



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
 Feast of the Ascension of the Lord [Year A] (5th June, 2011)
World Communications Day
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Congratulations to the year 4 pupils
Meaghan Clarke, Aine Lucas, Miceal McCann, Daniel McCrory, Leah McGuigan, Shane McKenna, Michelle O'Brien, Catherine O'Connor, Tiarnan Teague, Caitlin Warnock and Caoimhe Warnock
 who will receive Holy Communion for the first time this weekend at 11.00am Mass in St. Patrick's.
 Congratulations to their parents and families for nurturing these children on their faith journeys – teaching them to pray and bringing them to this special moment in their lives. Thank you to Mrs McElroy, year 4 teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School for her catechesis in the classroom, to the Liturgy Group who organised and guided the 'Do This In Memory' parish programme throughout the year, and to our whole faith-community for your prayerful support and good example.

Liturgy Schedule for the Seventh Week of Easter [Year A] (6 th June, 2011 – 12 th June, 2011)			
Saturday Evening Vigil (4th June)		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 5th June Feast of the Ascension of the Lord [Year A]		Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: Misso Pro Populo 11.00am Mass
Monday 6th June St. Norbert and St. Jarlath (bishops)		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass <i>Sick and housebound will be visited</i>
Tuesday 7th June St. Colman (bishop)		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 8th June Seventh Week of Easter		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 9th June St. Columba (Colum Cille) (abbot, missionary and Second Patron of Ireland)		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Kevin Morris (4 th Anniversary)
Friday 10th June Seventh Week of Easter		St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass
Saturday 11th June St. Barnabas		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening Vigil (11th June)		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 12th June Pentecost Sunday [Year A]		St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: Misso Pro Populo 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,070**.
Lourdes Hospitalité Collection: Thank you for the **£400** received. **Trócaire Collection: £40** has been given.
Please support your community by using your envelope even if you must attend Mass outside your parish, thank you. Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.
 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.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Kevin Morris** whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Sick and housebound will be attended Monday 6th June. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

Carmelite Retreat Centre (Termonbacca, Derry) – Monthly Devotions in Honour of Our Lady:
 Tuesday 7th June beginning at 7.30pm, followed by Rosary and Mass.

Coaches to the Rally for Life: Dublin, Saturday 2nd July. Book seat on (028) 9027 9494 preciouslife.com

World Social Communications Day Tweet: Join in from 3.00pm to 4.00pm on Sunday 5th June.
Pope Benedict XVI's message at (tinyurl.com/6jxpvjm)

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13;
 John 20: 19-23 (Lectionary I, page 549) **(Sunday: Year A) (Weekday: Year 1)**

Lotto Results: A – J – S – W – Y (12 winners with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £5,050

Week	6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
62	Saturday 4 th June The family of Michaela Gillen	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	Sunday 5 th June (11.00am Mass) First Holy Communion
63	Saturday 11 th June The family of Jordan Gumley	Pentecost Sunday	Sunday 12 th June The family of Rachel McAleer
64	Saturday 18 th June The family of Cathair Hughes	Feast of the Holy Trinity	Sunday 19 th June The family of Shane McKenna
65	Saturday 25 th June * The family of Michelle O'Brien	Feast of Corpus Christi	Sunday 26 th June The family of Catherine O'Connor
66	Saturday 2 nd July The family of Sean Og McCann	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 3 rd July The family of Tiarnan Teague
* Do This In Memory Week 10			
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.			

Reflection on Exams: Exams are a test of knowledge or skill. They have their importance. However, they are not a measure of the worth of the individual. They indicate one aspect of us, but we are much more than any exam can show. Success or failure does not give the full measure of our worth. Each one of us is unique and precious with our own gifts and talents. God made us that way. God wants us to use those talents. Exams can be an anxious time. But remember, we are more than our exam results. We are loved for who we are, not for our achievements. God wants us to discover all our wonderful gifts.
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Support Centre

Pilgrimage to Knock – Coinciding with the National Eucharist Congress (Saturday 25th June):
 Anointing of the Sick at 2.00pm followed by Mass at 3.00pm. A bus by Pat McSwiggan will be organised for travel from Gortin via Greencastle. Book by calling (028) 8164 7099.
Call (028) 8164 7099 to book. It is hoped that people representing all parishes will take part in the pilgrimage

SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) - Fund-Raising Ball: Saturday 18th June at the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh. SANDS meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month at Hospital Road, Community Centre, Omagh.
Contact emmajo@fsmail.net (07904 480 920)

The Irish Catholic Newspaper is running the first part of a three-part supplement highlighting the Church and the various parishes in Co. Tyrone in next week's edition of the paper. This will be an excellent opportunity to read the paper especially if you have never read it before. The paper costs £1 and is available to buy every week from the back of the Church.

Public Prayers for the Faithful Departed: These will take place on the evening of Saturday 2nd July directly after the Vigil Mass in the cemetery at St. Patrick's and at Our Lady of the Wayside, and the former St. Mary's Church Broughderg after 11:00am Mass on Sunday 3rd July.
Bring holy water with you to sprinkle on the graves when directed to do so

The Columba Community are hosting Marino Restrepo, whose six-month captivity by FARC rebels in his native Columbia led to a transforming encounter with God. He travels the world spreading the dynamic message of God's love and mercy, and will be giving his testimony on Wednesday 15th June at 7:30pm in the Conference Room at White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre, Muff. All are welcome to hear this inspiring and profound story. Fr. Flann Lynch OFM Cap. will deliver a Vision Seminar in the Conference Room at White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre, Muff on Sunday 19th June from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Using the Beatitudes, discover how to move from a world of negativity to a life of abundance, and a future filled with promise, hope and possibility. If you would like to attend this seminar, enrol between 9:30am and 10.00am on the day.
visionbeinspired.com

Columba Then and Now – Open Air Pageant: Thursday 9th June, 4.00pm in Guildhall Square. To mark its 30th anniversary, the Columba Community of Prayer and Reconciliation is working in conjunction with the Playhouse Theatre and the University of Ulster choir on a street pageant based on the life of their patron St Columba. Depictions of aspects of the life of the saint, from his legendary battle with the Loch Ness monster to his journey in reconciliation and his missionary work in Iona, will be performed by over 200 local school children and young people. The pageant will conclude with a prayer service of thanksgiving in the Guildhall. The public are invited to come along and enjoy the pageant on the feast day of St Columba. *For more info contact Claire on (028)7126 911*
Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the Wednesday evening prior to publication

Dates for the Diary in 2011

Sacramental Celebrations

Sunday 5th June	Our Lady of the Wayside	11.00am First Holy Communion Feast of the Ascension
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Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday 21st August	Our Lady of the Wayside
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Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish (St. Patrick's)

Monday 11 th July	Tuesday 30 th August	Wednesday 19 th October
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The weekday Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church while the Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am in Our Lady of The Wayside Church.

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (2nd and 3rd July)

Saturday 2nd July	St. Patrick's	7.00pm (after Vigil Mass)
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Sunday 3rd July	Our Lady of the Wayside	12.00am (after 11.00am Mass)
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Wednesday 2nd November	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year)
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'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Sunday 5th June	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am First Holy Communion
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Saturday 25th June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass
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Couples planning to Marry in 2011 please confirm your details with Fr. Hasson as soon as possible.

ACCORD Marriage-Preparation Courses 10th and 11th June

Applications to the Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Tel: (028) 8224 2439. Email: accordomagh@btopenworld.com
Courses are limited to **15 couples**. Course should be completed at least **six months** before your wedding.

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for June (please remember these in your personal prayers)

General: That priests, united to the Heart of Christ, may always be true witnesses of the caring and merciful love of God.

Missionary: That the Holy Spirit may bring forth from our communities numerous missionary vocations, willing to fully consecrate themselves to spreading the Kingdom of God.

Take a Look at Our Diocesan Website: The website is regularly updated with news and resources for use in parishes. During Lent a special feature will be full of resources to assist individuals or parish groups who wish to undertake Lectio Divina using the Sunday gospels. Hope you find it helpful! derrydiocese.org

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Saturday 16th July to Thursday 21st July): Anyone wishing to work on this year's pilgrimage as staff (nurse, carer, doctor, wheelchair pusher) please ensure that your application is submitted promptly so Safe-Guarding documentation may be obtained.

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 3rd 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

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 and read about the workings of the Bureau.

Lough Derg – Three Day Pilgrimage: (€55 includes boat fare and accommodation) You may begin your pilgrimage on any day of the week from Wednesday 1st June until Saturday 13th August.

For further information please visit loughderg.org, email info@loughderg.org, Tel: (028) 6863 2391 (from NI).
The Lough Derg Office, Pettigo, Co. Donegal.

Institute of Irish Leadership (20 The Diamond, Pomeroy) Modern conference facilities available

Walking for Health Meeting: Pomeroy Forest Car Park every Thursday at 7.30pm.

Gaeltacht Thír Eoghain: 4th - 8th July (Fee: £45). For more details contact Kathleen (028) 8775 7800

Children in Crossfire – Zipline Across the River Foyle: You are invited on Saturday 20th August. A deposit of £15 secures your place with further fundraising of £135. All proceeds are going towards vital life changing projects for some of the world's most vulnerable children.

Tel: +44 (0)28 71269898 Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org Online: childrenincrossfire.org

Young People Drama Classes with Clíodhna's Academy for ages 6 to 14 (age can be negatable):

From Monday 4th to Friday 8th July, 11.00am to 1.00pm. Price has not been sorted as yet.

Contact Rouskey Community Centre for more details

Activities in Rowan Tree Centre, Pomeroy over June:

Health 4 All Program: Tuesday 7th June from 9.30am to 10.30am. This is a health, diet and exercise program. £4/session (£14 for 4 wks - 7th, 21st and 28th June and 5th July). Followed by:

Pramtastics / Walk 4 Health: Walking and exercise program from 11.00am to 12 noon. £3/session (£10 for 4 wks). Suitable for women and men of all ages and levels of fitness. Weigh-ins can be provided on request.

For more info call Mary on (079) 2150 3117

Centre Stage Dance / Drama Workshops: Wednesday evening, 2 classes.

For more info call Katie on (077) 6933 9156

Empowerment Programme Using Holistic Therapies: Thursday 9th June from 7.00pm to 10.00pm.

For more info call Margaret on 7930 0278 or (078) 1000 4443

Zumba Dancing: Every Friday from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

For more info call Caroline on (078) 1885 4914

Spanish and English CELTA Qualified Bi-lingual Native Speaker:

Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults.

For more info call Patricia on (079) 2701 2240 or email trishswain@yahoo.co.uk

If there are any courses / activities that you would like to see provided in Pomeroy or any issues that you would like raised at our next meeting in June e.g. youth, older people, social activities, community safety, access to services, unemployment, transport, support groups, etc. please contact any member of Pomeroy Development Projects Ltd, email: pomeroydev@hotmail.com or call the Centre on (028) 8775 7834.

Eucharistic Novena Prayer 2012

Lord Jesus,

You were sent by the Father to gather together those who are scattered.

You came among us, doing good and bringing healing, announcing the Word of salvation and giving the Bread which lasts forever. Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts, enliven our hope and open our minds, so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith we may recognise you in the Scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body and lead us to walk humbly on the earth, in justice and love, as witnesses of your resurrection. In communion with Mary, whom you gave to us as our Mother at the foot of the cross, through you may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father in the Holy Spirit and in the Church, now and forever. Amen.

Youth 2000 Summer Festival (Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly): Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th August. For young people aged between 16 and 35, an opportunity not to be missed to experience the Catholic faith and meet many new friends. Donation only. Free buses available from around Northern Ireland.

For more information contact 07706 736 677 (from NI) or book online at youth2000.ie

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 between 3 and 8 years 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

If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding 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.

Camara: This is a charity which takes in used computers, refurbishes them and sends them to schools and colleges in Africa. In 2011 we will refurbish over 10,000 computers which will be supplied to schools in Uganda, Lesotho, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Tanzania and Rwanda. Every summer Camara sends teams of Volunteers for four very busy weeks to Africa to assist our local partners deliver essential training to teachers in the schools we supply. The assignment is for four or five weeks, departing Ireland in early July or early August depending on destination.

Camara Belfast, Unit 23 and 24 Townsend Enterprise Park, Townsend Street, Belfast BT13 2ES

Tel: (028) 9033 2470 **Email:** belfast@camara.ie **Online:** camara.ie

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 5th June – St. Boniface (bishop and martyr) Not celebrated this year.

Monday 6th June – St. Norbert (bishop) [1080-1134] Archbishop of Magdeburg and founder of the Norbertine canons.

St. Jarlath (bishop) Said to have been a disciple of St. Enda, and was taught also by St. Benignus. He became abbot-bishop of the monastery he founded at Tuam in the 6th century.

Tuesday 7th June – St. Colman (Macholmac) (bishop) St. Colman of Dromore, Co. Down spent most of his life in that area. Possibly he studied under Caetan of Nendrom, Co. Down, and was persuaded by Saint Mac Nissi to settle at Dromore around 514.

Thursday 9th June – St. Columba (Colm Cille) (abbot and missionary and Secondary Patron of Ireland) [521-597] Columba was born at Gartan, Co Donegal and was of royal lineage. He studied under St. Finnian of Molville and St. Finnian of Clonard. He founded monasteries in Derry, Durrow, Iona and possibly Kells. He left Ireland, either for penance or to be a pilgrim for Christ, and Iona became his principle foundation. Columba is noted for his great love for people and for all living creatures. He died 9th June, 597.

Saturday 11th June – St. Barnabus (Apostle) Barnabas was born on the island of Cyprus. He was one of the first converts in Jerusalem and preached at Antioch. He became a companion of St. Paul and went with him on his first missionary journey and took part in the Council of Jerusalem. He returned to his native land to preach the gospel and there he died.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 28:16-20:

1. It is time for Jesus to return to his Father. He meets his disciples for the last time. His final words give them direction for their future. Perhaps you can recall such parting moments in your own life - leaving home, school, college, training, the death of a loved one. What was that like for you? Was there an occasion when words spoken then gave you direction for your future?
2. Perhaps you can identify with Jesus in the story, when as a parent, teacher, or in some other way, you sent someone on his/her way in life knowing you would not be with him or her as in the past. When did the way you parted help the other to make his or her own way in life?
3. Jesus told his disciples that although he would not be with them as in the past he would be with them in a new way right through their lives. Have there been times when you were reassured by the love and support of another even though s/he was not physically present with you?
4. In parting with his disciples Jesus gave them a mission for the future. Where, when and how did you get a sense of the meaning and purpose of your own life? How does that sustain you now? Is there any way in which that purpose ties in with the mission given to the eleven to spread the Good News?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. Given the negative attitude prevalent in the Irish media, is this not a bad time to be having the Eucharistic Congress in Ireland?
- A. On the contrary, it will be a wonderful opportunity to move beyond the scandals and to focus on the spiritual richness of our faith ... to move on from the preying church (a tiny minority) to the praying church (the vast majority). The next twelve months will be a glorious opportunity for parishes to refresh our understanding of the Mass through religious education and exercises of devotion.

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

The Deep End – YOU will be my witnesses:

Ascension Sunday may mark the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, but it is the beginning of the mission of the Church i.e. the mission of each and every one of us. Jesus has gone full circle and returned to where he started. He is passing on the baton to us. We are expected to carry on his work: to build a Kingdom of truth, justice, love of God and neighbour, healing and forgiveness, care for the poor and the courage to speak out against injustice. How do we bear witness to this?

In the first reading we hear 'Men of Galilee what are you doing looking skywards? Lower your eyes.' If we only look skywards for Jesus, we lose sight of the reality of his presence around us, in each and every person. We can use this day to think about our own vocation/mission in this world and take time to ask, 'how am I doing?' This is one way to truly honour the meaning of this feast.

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on the world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. St. Teresa of Avila

Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)

Catholic Media Workers – Live in Conformity to the Gospel: Vatican City (24th January, 2011 (VIS))

This morning in the Holy See Press Office, the Message for the forty-fifth World Day of Social Communications was presented. Its theme this year is: "Truth, Proclamation and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age".

Participating in today's press conference were Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, Msgr. Paul Tighe, Msgr. Giuseppe Antonio Scotti and Angelo Scelzo, respectively president, secretary, adjunct secretary and under secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Archbishop Celli affirmed that "this year's Message has its starting point in a reality that is becoming increasingly evident today: the fact that an authentic cultural transformation is taking place as new technologies alter not only the way we communicate, but communication itself".

"The new technologies", he continued, "offer mankind great opportunities to come together, overcoming the limitations of distance and of culture of origin. They create the possibility to form new friendships, despite the inevitable risks".

"The new relational opportunities offered by modern technology highlight how today it is possible not only to exchange information, but to share a world view, to share hopes and ideals", the archbishop said.

"The Pope links three human aspects which are very important in modern life: digital communications, image of self and coherence of life. Communicational dynamics in the digital world create new ways to construct personal identity, and it is here that the Holy Father makes a call for coherence and authenticity".

The Message, Archbishop Celli concluded, "speaks of a 'Christian way' of being present" in the digital world. "This is what makes the title of the Message meaningful, in the sense that the Christian testimony of Catholic professionals cannot be limited to simply dealing with religious topics, but is called to reveal itself in the form of concrete personal witness. Living a life that conforms to the Gospel is itself a form of proclamation, an explicit form of communication which makes the proclamation credible. More than ever, the requirement of making the Gospel known in all its integrity must become a distinctive sign of the digital age".

OP/

VIS 20110124 (360)

TRUTH, PROCLAMATION AND AUTHENTICITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

VATICAN CITY, 24 JAN 2011 (VIS) - Made public today was the Holy Father's Message for the forty-fifth World Day of Social Communications, which will be celebrated on 5 June and has as its theme: "Truth, Proclamation and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age". The Message is dated 24 January, Feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists.

Excerpts from the English-language version of the Message are given below:

"New technologies are not only changing the way we communicate, but communication itself, so much so that it could be said that we are living through a period of vast cultural transformation. This means of spreading information and knowledge is giving birth to a new way of learning and thinking, with unprecedented opportunities for establishing relationships and building fellowship.

"New horizons are now open that were until recently unimaginable; they stir our wonder at the possibilities offered by these new media and, at the same time, urgently demand a serious reflection on the significance of communication in the digital age. This is particularly evident when we are confronted with the extraordinary potential of the internet and the complexity of its uses. As with every other fruit of human ingenuity, the new communications technologies must be placed at the service of the integral good of the individual and of the whole of humanity. If used wisely, they can contribute to the satisfaction of the desire for meaning, truth and unity which remain the most profound aspirations of each human being.

"In the digital world, transmitting information increasingly means making it known within a social network where knowledge is shared in the context of personal exchanges. The clear distinction between the producer and consumer of information is relativised and communication appears not only as an exchange of data, but also as a form of sharing. ... On the other hand, this is contrasted with the limits typical of digital communication: the one-sidedness of the interaction, the tendency to communicate only some parts of one's interior world, the risk of constructing a false image of oneself, which can become a form of self-indulgence".

"Ever greater involvement in the public digital forum, created by the so-called social networks, helps to establish new forms of interpersonal relations, influences self-awareness and therefore inevitably poses questions not only of how to act properly, but also about the authenticity of one's own being. In the search for sharing, for 'friends', there is the challenge to be authentic and faithful, and not give in to the illusion of constructing an artificial public profile for oneself.

"The new technologies allow people to meet each other beyond the confines of space and of their own culture, creating in this way an entirely new world of potential friendships. This is a great opportunity, but it also requires greater attention to and awareness of possible risks. Who is my 'neighbour' in this new world? Does the danger exist that we may be less present to those whom we encounter in our everyday life? Is there a risk of being more distracted because our attention is fragmented and absorbed in a world 'other' than the one in which we live? Do we have time to reflect critically on our choices and to foster human relationships which are truly deep and lasting? It is important always to remember that virtual contact cannot and must not take the place of direct human contact with people at every level of our lives".

"To proclaim the Gospel through the new media means not only to insert expressly religious content into different media platforms, but also to witness consistently, in one's own digital profile and in the way one communicates choices, preferences and judgements that are fully consistent with the Gospel, even when it is not spoken of specifically. Furthermore, it is also true in the digital world that a message cannot be proclaimed without a consistent witness on the part of the one who proclaims it."

"We must be aware that the truth which we long to share does not derive its worth from its 'popularity' or from the amount of attention it receives. We must make it known in its integrity, instead of seeking to make it acceptable or diluting it. It must become daily nourishment and not a fleeting attraction.

"The truth of the Gospel is not something to be consumed or used superficially; rather it is a gift that calls for a free response. Even when it is proclaimed in the virtual space of the web, the Gospel demands to be incarnated in the real world and linked to the real faces of our brothers and sisters, those with whom we share our daily lives. Direct human relations always remain fundamental for the transmission of the faith!

"I would like then to invite Christians, confidently and with an informed and responsible creativity, to join the network of relationships which the digital era has made possible. This is not simply to satisfy the desire to be present, but because this network is an integral part of human life. The web is contributing to the development of new and more complex intellectual and spiritual horizons, new forms of shared awareness. In this field too we are called to proclaim our faith that Christ is God".

"The proclamation of the Gospel requires a communication which is at once respectful and sensitive, which stimulates the heart and moves the conscience; one which reflects the example of the risen Jesus when He joined the disciples on the way to Emmaus".

"In the final analysis, the truth of Christ is the full and authentic response to that human desire for relationship, communion and meaning which is reflected in the immense popularity of social networks. Believers who bear witness to their most profound convictions greatly help prevent the web from becoming an instrument which depersonalises people, attempts to manipulate them emotionally or allows those who are powerful to monopolise the opinions of others. On the contrary, believers encourage everyone to keep alive the eternal human questions which testify to our desire for transcendence and our longing for authentic forms of life, truly worthy of being lived. It is precisely this uniquely human spiritual yearning which inspires our quest for truth and for communion and which impels us to communicate with integrity and honesty.

"I invite young people above all to make good use of their presence in the digital world. I repeat my invitation to them for the next World Youth Day in Madrid, where the new technologies are contributing greatly to the preparations".

MESS/

VIS 20110124 (1110)