



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

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion [Year A] (5th April, 2020)



Thought for the Week: "True justice comes about in people's lives when they themselves are just in their decisions; it is expressed in their pursuit of justice for the poor and the weak.

Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness (section 79)

Liturgy Schedule for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum [Year A] (5th April – 12th April)

Saturday 4th April	Facebook Live	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday: Jim McCrory (2 nd)
Sunday 5th April	Facebook Live	11.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Palm Sunday [Year A]		3.00pm	Devotions including Rosary
Monday 6th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		12 noon	Angelus and Rosary
		6.30pm	Penitential Service for Children
Tuesday 7th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		12 noon	Angelus and Rosary
		6.30pm	Penitential Service for Teenagers
Wednesday 8th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		12 noon	Angelus and Rosary
		5.00pm – 6.45pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament with Reflection / Benediction at 6.45pm
		7.30pm	Penitential Service for Adults

Easter Triduum: This year our celebrations of Holy Week will be very different.

For yourselves who are able you can follow the parish ceremonies.

Thursday 9th April	St. Eugene's Cathedral (webcam)	10.00am	Chrism Mass
Holy Thursday	Facebook Live	7.30pm	Mass of Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until 9.00pm with Rosary and Night Prayer
Friday 10th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Morning Prayer and Rosary
Good Friday		3.00pm	Celebration of Lord's Passion and Veneration of Cross in Parish
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 11th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Morning Prayer and Rosary
Holy Saturday		9.00pm	Easter Vigil Night Prayer and Reflection
Sunday 12th April	Facebook Live	11.00am	Easter Sunday Mass followed by Angelus and Rosary
Resurrection of Lord [Year A]			

Remembering our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Jim McCrory (2nd)** and **Joe McGarvey (12th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time and for those who have died due to the coronavirus.

Anniversary Masses and Names: As mass continues to be celebrated every day from the Parochial House Oratory it is still possible to request a mass for deceased loved ones. They can be offered as the intention for the mass on each day apart from Sunday which is Missa pro Populo (Mass for the People of the Parish). You can also continue to have the names of the deceased prayed for at the weekend masses and included in the Parish Bulletin Online / Facebook and in the restricted number of printed copies. Call Fr. Gallagher on (028) 8164 8474 or leave a note at the Parochial House or in the new letterbox on the side door of the Sacristy facing the road.

Parish Envelopes: Thank you once more to all who have left off their parish envelopes at the three drop off points- Parochial House, Sacristy Letterbox and Broughderg Post Office. I ask that if you intend to make this delivery in the time ahead to do so as part of an essential visit for shopping etc. As this weekend marks the last envelope in your box can you please take note of your envelope number and from next weekend (Easter Sunday) place your contributions into an ordinary envelope and write your envelope number onto it and return as indicated above. If you need to find out your number please contact me by phone, email or Messenger and I will endeavour to get it for you. *Thanks for your continuing generosity to the parish during these tough financial times for families*

Next Week's Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43 • Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, R/ v24 • Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9 • Lectionary 1:417 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Closure of Parish Churches and Graveyards: Earlier this week, in line with this weekend's announcement under Emergency Powers used by the Executive our parish churches and graveyards were closed. It was one of the saddest occasions in my entire priesthood to have to enact. This means that our parish churches and graveyards will only be opened in the case of a funeral or burial. This decision will be reviewed by Saturday 18th April, by which time Bishop Donal and others will have made representations on the matter. I know this will mean a further tsunami of sadness will sweep across our lives, however we hope and pray that this is a short-term and temporary measure. May God give us all the strength we need to carry us through these really difficult times. *Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP*

Easter Triduum: The Congregation for Divine Worship in Rome has issued several decrees concerning the celebration of Holy Week in the present situation. The decrees state that certain ceremonies can only take place in a cathedral or church. On Holy Thursday morning the Mass of Chrism will be streamed live from St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry celebrated by Bishop McKeown, our Mass of the Lord's Supper from the Parochial House Oratory will be celebrated without the Washing of the Feet and final Procession with the Blessed Sacrament. The Adoration will take place with the Ciborium/Pyx in the Tabernacle. The Good Friday ceremony will take place with only the celebrant venerating the cross. No Easter Vigil Mass is permitted outside a cathedral or church so a shorter service of Night Prayer will take place in our Oratory.

Check for availability of services on Facebook, parish website, RTÉ TV and radio, EWTN, Radio Maria, elsewhere

Rosary Walk: I will be continuing to walk and pray around the Parish this coming week from 7.00pm as indicated below. This is a solitary walk so please do not attempt to join me as you can understand the need for Social Distancing. Feel free to come to your door or window and give me a wave as many did in solidarity this past week. Thanks to all for the encouragement and prayers. During the walk I will be praying the Rosary continuously for the Physical, Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of the Parish during these difficult and challenging times. An earlier live recording of the Rosary will be available on our Parish Facebook and website pages.

Feel free as a family and individuals to unite yourself with me during that time in this special prayer opportunity

Monday 6th April Greencastle Road/Cashel Road junction(at Coyle's) up the Greencastle Road to its other junction with Cashel Road(near Conways) back around to starting point and left onto Greencastle Road, right onto Aghnamerrigan Road, right onto Aghaboy Road to near parish border, right onto Greencastle Road returning to starting point.

Tuesday 7th April Carnrancy/Greencastle Road junction heading through Muninamale for Glenhull and into Mill Cottages, turning right onto Gorticashel Road, right onto Carnrancy Road

Thought and Prayer for Holy Week: Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Reflect, also, upon this being a divine act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known. The Lord gave His life freely and calls you to do the same. Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice. Blessed Holy Week! Put your eyes upon the Lord's Cross as well as your own. Lord, when I am tempted to despair, give me hope. Help me to see your presence in all things, even in those things that are most troubling to me. May this Holy Week transform my darkest moments and weakness as I surrender all to You, my God. *Jesus, I trust in You*

Good Friday Veneration of the Cross: Fr. Gallagher will bring a small crucifix on foot for Veneration and a Blessing as follows from 4.15pm, leaving St. Patrick's Church carpark proceeding to Crossroads, Maryville and Sheskinshule View to the 40mph sign and returning to the Church carpark.

Please do not gather, but feel free to come to the door of your home

Trócaire Boxes: As we approach one of the most prayerful weeks of the Church's year, let us thank you again for your ongoing prayers, support and solidarity. It means so much to all of us in Trócaire. This time of year, we would usually get back tens of thousands of boxes but that will not be possible this year, at a time when the developing world needs our help the most. Please hold onto your boxes until further notice and we will be in contact about how to return them when it will be safe for people to do so.

If you can, donate over the phone at 0800 912 1200 or online at trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation

Pope Francis' Intention for April (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Freedom From Addiction: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Can't stop? There is a solution.
Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email csoofaa@btinternet.com. alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

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

Accord Counselling Services: Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.
If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info

Epilepsy Action NI: Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury?
Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

Mid Ulster Agewell: Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.
For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

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

The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.
Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk

Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.
If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

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

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

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

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration
12noon – 1.00pm Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life
1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage
2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people
4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth
6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

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

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*

The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". *Pope St. John Paul II*

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@jecon.ie

Covid-19 – Notice: All GAA activities, card playing and community activities suspended until further notice

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):

Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies
Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or
listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)

Foster Carers – Urgently Required in the WHSCT Area:

To meet the unfortunate demand for foster placements. If you think you can help call 0800 0720 137

Church Candles / Sanitiser: When lighting candles in St. Patrick's Church please use the sanitiser for your hands on the table beside the candelabra and spray the lighter each time with the cleanser provided and then wipe with the kitchen towel and place in the bin below.

DO NOT PLACE ANYTHING ELSE, ESPECIALLY MATCHES IN THE BIN

A Prayer for Now: God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association: Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the Covid-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call. *For up to date info and advice visit*

www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus

Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741

Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996

Briege Beggs: 07799 058 273

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	Weddings	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	Deaths and Burials	11

Lent 2020 in the parishes of the Diocese of Derry

Throughout Lent resources and parish events for Lent will be published on the diocesan website and its social media channels. You are encouraged to follow and share these resources:

Web: derrydiocese.org **Twitter:** @DioceseOfDerry **Facebook:** @derrydiocese

You are also asked to recite daily during Lent the following Diocesan Lenten Prayer

Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. *Amen*

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Deanery of Tyrone Statistics

17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.

8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000

6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people

3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people

The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics

7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?

In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.

The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.

Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s

The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

Family Care Adoption Services *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*

For free info contact us **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)
Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk