

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry

Saint Patrick's Church
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Broughderg

The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. 6th September, 2009
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 Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time. 7 th September – 13 th September, 2009			
Sunday 6th September	Saint Patrick's	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo'	
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of the Wayside	11:00am Mass	
<i>There will be no daily Mass this week in Greencastle</i>			
Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 13th September	Saint Patrick's	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo'	
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of the Wayside	11:00am Mass: (Michael and Rosaleen Clarke – Anniversaries)	

Confession Schedule		
Saturday 12th September	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 13th September	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Schedule for Weekday Mass in Our Neighbouring Parishes (taken from Diocesan and Parish Websites)			
Monday and Friday	St. Patrick's, Gortin	10.00am Mass	
Wednesday		7.30pm Mass	
Tuesday and Thursday	St. Mary's, Rouskey	9.30am Mass	
Monday – Saturday	St. Mary's, Killyclogher	10.00am Mass	
Friday		7.30pm Mass	
Monday – Thursday, and Saturday	St. Mary's, Loughmacrory	10.00am Mass	
Friday		7.00pm Mass	
Monday – Saturday	St. Colmcille's, Carrickmore	9.30am Mass	
Monday – Thursday	St. Mary's, Dunamore	10.00am Mass	
Friday		7.30pm Mass	
Monday	St. Joseph's, Killeenan	7.30am Mass	
Tuesday – Friday		9.30am Mass	

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1150** and the further **£50** the Sisters of Nazareth taken up on 15th August. ***Please support your parish by using your envelope even when you are on holiday or if for some reason you must attend Mass outside your parish – Thank you.***
Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are promptly returned to those parishes.

Remembering Our Dead: As a parish community we offer our prayers for the happy repose of the soul of **Susan McAleer** who died this week, and we extend to her family and friends our deepest sympathy. We also pray for **Michael (Mickey), Kathleen and Thomas O'Hagan** whose anniversaries occur at this time

Welcome: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family **Emma Margaret Hagan, Michael James Daly, Leah Katie Fox** and **Katie Rose Donnelly** who was baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptised, his parents and sponsors prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Zipline Across the Lagan For 'Children in Crossfire': Children in Crossfire need 100 people on 19th September to zip 1,000 feet across the River Lagan. 140 feet up at 40mph, this is a truly thrilling and safe experience, a challenge for everyone. For more details and an application form please call (028) 7126 9898. Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org

Help to contain the swine flu impact: Everyone can play their part, and simple measures such as regular hand-washing and using a tissue can go some way towards mitigating this pandemic's impact. *Irish News (18th July, 2009)*

Please support through your personal prayers **The Pope's Intentions for September, 2009:**
General: That the Word of God may be better known, welcomed and lived as the source of freedom and joy.
Mission: That Christians in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, who often meet with great difficulties, may not be discouraged from announcing the Gospel to their brothers and sisters, trustin gin the strength of the Holy Spirit.

VERITAS Bookshop and Religious items: 20 Shipquay Street, Derry. Range of books, CD's, music and gifts. Visit soon.

University of Ulster welcome applications for our part-time Irish language courses (Diploma / Degree) in our various centres at Magee College Derry, Annagry, Downings and Letterkenny.
Please call Gemma Thornton on on (028) 7137 5597 or email mf.oneill@ulster.ac.uk for further information

Serving Our Faith Community in Greencastle Parish			
Offertory Gifts: Beginning today the Year 4 and 7 classes of 2009-2010 and their families have been invited to take responsibility for presenting the Offertory gifts, 'bread, wine and water' at each Sunday Mass. As the wider parish community let us support these young people and their families with our prayers and our appreciation for what they are doing for us.			
	6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
1	<u>Saturday 5th September</u> The family of Connor Bradley	Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 6th September</u> The family of Connor Maguire
2	<u>Saturday 12th September</u> The family of Caoileann Conway	Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 13th September</u> The family of Megan Conway
3	<u>Saturday 19th September</u> The family of Aaron Donnelly	Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 20th September</u> The family of Lauren Hollywood
4	<u>Saturday 26th September</u> The family of Michaela McBride	Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 27th September</u> The family of Maeve McCullagh
5	<u>Saturday 3rd October</u> The family of Noel McKenna	Twenty-Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 4th October</u> The family of Sauna Morris
Prayers of intercession: We need committed and responsible teenagers (male and female) to lead these prayers for us at each Sunday Mass, will you volunteer?			

Pilgrimages and Retreats	
Lough Derg Pilgrimages One Day Retreats: Cost €29 including boat and light lunch): 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 12 th , 14 th , 15 th , 16 th , 19 th , 20 th , 21 st and 22 nd September Reservations essential. Book at the Lough Derg Office. Tel/fax: 00353 7198 61518 or email info@loughderg.org . Check out loughderg.ie for other events	
Ards Friary Retreat & Conference Centre, Creeslough. Co. Donegal:	
Monday 21st and Thursday 24th September	St. Padre Pio OFM Triduum
Website: ardsfriary.ie	Tel: 00353 7491 38909 Email: info@ardsfriary.ie
Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry: Tel: (028) 7126 2512 during office hours.	

Adult Faith Development (beginning in September)	
Interested in developing your faith? Thornhill Centre has a number of short and long courses starting in October and November 2009: Pastoral Ministry: There is a Variety of Gifts; Liturgy: 'Foundations in Liturgy'; Scripture: 'Saint Luke'; Aspects of Faith: 'So What Should We Teach Them?' and Personal Development: 'Dreams Workshop'. For further details contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233.	
Study Theology from Home: A Theology programme for lay people offered by distance learning with the Dominicans. This means that you can study for a certificate, diploma or degree in Theology and even more importantly become educated in the Faith, from the comfort of home. For further information contact The Priory Institute. Tallaght Village, Dublin 24. Tel: (00353) 1404 8124 or email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com and visit website www.prioryinstitute.com	

Parish Stations: If you are willing to host a Station Mass in your home during the month of October 2009, please sign the schedule in the sacristy in Greencastle. Fr. Hasson will be available on the following dates:
Monday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th; Tuesday 6th 13th, 20th, 27th; Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October.
Hosting a 'Station Mass' is a long tradition in the life of our parish communities in the Catholic Church. It reflects our openness to God and our hospitality to our neighbour. Hospitality should be kept as simple as possible. It is important that our priorities have the right focus. Mass in our homes is a blessing to the family and to the local area. It would be a blessing if one family in each townland were willing to host a 'Station'.

Rural Link Shopping Service: From Greencastle to Omagh Friday 9.00am-1.00pm. £4.00 return.
You will be collected at your own door. Contact Rural Link on (028) 8076 0740.

World Suicide Prevention Day – 10th September, 2009: Keep this in your personal and family prayers on Thursday.

New Road Signs: We welcome the new 40 MPH signs erected this week in the Greencastle area, especially in the vicinity of the School and Church. We appeal to all drivers, to respect themselves and everyone with whom they share these roads.

Greencastle Youth Club: Registration takes place Tuesday 8 th September, 2009 at 7.00pm - 1 child - £5.00 Family - £10.00.		
P4 and P5 Monday 6.30pm - 8.00pm	P6 & P7 Tuesday 6.30pm - 8.00pm	Years 8, 9 & 10 Monday 8.00pm - 9.30pm

Next Sunday's Readings:	Isaiah 50:5-9; Psalm 114; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35. Lectionary I, page 799
Lotto Numbers:	1, 8, 11, 21 (2 winners with 3 numbers – £25 each) Next Jackpot: £1,400

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 7:31-37:

1. The healing of the deaf-mute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of communication in our lives. The healing touch of Jesus brought the man from isolation into community. Who have been the people who touched you when you felt isolated and alone and helped you to come out of painful aloneness? For whom have you done this?
2. Deafness is symbolic of being unable to hear what is being said to us. What a difference when our ears are opened! Perhaps you can recall a time when your ears were opened and you heard in a new way that you were loved – by God or by another person.
3. Words are not the only form of communication. Actions can speak louder than words. Recall times when this was brought home to you.
4. Being able to say what is in you is the other side of communication. Perhaps there have been occasions when you have struggled to find words to express what is deepest in you – your faith, your values, your love. Then something changed and you found the words. What was it like to be able to express your deepest self?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. Somewhere in the Bible it says 'Vengeance is mine, says the Lord.' How can a God of love harbour thoughts of revenge?
- A. This saying dates from an early part of the Old Testament when morality was at a primitive stage of development, far short of the morality of love preached by Jesus, especially in the Sermon on the Mount. Old Testament morality advanced and we find Isaiah in today's Mass speaking of God's vengeance coming, not with punishment, but with healing for the blind, deaf, lame etc. God wants the destruction of sin but the healing of the sinner. St. Paul tells people to let go of vengeance: 'Do not be mastered by evil, but master evil with good' (Rom 12:21).

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

The Deep End – One for All:

Today's Gospel reading (Mark 7:31-37) contains a string of strange things. For starters, how could someone deaf from birth, presumably, be able to speak at all, even with an impediment? There were no books then, no special-needs teaching. Nothing. So how did he pick up a language? No answer is given. Not one for theatricals, Jesus nevertheless uses gestures common at the time to Greek and Jewish healers. Why? No reason is given. Equally strange, he imposes silence on the crowd after the healing. Could he really expect them to keep quiet about such an extraordinary thing? No explanation is given.

There are no answers to these questions. Yet, asking them helps us focus on the text to grasp its style and purpose. It's penned not as a report for a newspaper, but for the purpose of teaching. It tells us that lots of good things happen when we're close to Jesus. We become whole and free in a way we've never been before. Our damaged humanity is healed.

It also tells us important things about Jesus in an indirect way. The crowds proclaim that he has 'done everything well' (v. 37). This is reminiscent of Gen 1:31: 'God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very good.' There's at least a linkage with God's divine action here. And because the healing occurs in the Gentile region, east of Jordan, it tells us that the Gentiles previously deaf and dumb to God can now hear and respond to him.

Jesus is for all, not just the chosen few.

Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)