



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

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter [Year C] (5th May, 2013)

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 Sixth Week of Easter [Year C] (6 th May, 2013 – 12 th May, 2013)			
Saturday Evening (4th May) Vigil Mass for Sunday	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Public Recitation of the Rosary and Confessions	
Sunday 5th May Sixth Sunday of Easter [Year C]	St. Patrick's	6:00pm Mass: David O'Hagan (1 st Anniversary)	
		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) followed by Solemn Annual Exposition	
	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am Public Recitation of the Rosary and Confessions	
		11.00am Mass	
An Evening Prayer and Benediction in St. Patrick's will conclude the Solemn Annual Exposition			

NO MASS FROM MONDAY 6 TH MAY TO THURSDAY 9 TH MAY DUE TO THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PRIESTS' RETREAT			
Friday 10th May Sixth Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Public Recitation of the Rosary	
		8.00pm Mass	
Saturday Morning (11th May) Sixth Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	9.30am Public Recitation of the Rosary	
		10.00am Mass	
Saturday Evening (11th May) Vigil Mass for Sunday	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions	
Sunday 12th May Feast of the Ascension of the Lord [Year C]	Our Lady of the Wayside	6:00pm Mass	
	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)	
		11.00am Mass: First Holy Communion	

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£850**.

Clerical Education and On-going Formation Collection: Our parishioners contributed **£585** on St. Patrick's Day.

Diocesan Purposes Collection: To be taken up after Holy Communion this weekend, see special envelope in your box.

Fr. Hasson would like to acknowledge a very generous private donation of £200 towards the recent work done on the seats of St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle – further work will be done to the seats and floors when funding is available. Anyone interesting in setting up a fundraising committee for the parish should contact any member of the Finance committee ASAP.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign: Your donations are helping to break the cycle of hunger and poverty in the world's poorest countries. Thank you for standing in solidarity with families in the developing world, your generosity makes a big difference in their lives. During the past week a cheque for **£2,415** was sent from the parish along with parishioners individual cheques totalling **£580** giving a grand total of **£2,995** – our parish Lenten contribution.

Baptisms: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family **Niamh Erin Dennehy** who was baptised recently. May our adult community offer her parents and godparents our prayerful support, encouragement and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **David, Kathleen, Patrick and Martin O'Hagan**, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

A Song for Columba: The year 2013 has been designated as the "Year of Faith", as well as the city of Derry celebrating its year as the "City of Culture". This year also marks the 1,450th Anniversary of the Departure of St. Columba from Derry to Iona. The Parish of Templemore is organizing a series of events to celebrate this anniversary. One of the central events is "A Song for Columba" – composers and musicians are invited to set to music a text attributed to or connect with Saint Columba. The winner will be awarded a prize of £500 and the performance of the winning entry at a special concert on Sunday 2nd June in St. Cecilia's College, Derry. *Poster in church porch notice board / entry form in sacristy. Musicians and composers should respond*

Rural Support: Emergency Fund: Rural Support has established an Emergency Fund to assist farmers and rural dwellers who have been adversely affected by the recent severe weather conditions. Applicants must be experiencing exceptionally difficult circumstances and priority will be given (but not exclusively) to applicants in the Dromara Hills, the Glens of Antrim, the Mourmes and the Sperrins. Given the limited resources available, funds will be limited to a maximum of £300 per application. Rural Support requests that a one page application form be completed and returned to our office. The form can be requested from the Rural Support office by telephone 028 867 600 40 and is also available to be downloaded from our website ruralsupport.org.uk

Next Sundays Readings: Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11; Psalm 46: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 46-53; Lectionary I, page 556
(Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 1)

Lotto Results: B – J – M – X – Z (2 people with 3 letters – £25 each) **Next Jackpot:** £3,600

During the month of May members of the Legion of Mary will lead us praying the Rosary 30 minutes before the beginning of Mass each day. Please join them or make the Rosary your special family prayer during this month			
The Glorious Mysteries (Sunday and Wednesday)	The Joyful Mysteries (Monday and Saturday)	The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday and Friday)	The Mysteries of Light (Thursday)
The Resurrection	The Annunciation	The Agony in the Garden	Jesus is baptised in the Jordan
The Ascension	The Visitation	The Scourging at the Pillar	Jesus at the wedding feast of Cana
The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles	The Birth of the Lord	The Crowning with Thorns	Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God and calls us to conversion
The Assumption of our Lady into Heaven	The Presentation in the Temple	The Carrying of the Cross	The Transfiguration
The Crowning of our Lady as Queen of Heaven	The Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple	The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord	The Last Supper and Institution of the Eucharist

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 4 th May The family of Laiose Teague	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Sunday 5 th May The family of Eunan Morris
Saturday 11 th May, 6.00am	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord <i>First Holy Communion</i> 11.00am Mass in St. Patrick's 9.00am in OLW, Broughderg	Sunday 12 th May, 11.00am Our Lady of Lourdes PS Year 4 Class
Saturday 18 th May The family of Eimear Tracey	Pentecost Sunday	Sunday 19 th May The family of Serene Morris
Saturday 25 th May The family of Ciaran Warnock	Feast of the Holy Trinity	Sunday 26 th May The family of Luke O'Connor
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important.		

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: This will take place in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle next weekend. Please feel welcome to attend at any time throughout the day to pray for your personal needs or blessings as well as those of our wider parish community and world. To ensure a continuity of worshippers I invite people from the named townlands to take responsibility to ensure presence at specific times. **Teach us the lesson of silence, of prayer, of quiet – Lord hear us**

Time	Townland	Time	Townland
10.00am	Glenhull / Aughminacrory	1.30pm	Benefreaghan
10.30am	Muniamale / Alworries	2.00pm	Cashel / Brackagh / Leaghan
11.00am	Crock / Coneyglen	2.30pm	Teebane / Camanrancy
11.30am	Aughascribba	3.00pm	Crockanboy
12.00pm	Broughderg / Evishession	3.30pm	Maryville / Sheskinshule View
12.30pm	Formil East	4.00pm	Sheskinshule
1.00pm	Formil West	4.30pm	Concluding Prayers and Benediction

Mass Times: First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 12th May and the 11.00am Mass on that date will take place in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg on that date will take place at 9.00am.

Derry Diocesan One-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg: As part of its Year of Faith initiatives, the Derry Diocese will lead a One-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg on Tuesday 20th August, 9.15am to 4.30pm. €40 (£36) includes boat fare, refreshments, services and lunch. Places are limited to 150, so it will be important to book in advance. Coach transport will be available (the cost of the coach transport is not included).

Contact the Diocesan Director of Pilgrimages, Fr. Gerry Sweeney on 00353 74936 8155, gerardsweeney@gmail.com. To book the coach contact Co. Donegal – Fr. Gerry Sweeney (as above) // Co. Derry – Fr. Peter Madden on (028) 7963 2196, desertmartin@aol.com // Co. Tyrone – Fr. John McDevitt on (028) 8224 2092, jmd@drumraghparish.com

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock: Sunday 2nd June
See church posters and consider participating as part of our Diocesan celebrations to mark the Year of Faith

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July, facilities available for sick pilgrims. Your support is asked for again in this Year of Faith. The annual Lourdes Hospitalite collection is scheduled to take place on the weekend of 18th and 19th May. The fund is dependent upon money raised from this one collection

There is no envelope in your box of envelopes for it. Cheques can be made available to The Derry Diocesan Lourdes Account

BADA Events	Every Friday Night at 8.30pm	Card playing	Every Wednesday Night at 8.30pm	Local History
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Additional Parish Notice: Notices came for **Lough Derg Pilgrimages, Retreats and Walks** requesting inclusion in the newsheet this week, there is not enough room but they are made available on the online version.

<p>Pope Francis' Intentions for May (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>General – The Administrators of Justice: That those who administer justice will always act with integrity and upright conscience.</p> <p>Missionary – Seminarians: That seminarians especially from mission Churches, may always be pastors according to the heart of Christ, fully devoted to the proclamation of the Gospel.</p>
<p>Lough Derg Traditional Three Day Pilgrimage: €70, inc. boat, accommodation, services and Lough Derg meals 31st May to 15th August with boats between 11.00am and 3.00pm daily until 13th August.</p> <p>Lough Derg One Day Retreats (9.15am to 4.00pm): €40, inc. boat, tea and coffee, services and lunch 4th, 5th, 6th 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 25th, 26th and 27th May 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 31st August 1st, 3rd, 7th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd September</p> <p>Langfield to Lough Derg Walk (Saturday 1st June): This 20 mile walk is being organised by Drumquin GAA Club in conjunction with The Gathering. Walkers will use the old pilgrim route proceeding along the Smugglers Pad from Sloughan Glen to the Donegal border at Scraghey and then via Lettercran to St Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg. Walkers will receive a blessing on the shore of the lake. By kind invitation of the Prior those wishing to celebrate Mass will be ferried to the Island and return to Drumquin will be by bus. <i>To register (or for information) call John O'Kane on (0044) 07743 760 140 // langfieldtoloughderg.com</i></p>
<p>Music Trail at the IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden: You are invited to a night of storytelling, music and song at the IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Muff on Friday 10th May at 7.30pm. The Celtic Prayer Garden will come alive with traditional song and story. This is a free event but donations are welcome. Places are limited so booking is essential. For further details or to book call (00353) (0)74 9384866 or email goldenagecentre@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Year of the Gathering: When Irish people are being invited home. The Columba Community is inviting Christian missionaries to a special celebration at the IOSAS Centre, Lenamore Road, Muff 7th to 9th June. Please contact us if you have a family member who is a missionary. We would be delighted to invite them. <i>For further details contact Fr. Neal Carlin (00353)7493 84866</i></p>
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed. <i>The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</i>
<p>Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests: 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying at least £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. These Masses go on all the time. Privileges of members: Deceased: 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (this will take in Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg on Sunday 7th April at 11.00am). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. Living: 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.</p>

Parish Liturgy for May, 2013	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Siobhan McKenna	Geraldine McNamee
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	Aileen Tuohey	Ciaran Tuohey	James McCullagh
Collectors	Raymond Bradley Lawrence McBride	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Sean McKenna Francis Keenan
Altar Society	Mary McNamee, Mary McCrory and Patta McDermott		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley
New choir members will always be welcome, contact Sinead			
Altar Servers Needed: Please notice the important role of altar servers in the prayer life of our faithful community, we currently need new volunteers to strengthen the teams already serving so if you will commit, please do so soon.			
ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com 10 th and 11 th May 7 th and 8 th June Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding.			
Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1 st – Saturday 6 th July): The cost is £575. An application form is available from Rosemary at The Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ – (028) 7136 2475 (Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1.30pm). Special forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available. Gift vouchers are also available for whatever amount you wish to give, contact Rosemary. The office is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm.			
Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura. Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help. Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time. Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us. Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)			
Omagh Volunteer Centre Supports Volunteering in the Omagh Council Area: We are based at Community House in the town. Current opportunities include Promotional and Fundraising roles (Foyle Hospice) and Volunteer Mentoring (Include Youth). For further information on these and other volunteering opportunities, contact us on (028) 8224 0772. If you have a little spare time and think you might like to volunteer, or if you have volunteering opportunities that you would like us to promote for you, please get in touch.			
Pilgrimage to Rome and San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy (Monday 26 th August – Monday 2 nd September): With Father Francis Bradley. Staying four nights at the Irish College, Rome taking in the sights of the Eternal City and an Audience with the Holy Father, and three nights at the Shrine of Padre Pio, taking in the shrine of Manoppello and the Abbey of Montecassino. Price £850, including all coach transfers to/from Dublin and whilst in Italy, flights with Aer Lingus, accommodation on a half board basis in Rome and full board in San Giovanni, and the assistance of a Travel Representative throughout (single supplement at £20 per night). A £200 deposit before Thursday 31 st January will secure you a seat. For more info call Fr. Bradley on (028) 7136 2475 [W] / (028) 7135 1718 [H] or email fbradley@derrydiocese.org			
Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider The Mystery of Work: This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux) Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon.			

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2013

Sacramental Celebrations

Sunday 12th May	St. Patrick's	11.00am First Holy Communion
Feast of the Ascension		
Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
Sunday 5th May	St. Patrick's	
Sunday 25th August	Our Lady of the Wayside	
Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish		
Wednesday 22nd May Thursday 11th July	St. Patrick's	
Friday 30th August Saturday 19th October		
Sunday 7th April	Our Lady of the Wayside	
Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (6th and 7th July)		
Saturday 6th July	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 7th July	Our Lady of the Wayside	Directly after 11.00am Mass
Saturday 2nd November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm 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		
Saturday 1st June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass

Our Parish cemeteries are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

I always see advertisements for Bullying Prevention and We Teach Bully Prevention. Bullying, or the perception of bullying cannot be prevented as long as people interact with each other; the only possible way would be to stay isolated, forever. However, you can teach kids how to handle and deal with people who they feel are bullying.

Celebrations to mark the Tercentenary of the death of Dean Bryan Maguirc

To mark the occasion a number of events are being organised which hopefully will bring home to all of us the immense contribution Dean Maguirc made to the life of the Catholic Church in Ireland during the worst ravages of the Penal Times in the 17th and 18th centuries. He was born in the parish of Termonmagurk, probably in 1635. According to a local tradition Aughnacreggan was the townland of his birthplace. He received a thorough education in Ireland where many of the old Gaelic families cultivated a high standard of learning and in 1660 he was ordained priest. In the early years of his priesthood he ministered as parish priest of Termonmagurk, Errigal Ciaran and Aghaloo. Ten years after Dean Maguirc's ordination, St Oliver Plunkett arrived in Armagh as Archbishop in 1670 and within two years he appointed Bryan Maguirc Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Armagh. Two years later St Oliver Plunkett appointed Dean Maguirc, whom he described as a 'learned and exemplary man', Vicar General of the Diocese of Raphoe and within a few years in 1679 he was appointed Vicar General of Derry. On the 13 February 1713, Dean Bryan Maguirc died in Armagh Gaol.

*There's a story of a martyr At the church they built a monument
Back in the Penal times To that great man and his work
Who gave his life for his belief And every Christian passing by
Like many of his kind Remembers Dean Maguirc*

July Tour of local sights associated with Dean Bryan Maguirc
August Festival of celebration involving clubs and societies

Ards Friary Retreat & Conference Centre, Creeslough. Co. Donegal – Retreats in 2013:

Tel: 00353 7491 38909

Email: info@ardsfriary.ie

Website: ardsfriary.ie

Ards Friary is open throughout the year for individuals and groups whether lay, religious, clerical, ecumenical or anyone who wishes to have some quiet time, rest and prayer in beautiful relaxed surroundings. The following retreats are available for 2013:

Friday 3rd – Thursday 9th May	Open Retreat (directed by Fr. Dermot Lynch, OFM Capuchin)
Friday 17th – Sunday 19th May	Joe Dalton Healing and Renewal Weekend. Joe suffered depression for 31 years and tried everything medically to be cured. He was though, miraculously healed by God, Joe will share his gift of healing with others, on their journey to knowing God better
Sunday 2nd – Thursday 6th June	Inter-Diocesan Priests' Retreat (directed by Monsignor John Armitage, Brentwood Diocese). <i>To love you is to serve you</i>
Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June	Cursillo Renewal Weekend (directed by Fr. Silvester O'Flynn, OFM Capuchin) <i>Christ is counting on You</i>
Monday 10th – Friday 14th June	Transformation Retreat (directed by Fr. Donal Dorr and Dr. Noel Bradley D.Theol)
Friday 21st – Thursday 27th June	Open Retreat (directed by Fr. Francis Maple, OFM Capuchin) <i>Living with Christ through the main events of his life</i>
Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July	Friends of Francis Hogan Reunion
Friday 12th – Saturday 13th July	One Day Silent and Guided Retreat for Women guided by Benedictine Monks of the Abbey of Saint Joseph, France. This retreat reflects Ignatian Spirituality by centering on Jesus with conferences, spiritual guidance and confessions.
Saturday 14th – Friday 19th July	Five Day Silent and Guided Retreat for Men guided by the Benedictine Monks of the Abbey of Saint Joseph. These five-day retreats are a shortened form of the full Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. The Exercises are a synthetic and practical presentation of the central truths of the Catholic faith.
Saturday 20th – Wednesday 7th August	Christendom College, USA
Friday 9th – Sunday 11th August	John Pridmore <i>Healing the Wounds of your past</i>
Sunday 11th – Sunday 18th August	Association of Iconographers – Learning to Write an Icon
Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd August	Course for priests in the Latin Mass
Monday 26th August – Thursday 1st September	The Foyer of Charity – Five Day Silent Retreat (directed by Fr. Kilian Byrne) <i>If you but knew the gift of God</i>
Thursday 3rd – Sunday 8th October	CURSILLO (men)
Thursday 10th – Sunday 13th October	CURSILLO (women)
Saturday 30th November – Sunday 1st December	Advent Retreat (directed by Fr. Kieran Shorten, OFM Capuchin)

The Deep End – Step By Step:

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

Today we hear from the Farewell Discourse in the Gospel of John. Jesus is replying to a question about why he does not show himself to the world. The disciples want fireworks, they want everyone to see who Jesus really is and are wondering why he does not put on some big performance for them. Jesus' response is clear. You can learn all of his teachings off by heart but if you do not have a personal relationship with him, the rest is pointless. Knowing Jesus is about a relationship based on love. Jesus is trying to explain to the disciples how they will experience him after his death. He is going away, but he is sending the Spirit to be with them and to teach them. He encourages them to not let their hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. 'Peace' (Shalom) is more than a wish for a good evening or peaceful day. It expresses the desire that the person receiving the blessing might be whole in body, mind and spirit. It is not a peace that this world can give. It is a peace that comes only from a relationship with him. Jesus is calling us into a personal relationship, not some superficial learning of key teachings or rituals, but into a real relationship of love.

We can walk all we want, we can build many things, but if we don't proclaim Jesus Christ, something is wrong. We would become a compassionate NGO and not a Church which is the bride of Christ. *Pope Francis*

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 14:23-291:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. Jesus seeks to reassure his followers in the face of his imminent death. Although he will be leaving them he promises them the gift of the Spirit. How have you been aware of the gift of the Spirit of God in your life?
2. Remember times of separation from a loved one through change of residence or other circumstances. How has the love between you been a support after the separation?
3. To his followers Jesus promises 'we will come and make our home with them'. Our God is not a distant God but one who lives in us. What has helped you to be aware of the closeness of God to you?
4. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid'. When you have been anxious, who have been the Jesus people for you who were able to calm your anxiety. How did they do this? For whom have you been one who calmed anxiety?

Questions people ask:

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

- Q. Is it possible to have faith in God without having faith in the Church?
- A. There are many who have a deep love of the Bible and faith in God but they do not belong to the Catholic Church or to any other institutional Church. However, their faith is seriously lacking if they disregard what the Bible says about being members of the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12), the Church as the bride of Christ (Eph 5:25) or the Church as the pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim 3:15). The oldest document of the New Testament is Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians which refers to the community of faith, hope and love already in existence before a word of the New Testament was written. And who decided on which books should be in the Bible? The Church ... in various synods and councils. There would be no New Testament without the Church community which produced it.