



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

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

Day of Prayer for Temperance [Year C] (7th February, 2016)

Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474



Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis Paragraph 14 of Misericordiae Vultus

"The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination."

Liturgy Schedule for the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (7 th February, 2016 – 14 th February, 2016)			
Saturday Evening (6th February) St. Paul Miki and Companions (martyrs)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 7th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] <i>Day of Prayer for Temperance</i>	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confessions 11.00am Mass	
Monday 8th February Fifth Week in Ordinary Time		NO MASS	
Tuesday 9th February Fifth Week in Ordinary Time		NO MASS	
Wednesday 10th February <i>*Distribution of Ashes to mark Ash Wednesday</i> St. Scholastica (virgin)	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Lourdes PS Our Lady of the Wayside	6.45am and 10.00am Mass* 11.00am Ceremony for schoolchildren* 8.00pm Mass*	
Thursday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Gobnait	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
Friday 12th February St. Cyril and St. Methodius (Patrons of Europe)	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass and Stations of the Cross** <i>**Please note Mass on Friday will be at 7.30pm during the Season of Lent</i>	
Saturday Evening 13th February	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 14th February First Sunday of Lent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confessions 11.00am Mass	

"The annual Lenten Season is the fitting time to climb the holy mountain of Easter." *Congregation of Divine Worship*

Collection: Thank you for your kindness in last week's collection of **£853** and **£27** in the loose plate

Remembering Our Dead: Pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary Ann McCullagh (nee McCaffrey) of 1 Mullydoo Road** who died this week and for those recently deceased and enrolled in the Derry Diocesan Society, **Rita Fox** and **Charles Donnelly**.

Sick and Housebound: Fr. Gallagher will visit the Sick and Housebound on Ash Wednesday (10th February) at the usual times distributing Ashes and Holy Communion.

Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group – Monthly Meeting: Monday 8th February in the Holy Family church, Ballymagroarty, Derry starting with Mass at 7.15pm. There will be two 1st class relics at the meeting. *Everyone is welcome*

Pioneer Lenten Challenge: Many people abstain from alcohol and take the Short-Term Pledge for the duration of Lent. Make your Lenten pledge by visiting pioneerassociation.ie and joining online or by contacting your local rep / branch of Pioneer Association). Take this opportunity to help someone you know / love with an alcohol or drug problem by offering up your Lenten sacrifice as a prayer for their freedom and well-being. *Go for it and make a difference to someone's life*

Lenten Prayer – Meeting God in the Desert Places: Begin Ash Wednesday (10th February) from 11.00am to 12.00 noon, we will present a series on Prayer and Meditation in St. Anthony's Retreat Centre. In the midst of our busy lives it is important to find time and make space to meditate on our relationship with God.
Book early by calling St. Anthony's on 00353 74936 8370 / email sarce@eircom.net • Donate £3 / €5 tea and coffee included

Camowen Farmers Meeting: Monday 8th February at 8.00pm in the Milestone Centre, Carrickmore. Speaker: David Wright (Northern Editor Irish Farmers Journal) on the topic of farming issues including Business Investment Scheme. Also Countryside Services: new BVD tags, which will become law on Tuesday 1st March, AND Cavanagh Kelly Accountants will hold free private consultations downstairs
An action packed evening where everyone is welcome • Enquires to (028) 8076 1339

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

Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 26: 1-2, 11-18 • Psalm 90: 1-2, 10-15 R/ v15 • Romans 10: 8-13 • Luke 4: 1-13
Lectionary I, page 207
Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS <i>Please note that events for the Year of Mercy will be added at later date</i>		
Wednesday 10th February Ash Wednesday	Thursday 25th February at 7.00pm First Confession	
Thursday 17th March St. Patrick's Day	Sunday 20th March Palm Sunday	
Thursday 24th March (Mass of the Lord's Supper) at 10.00am in St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry Holy Thursday Mass of Chrism (Blessing of Holy Oils and Priestly Renewal of Vows)		
Friday 25th March Good Friday	Saturday 26th March Holy Saturday	Sunday 27th March Easter Sunday
Sunday 24th April at 2.00pm Confirmation	Saturday 14th May at 12 noon First Holy Communion	
Sunday 26th June at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Melmount, Strabane Ordination of Rev. Christopher McDermott to the Priesthood for Derry Diocese		
Saturday 2nd July Intercession for the Dead in Greencastle Cemetery	Sunday 3rd July Intercession for the Dead in Broughderg Cemeteries	
Wednesday 2nd November Mass for the Dead	Sunday 27th November First Sunday of Advent	Sunday 25th December Feast of the Nativity (Christmas)

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 6 th February The family of Aoife Coyle	Offertory Gifts Rota Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 7 th February The family of Cayla Donnelly
Saturday 13 th February The family of Myles McCelduff	First Sunday of Lent	Sunday 14 th February The family of Elle Hague
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		

Abortion Threat to Northern Ireland: On Tuesday 9th February a proposed amendment to change the law on abortion in cases of fatal fetal abnormality and rape / incest will be put forward for consideration in the NI Assembly. We are asking for your urgent prayers for this intention. *For more information call Precious Life on (028) 9027 8484 or email info@preciouslife.com*

Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre – Living Justly in the Year of Mercy: Saturday 27th (9.30am to 4.30pm) and Sunday 28th (9.30am to 1.00pm) February. A weekend workshop by the SMA Justice Office, on the central place of Justice in a life of faith, including a focus on Migrants and Refugees and living justly with the stranger in our midst.
Free but meals / accommodation must be booked and paid for • Places are limited and must be reserved by Monday 22nd February • Call Dympna Mallon on (028) 3082 1024 or email laity@sma.ie to find out more

Broughderg Area Development Association – Evenings of Lively Talks on Origins: *Funded by Midulster Council*
Place-Names: Thursday 11th February, 7.30pm to 9.30pm • **Surnames:** Thursday 24th March, 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Admission is £3 • Refreshments served • Call (028) 8675 2004 for more information • All welcome

Fundraising Ceili for World Youth Day: Friday 12th February in Cockhill National School, Buncrana. Music provided by Cottage Ceili Band with Dancing from 9.00pm to midnight. Admission is €5 (including supper). Proceeds are in aid of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to World Youth Day and Radio Maria Ireland. *For more information call the Catechetical Centre (028) 7126 4087*

Some local people are forming a group for those interested in the Irish language, our local history and our culture
You do not need to be an Irish speaker to take part, you just need to be passionate about our Gaelic heritage
If you would like to take part or find out more information call Sinéad on 07849 394 001 or email ni_mheamog@hotmail.com

I AM Alive – Christian ROCKS Concert: Easter Sunday 27th March from 8.00pm to 10.00pm in St Columb's Hall, Derry. Take part in a musical celebration of our love for Jesus and his love for us. A 14-piece band will deliver music in a fresh new way aimed at lifting your soul and inspiring your faith.
Tickets (available at Veritas): Adult (£10) • Students (£7)

Children in Crossfire Advent Campaign: A thank you is extended to the parishioners of Greencastle Parish for their amazing contribution of **£557.33**. The money raised will help some of the most vulnerable children access vital healthcare, nutrition programmes and education in Tanzania.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Relief Caretaker / Cleaner Required: For the school for Holiday Relief.
Anyone interested is asked to call the school on (028) 8164 8732

The Net – February 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.
Malin youth retreat • Ballymagroarty Baby Blessing • Award for Waterside youth volunteer • Bellaghy's young stars shine
Lenten youth evenings • St. Eugene's scouts feature • Moville's Crafty Guides • Drumragh's youth entertain seniors
Castletfinn centenarian's celebration • Limavady Mercy Day • Cappagh's Christian Unity Service • Bellaghy Prayer Week
Banagher SVP mark retirement • Beautiful Icon for Banagher Cenacle • Coleraine author's book to kick-start faith dialogue
Buncrana tribute to late Fr. Michael Kelly • Fahan's final fundraising push • Newtownstewart Mercy easels unveiled
Bellaghy, Fauganvale and Desertmartin enjoy SVP gatherings • Parish Post-its • Diocesan Diary • School Scene.

<p>Pope Francis' Intentions for February (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>Universal – <i>Care for Creation</i>: That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.</p> <p>Evangelisation – <i>Asia</i>: That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.</p>
<p>Lourdes Pilgrimage (Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July): The Lourdes Pilgrimage Office is now open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. <i>Forms available from Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: (028) 7126 0293 / 07517 965 751 (Mon. to Fri. 9.00am to 6.00pm)</i></p>
<p>Irish Pilgrimage Trust: The Irish Pilgrimage Trust travel to Lourdes every Easter with children and young people from all over Ireland with physical needs / illness, intellectual disabilities and social needs. One of the groups from the Derry area is urgently looking for a nurse to travel with the group on the 27th March for 6 nights. If interested please call Jimmie on 07802 545 282 or Mary on 00353 87796 2047 as soon as possible for more details.</p>
<p>ACCORD Pre-Marriage Courses: All couples intending to be married in the parish are expected to have completed a Pre-Marriage Preparation Course. Please book well in advance of your wedding date. 1st and 2nd April • 6th and 7th May • 3rd and 4th June • 24th and 25th June To book (opening time can be found on the website): Website: accord.ie • Tel: (028) 8224 2439 • Email: omagh@accordni.com</p>
<p>Engaged Encounter – <i>Preparing for Marriage?</i> Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th March in St. Malachy's Parish Centre, Coleraine. Designed for couples preparing for Marriage to enrich communication in all aspects of their relationship. <i>For details and booking visit marriageencounter.ie or call (028) 2763 8512</i></p>
<p>Children in Crossfire – <i>Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage</i>: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 2nd April. <i>If you would like more information email shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org or call the office on (028) 7126 9898</i></p>
<p>Drink Wise Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use? <i>For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240</i></p>
<p>YOUTH 2000 Group: Thursdays from 5.15pm to 6.30pm in The Oratory, Main Street, Newtownstewart. Prayer, music, friendship and Newtownstewart coffee! This will also be our Pope John Paul Award Project for 2015-2016.</p>
<p>Mindfulness Class: Begins Thursday 14th February from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. £25 for six weeks. Only 20 places <i>To register please call Darryl on 07979 378 732 or Fiona on 07813 935 996</i></p>
<p>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@fermanaghomagh.com • Tel: (028) 8225 6220</p>
<p>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. <i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i></p>
<p>The Good Ship Lollipop – <i>Appeal For Child Refugees</i>: 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. <i>Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid</i> 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)</p>
<p>Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – <i>Master of Arts in Catholic School Leadership</i>: 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. <i>For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org</i></p>
<p>Thornhill Ministries 8-Day Retreat Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Thursday 15th to Friday 23rd September. There are still a few places are still available. For more details call Sr. Perpetua on (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org</p>
<p>Yoga with Margaret Franklin: Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán.</p>

Parish Liturgy for February, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Aisling Donaghy	Catriona McCullagh	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Erin Hood	Lauryn Hollywood	Cayla Donnelly
Collectors	Gerry McDermott Noel McElhatton	Frank Keenan Patrick Tuohey	Pat McGuigan Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Eileen McKenna, Anne McAleer and Lauryn Hollywood		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke
New choir members will always be welcome – Contact Sinéad for info			

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*

Save Our Sperrins Meeting: First Wednesday of every month in Greencastle Community Centre with the next meeting on Wednesday 2nd March 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 • **Email:** saveoursperrins@gmail.com

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@jecon.ie

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

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

2015 Parish Statistics			
Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation	Marriages
6 Boys 8 Girls	8 Boys 8 Girls	10 Boys 9 Girls	10 within parish 5 outside parish
Station Masses in October 7	Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13 th Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE Celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry on Thursday 17 th September in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle		
Funerals 13	Farewell Concert and Presentation Night for Fr. Eugene Hasson Former Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE and now Parish Priest of the Parishes of Lavey and Greenlough took place on Friday 13 th November in GREENCASTLE Community Centre		

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 5: 1-11: *John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

- Jesus invites Peter to put out the net again, and he does so though he thinks it pointless. When have you felt it was pointless to stick with a task, but did so nonetheless and been surprised by results? We never know when our efforts are going to bear fruit.
- 'Push out into the deep.' The invitation is to go out into unfamiliar waters, where we are not sure what will happen, where we feel uneasy and our safety is not assured. When have you responded positively to that kind of an invitation and got positive results you did not expect?
- We get a glimpse of the preparation of the disciples leading to their decision to follow Jesus. They were helped by the interest and concern of Jesus (cured Peter's mother-in-law); attracted by his work and teaching; and witnessed the power of God at work through him. This led them to 'leave everything and Follow him'. What has been the story of key decisions or turning points in your life? Who was Jesus for you in those situations?

The Deep End – Put Out into the Deep: *Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

Jesus is preaching at Lake Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee) in today's Gospel. This is Luke's account of the calling of the First Disciples which takes place in the context of a miraculous catch of fish. Jesus is using Simon's boat as a sort of platform from which to address the crowds who had gathered around him. Already Jesus is gaining popularity and the crowds are 'pressing' near to him. Clearly they see something in Jesus that is attractive and fulfilling.

Simon is most likely being polite when he agrees to try again for a catch, possibly thinking that Jesus should leave the fishing to the professionals. Simon obeys, takes the risk, lets go of his pride, and the result is an overwhelming catch of fish. It can be hard to trust others at times; it can be difficult to let go of what is familiar to us. We are constantly being challenged to do this. The big challenge is to trust that God knows what God is doing and is constantly urging us to pull away from the shore.

A boat is safe in the harbour; but this is not the purpose of a boat. *Paulo Coelho*

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

Matthew West, an American Christian music artist, released a song called 'Do Something' in 2012, our first reading from Isaiah brings its lyrics to mind: 'Here I am, send me'.

*I woke up this morning
 Saw a world full of trouble now
 Thought, how'd we ever get so far down
 How's it ever gonna turn around
 So I turned my eyes to Heaven
 I thought, 'God, why don't You do something?'
 Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of*

*People living in poverty
 Children sold into slavery
 The thought disgusted me
 So, I shook my fist at Heaven
 Said, 'God, why don't You do something?'
 He said, 'I did, I created you.'*

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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 10th February – St. Scholastica (virgin) Sister of Saint Benedict. She spent her life as a consecrated virgin. Patron of convulsive children. Died in 543.

Tuesday 11th February – Our Lady of Lourdes On this day in 1858, Our Lady first appeared to the fourteen year-old Bernadette Soubirous. Later Bernadette was to learn that the mysterious lady was the Blessed Virgin and to hear from her lips, 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. In 1992 Pope John Paul II instituted the World Day of Prayer of the Sick to be held on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

St. Gbennait One of the best loved saints in west Cork but only traditions concerning her life survive. The main part of her life was spent in Ballyvaurney, Co. Cork, where there has always been a deep devotion to her, and which is a place of pilgrimage on this day and on Pentecost. Her gifts of caring for and curing the sick have been a significant part of her cult through the centuries. Happily her memorial coincides with the World Day for the Sick.

Friday 14th February – St. Cyril (monk) [826-869] and St. Methodius (bishop) [815-885] (both Patrons of Europe) Brothers from Thessalonica in Greece. They preached the gospel in Moravia using their own translation of the Scriptures and the liturgy in the local language. These translations into Slavonic were in an alphabet, now called Cyrillic, which they devised. They are honoured as apostles of the Slavic peoples and in 1980 Pope John Paul II declared them Patrons of Europe. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]