



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Second Sunday of Advent [Year C] (6th December, 2015)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474

Liturgy Schedule for the Second Week of Advent in Ordinary Time [Year C] (6th December, 2015 – 12th December, 2015)

Saturday 5th December	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confession 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Gerard McGurk (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 6th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass
Monday Morning (7th December) St. Nicholas (bishop)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Monday Evening (7th December) Tuesday 8th December Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's	8.00pm Vigil Mass 11.00am Mass: Mary Conway (Anniversary)
Wednesday 9th December Second Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass
Thursday 10th December Second Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 11th December Second Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday 12th December St. Finian (bishop) and Our Lady of Guadalupe <i>Do This In Memory (week 4)</i>	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confession 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 13th December Third Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass

Year of Mercy: On 11th April 2015 (Divine Mercy Sunday) Pope Francis called an Extraordinary Jubilee Year to be known as the Year of Mercy in a document known as a Papal Bull entitled *Misericordiae Vultus*, meaning The Face of Mercy. As a parish the Jubilee will be marked on several occasions during the year. Each week during this Jubilee Year we will share a few sentences from the document. I hope it will allow you to enter into the spirit of the Year of Mercy. Pope Francis writes, "The Holy Year will open on Tuesday 8th December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception....When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive." *Paragraph 3*

Collection: Thank you for your kindness in last week's collection of **£805** and **£25** in the loose plate

Remembering Our Dead: We also pray for **Gerard McGurk, Mary Conway, Colette Heagney** and **Gerard McCrory** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation): Mass will be celebrated on Monday 7th December at 8.00pm in Our Lady of the Wayside and Tuesday 8th December at 11.00am. *Please make special effort to attend Holy Day Mass*

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: Bishop Donal McKeown will open the Holy Door in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Sunday 13th December at 12.30pm. Everyone is invited to be present at the solemn opening of the Holy Door. In the words of Pope Francis "the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope."

Everyone is invited during the Holy Year to make a pilgrimage to the Cathedral to enter through the Holy Door. A Jubilee Indulgence will be gained by those who make pilgrimage through the Holy Door. Speaking about the Jubilee Indulgence Pope Francis says - A Jubilee also entails the granting of indulgences. This practice will acquire an even more important meaning in the Holy Year of Mercy. God's forgiveness knows no bounds. Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of our sins remain. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives our sins, which he truly blots out; and yet sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes indulgence on the part of the Father who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him from every residue left by the consequences of sin, enabling him to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.

Veritas – Unveiling of Moving Crib: Veritas in Derry warmly invites you to join Bishop McKeown for the unveiling of their Moving Crib at their store on 20 Shipquay Street on Tuesday 8th December (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) at 1.30pm. Featuring animated figures of Mary and Joseph, along with the Three Wise Men and shepherds, the Nativity scene captures the true message of Christmas in a way that will bring even greater anticipation to all who await the joy of the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.
Everyone is welcome to this very special occasion, especially parents and children

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 5 th December The family of Katie McGurk	Second Sunday of Advent	Sunday 6 th December The family of Aidan Morris
Saturday 12 th December* The family of Rian Slane	Third Sunday of Advent	Sunday 13 th December The family of Ciaran Morris

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented
 As the wider parish community we support these young people and their families with our prayers and thank them
***Do This In Memory Week 4** • We need new volunteers in every aspect of life

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

Precious Life – Candlelight Rosary For Life: Saturday 12th December (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe) at 4.00pm outside Marie Stopes, Belfast. For the protection of Ireland's unborn babies. **Tel:** (028) 9027 8484 • **Email:** info@preciouslife.com

IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – "Follow the Star" Christmas Trail: Friday 11th to Sunday 13th December, Wednesday 16th December and Friday 18th to Sunday 20th December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. Pre-booking is essential. **Tel:** (00353) 74938 4866 • **Email:** goldenagecentre@hotmail.com

Alzheimer's Society Carer Information and Support Programme (CrISP)

CrISP is a series of workshops for people caring for a family member or friend with dementia. It provides an opportunity for you to talk in a friendly and confidential environment about your experiences and the impact they are having on you.

Week 1 – Induction and Welcome Welcoming everyone to the programme

Week 2 – Understanding Dementia Explores the physical, psychological and emotional impact of dementia

Week 3 – Legal and Money Matters Explores legal and financial issues to help you understand the importance of planning for the future

Week 4 – Providing Support and Care Explores concerns/challenges that may arise when supporting a person with dementia

Week 5 – Coping Day to Day Looking at the physical, psychological and Emotional impact that dementia may have on you as a carer

The free workshops are run by Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers for a group of up to 12 people who care for a family member or friend with dementia

If interested Paula Canney on (028) 8225 0103 / 07718 322 726 or email paula.canney@alzheimers.org.uk

Bus to Knock for the All Night Vigil: Monday 7th December. En route from Cookstown, pick-ups can be made along the main Omagh Road. Bus is £15, bring packed lunch. **Tel:** Mona on (028) 8673 7954

Greencastle Community Centre – Bazaar: Sunday 6th December commencing at 4.00pm. *Excellent prizes on offer*

Children in Crossfire – Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 2nd April. *If you would like more information email shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org or call the office on (028) 7126 9898*

Flaxmill Centre Drumduff – Upcoming Events: (028) 8076 1848

Wednesday 9th December (9.30pm) Old Time Dance with Larry & Co.

Friday 11th December (begins at 8.00pm) Christmas Bazaar with lots of very valuable prizes

Sunday 13th December (begins at 4.00pm) Santa Sunday with Santa – Magical Mascot Characters. £5 per child, adults free.

Owenkillew Play Actors – The Hard Man (by Michael J. Murphy) and A Thing of Beauty (by C. Kray):

Two One-Act Plays in Greencastle Community Centre on Saturday 12th December at 8.00pm sharp.

Thornhill Ministries – Upcoming Events:

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July. Lourdes has been designated as one of the international places of pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy. Gift vouchers for any amount are available for purchase.

Application forms are available from Rosemary on (028) 7126 0293 or Theresa on 07517 965 751

Trip to the Holy Land: An 8-Day Retreat Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Thursday 15th to Friday 23rd September.

For more info call Sr. Perpetua on (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org

The Net – December Edition Now Available: For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call / text 07809 292 852. This month's coverage includes the follow.

- St Brigid's, Carnhill students in Medjugorje
- Scoile Mhuire, Buncrana
- Burt youth tea
- DYC in Bellaghy
- Iskaheen Harvest Thanksgiving
- Omagh healing Mass
- Banagher 'au revoir' to Fr Graham
- Bereavement support in Camdonagh and Greenlough
- Fatima celebrations for Derry nun's Golden Jubilee
- Ardmore hosts St Breacan's reunion
- Killyclogher Altar Society
- Lavey missionary making a difference
- Limavady Mercy programme
- Strabane pioneer's amazing pilgrimage
- Life-changing Cor weekend
- Advent prayer with Thornhill Ministries
- St Joseph's Young Priests' Society
- Inspiring talks for primary and post-primary teachers

Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-18 • Psalm – Isaiah 12: 2-6 • Philippians 4: 4-7 • Luke 3: 10-18
 Lectionary I, page 51 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God who never tires of forgiving.
Evangelisation: That families, especially those who suffer may find in the birth of Jesus sign of a certain hope.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 6th December – St. Nicholas (bishop) 4th century bishop of Myra (in modern Turkey) whose legendary kindness inspired the Santa Claus tradition. He is Patron Saint of Russia, sailors, pawnbrokers and children.

Tuesday 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 On this holy day of obligation we celebrate Mary, mother of Jesus. She was preserved free from sin from the first moment of her existence in the womb 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God'.

Saturday 12th December – St. Finian (bishop) Studied in Idrone, Co. Carlow and later in Wales, on his return he settled in Clonard, Co. Meath around 520, where he established a famous school. His pupils, among which were Canice, Columcille and Brendan, were initiators of the great monastic expansion in Ireland. Died in 549 and is remembered as the tutor of all the saints of Ireland.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Patron Saint of the Americas. This memorial recalls the apparitions in December, 1531 to Juan Diego Cuahltlatoatzin on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. Mary appeared as a symbol of wisdom and peace. Her image as a *mestiza*, a woman of native American and European heritage, remained in Juan's cloak (*tilma*). She appeared as "the little brown one," affectionately called La Morenita, who gives great dignity and holiness to the native and mestizo peoples of America. The tilma that Juan Diego presented to his doubtful bishop was filled with roses and is now enshrined in Mexico City in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Nowhere else does she appear as a pregnant woman as she does here, wearing the blue sash traditionally worn by expectant Aztec women. She also has a flower on her womb, an Aztec symbol of new life and a new era. Blocks the sun and stands on the moon.

Sunday 13th December – St. Lucy (virgin and martyr) Suffered much for her desire to remain consecrated to Christ alone. She was martyred in 304 in Sicily in the persecution of Diocletian. Her name means *light* and her intercession has been sought for eye trouble.
 [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas): Find out if you're missing out on benefits, services or grants by booking your FREE home visit. Referrals can be made for benefits checks, home safety visits, occupational therapy assessments as well as others. You'll also receive a FREE bag containing £25 worth of items to help keep you warm this winter.
Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book

The Good Ship Lollipop – Appeal For Child Refugees: The Belfast children's charity Tuesday's Child is working with catholic missionaries in Sicily to help child refugees rescued in the Mediterranean. Funds will go towards providing essential aid items and care for children, young people and their families and helping high risk children who come in unaccompanied on the boats. *Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid*
Website: tuesdayschild.ie • **Email:** info@tuesdayschild.ie • **Tel:** (028) 9064 6104 / 07545 452 362
Donation by Texting: TUES75 and amount to 70070 (e.g. TUES75 £5)

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Wednesday 31st August to Wednesday 7th September. Direct from Belfast for the special price of £439 including half-board, tax and insurance if paid by Sunday 10th December.
For further details call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Yoga with Margaret Franklin: Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán.

GCSE Irish Class: Tuesday afternoons from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh. This is also open to students from other schools and to adult learners of Irish.
Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** (028) 8225 6220

Parish Liturgy for December, 2015	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Nuala Glass	Martina McBride
Eucharistic Ministry	Francis Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Ryan Clarke	Shauna Morris
Collectors	John Bradley Colm Devlin	Eugene Tracey Brendan Conway	Brendan Daly Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Kathleen Beggs Mary McCullagh		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory

Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre – Upcoming Events This Autumn:
 Dún Uladh, Drumnakilly Road, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT79 0JP, United Kingdom

Gaeilge i nDún Uladh OCN NI Irish Qualification

Level 1 Award: Wednesdays, 5.30pm to 7.30pm (£130, reduced £90)
Level 2 Award: Wednesdays, 8.30pm to 10.00pm (£130, reduced £90)
Level 3 Award: Thursdays, 6.30pm to 8.30pm (£155, reduced £115)

All courses are subject to demand • Register interest by emailing sean.anton@dunuladh.ie
 Classes will be held in Dún Uladh in cooperation with South West College

Ceol Cois Tine Tickets are £10
Sean Keane and Gearoid Keane: Friday 11th December at 8.30pm
 On concertina and fiddle for a night to remember. Our final night.

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows.
St. Patrick's: Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass
 First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding
 Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass

ACCORD Pre-Marriage Courses: It is important that all those preparing for Marriage should attend a pre-marriage course. If you intend to be married here in the Parish between now and the end of 2016 you should make arrangements to attend one of the ACCORD Courses in Omagh or at another centre if that suits you. These following dates are presently available.
 5th and 6th February • 4th and 5th March • 1st and 2nd April • 6th and 7th May • 3rd and 4th June • 24th and 25th June
Website: accord.ie • **Tel:** (028) 8224 2439 • **Email:** omagh@accordni.com

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/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. *See poster at entrances*

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – Master of Arts in Catholic School Leadership: Beginning this Autumn in partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to leadership roles or with an interest in the Catholic School system.
For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Towards Peace: A new 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@iecon.ie

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 3: 1-6: *John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?
2. John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.
3. Behind the quotation from Isaiah lies the practice of preparing festival routes for religious celebrations. Isaiah visualises such a celebration to celebrate the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Can you recall a particularly memorable Advent? What happened? Think of what you can do this Advent.

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The Apostolate offers us a special opportunity to pray for a priest each day. The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the St Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The co-ordinators for the diocese, and their contact details, are as follows.
Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • otmail_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk
Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk
Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com
Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com prayerforpriests.com

The Deep End – Be a Signpost: *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

How is your Advent going? We're a week in already. Less than three weeks to Christmas and so much still to be done! Where to start?

If we have time to listen, there are some pointers in our readings today. Following the example of John the Baptist, our Advent task is to 'prepare a way for the Lord'. Of course in these busy weeks we have shopping to do, presents to buy, parties and festive gatherings to organise; these are important parts of our Christmas celebrations. But how are we preparing to meet Jesus this Christmas? Can we create space amid the hustle and bustle? And not just in our own personal lives – we are also called to be witnesses, to be the people who 'cry in the wilderness', announcing the good news to others. We must be signposts, our words and actions pointing towards Christ. Our task this Advent is to make Jesus known. In our dealings with others as we count down to Christmas, let us try to be like John the Baptist, pointing always towards Christ. Saint Paul's prayer in today's Second Reading is that our love for one another may increase more and more. Let love be your guide.

Save Our Sperrins Meeting: First Wednesday of every month in Greencastle Community Centre with the next meeting on Wednesday 9th December at 8.00pm. Join your local environmental group with an interest in protecting and promoting our Sperrins, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Special guest speakers and an opportunity to immerse yourself in your local community with shared interests in using our local knowledge and previous generations' determination to preserve our beautiful, natural countryside for future generations.

Learn about local areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) like Cashel Rock, special not just for its 450 million year old geographical rock formation but also for protected wildlife including the Irish Hare and the Lapwing more commonly known as the 'Peewit'. The Owenreagh River running through Greencastle, due for designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as one of the last breeding grounds of the rare Freshwater Mussel (*Margaritifera*) in these islands. **Facebook:** [SaveOurSperrins](https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSperrins) • **Email:** saveoursperrins@gmail.com

Musings *Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)*

Today's reading from the prophet Baruch contains some very consoling lines. Among these is an invitation to a city to stand tall again: 'Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west to east ... rejoicing that God has remembered them'. These words take flesh at key moments in our lives: when we are forgiven for some wrongdoing; when the alcoholic manages to stay off the drink for yet another week; when we complete our last bout of chemotherapy and all is well; when we get through our final exams; when our emigrant children return safely home ...