims to participate each day, both from Ireland and from overseas.

It is an international gathering of people, which aims to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church; help improve our understanding and celebration of the liturgy and draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist.



These aims are achieved through a programme of pastoral preparation in the years leading up to the Congress and the actual week of the Congress that consists of a programme of Prayer, Eucharist, workshops, discussion groups, catechesis and testimonies, cultural events, a youth space, tours, exhibitions, a Eucharistic Procession, a massive closing ceremony in Croke Park and more.

*For more information visit [iec2012.ie](http://iec2012.ie)*

Those who graduate through Alcoholics Anonymous are warned of, among many things, the dangers of complacency, of describing yourself as cured. The programme of AA does not promise to turn you into someone who no longer drinks, but only to help the alcoholic to resist the first drink, one day at a time.

*John Waters (Lapsed Agnostic)*

The pope said that the Holocaust should teach "new generations" that "only the difficult path of listening and dialogue, love and pardon" can lead to "fraternity and peace in truth."  
 He expressed his prayer that the Holocaust be a warning for everyone: "May the Shoah teach especially, as much the old generations as the new ones, that only the tiring path of listening and dialogue, of love and pardon, leads peoples, cultures and religions of the world to the desired encounter of fraternity and peace in the world. May violence never again humiliate the dignity of man!"

**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.

**Age NI First Connect Service:** First Connect offers 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 07425 620 194 or email [eimear.mckearney@ageni.org](mailto:eimear.mckearney@ageni.org)

### ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses (St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028 8224 2439)):

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March,

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date**

**Couples Planning to Marry in 2012:** Please confirm your details with Fr. Hasson as soon as possible.

**Institute of Irish leadership (Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone):** Enrolments for **free** 2 day course called Understanding Stress for Personal Growth-Meditation, relaxation, therapies etc. Lunch provided. Maximum 12 people. Mon/Tues 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2012 (10 00am - 3.00pm) A fee of £5 per day to cover running costs of centre. Booking in advance essential. Enrolment for Intermediate and higher Irish classes (7.00pm - 8 30pm). Need min of 10 people. Ki Massage Therapy available by appointment. One day /half day Conference facilities available.

### Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 1:29-39:

This passage contains three stories and there is food for thought in each of them.

1. The first story (vv. 29-31) is one of healing. You might reflect on times when you were sick in body, mind or spirit and someone was a 'Jesus person' to you, someone who 'took you by the hand and lifted you up'. Remember them with gratitude. Have there been times also when you did this for others?
2. The second story (vv. 32-34) adds another dimension. People are freed from demons. Have you had the experience of being freed from demons that imprisoned you: fear, anxiety, guilt, low self-esteem, addictions, bitterness, etc.? What was it like for you to get that freedom? Who were the 'Jesus people' who helped to free you?
3. The third story (vv. 35-39) has a number of different elements we can consider
  - a) Jesus goes off to a desert place to pray. After a hectic day he felt the need for quiet to ground himself once more. In the busyness of life how do you keep in touch with what is going on inside yourself? How do you keep in touch with God? Where do you find your 'deserted place'? What difference does it make for you when you do succeed in taking time out?
  - b) Jesus shows himself as a person seeking to break new ground. The disciples want him to continue ministry where he is. He wants to move on. What has been your experience of breaking new ground, moving beyond your comfort zone, or trying something you had not tried before? When has this had a life-giving effect for you?

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

### Questions people ask:

- A. The new translation of the Apostles' Creed says that Christ descended into hell. What does that mean?
- A. This is not hell as the place of eternal damnation but hell as the abode of those who had died but were awaiting the glorious vision of God to be won by Jesus the Saviour. 'Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned nor destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him' (Catechism, 633). Two important beliefs are being stated: that Jesus really died; and that he opened heaven's gates for all who were awaiting redemption. The old translation, 'he descended to the dead' was less confusing.

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

**The Deep End – It Was Still Dark, Deserted and Prayerful:**

The Gospel today is a busy one. Jesus goes from teaching in the synagogue, to healing Peter's mother-in law, to curing everyone in the city who was sick or possessed. But there is one line in the midst of this text which stands out: 'In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.' We don't have to think too hard about the busyness of our own lives to realise the importance of stopping at some point in the middle of the mayhem to breathe, to give some space, prayer, reflection, whatever we can to focus our minds on the purpose of all the madness... God's Kingdom.

**The Difference**

I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I didn't take time to pray.  
Problems just tumbled around me,  
And heavier came each task;  
'Why doesn't God help me?' I wondered.  
He answered, 'You didn't ask.'  
I wanted to see joy and beauty-  
But the day toiled on, grey and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me,  
He said, 'But you didn't seek.'  
I tried to come into God's presence,  
I used all my keys at the lock;  
God gently and lovingly chided:  
'My child, you didn't knock.'  
I woke up early this morning  
And paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.

*Author Unknown*

*Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*