



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

**St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (7<sup>th</sup> February, 2021)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474



**Thought for the Week:** "Sickness always has more than one face: it has the face of all the sick, but also those who feel ignored, excluded and prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 22). The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick. Elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner. This is the result of political decisions, resource management and greater or lesser commitment on the part of those holding positions of responsibility. Investing resources in the care and assistance of the sick is a priority linked to the fundamental principle that health is a primary common good. Yet the pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious, all of whom have helped, treated, comforted and served so many of the sick and their families with professionalism, self-giving, responsibility and love of neighbour. A silent multitude of men and women, they chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family."

*Pope Francis (Message for World Day of the Sick, 2021)*

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> St. Paul Miki and Companions (martyrs)	St. Patrick's (YouTube)	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Mary Ann McCullagh (5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b> Fifth Sunday in OT [Year B]	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	<b>11.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Night Prayer and Rosary
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Night Prayer and Rosary
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Badoney Lower (FB)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Night Prayer and Rosary
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> St. Scholastica (virgin)	St. Patrick's St. Patrick's (YouTube) Badoney Lower (FB)	<b>2.00pm to 4.00pm</b> Adoration <b>7.30pm</b> Mass followed by Padre Pio Devotions <b>8.00pm</b> Night Prayer and Rosary
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b> Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Gobnait	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Night Prayer and Rosary
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Badoney Lower (FB)	<b>7.30pm</b> Mass: Benny Clarke (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) <b>8.00pm</b> Night Prayer and Rosary
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's (YouTube)	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass:
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> Sixth Sunday in OT [Year B]	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	<b>11.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Night Prayer and Rosary

**Weekly Collection:** £1,955

*Thank you for your generosity*

**Parish Envelopes:** During this time of continuing lockdown and the suspension of public worship can we express our thanks for your continuing generosity to the parish. Please continue to return your parish envelopes to the postbox at the sacristy of St. Patrick's Church, the Parochial House and Broughderg Post Office.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Benny Clarke (formerly Binnefreaghan)** whose First Anniversary Mass is on Friday and for the happy repose of the soul of **Mary Ann McCullagh** whose 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary occurs at this time. We also pray for the souls of **Rory Bradley, Lizzie McCullagh, Joe Neville, Patricia McFarlane, Susanna (Myles) McCullagh, Patrick O'Hagan and Michael McGarvey**, recently deceased and enrolled in the Derry Diocesan Society and for all who have died due to Covid-19.

**Padre Pio Devotions:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February after 7.30pm Mass.

*Can be followed on YouTube*

**Next Week's Readings:** Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 • Psalm 31:1-2, 5, 11, R/ v 7 • 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1  
 Mark 1:40-45 • Lectionary 1:750 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**President Biden's New Parish Priest:** Fr. Kevin Gillespie SJ of Holy Trinity Parish, Georgetown in Washington and friend of Fr. Hasson, who was here in Greencastle at the Mass Rock at Crouck to preach at the mass on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 is the new US President's Parish Priest. You may wish to watch the news report from ABC News In America which examines all the issues involved and Fr. Kevin and many others share their thoughts.

**ABC News Report:** [youtube.com/watch?v=BzgPIQx8l88](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzgPIQx8l88)

**Parish Website Archive Page:** [greencastleparish.com/crouckmassrock.htm](https://www.greencastleparish.com/crouckmassrock.htm)

**World Day of the Sick:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. Faith organisations mark this day especially to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance. Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, in 1991, and it is considered that his own illness was impetus for his designation of the day. Pope Benedict XVI also declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope on this day in 2013. He cited his failing health as the reason behind his decision.

**Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal:** Some of you very kindly returned your donations over the Christmas and New Year period and now we can officially ask that donations can now be returned to the usual drop off points, Postbox at St. Patrick's Church Sacristy, Parochial House and Broughderg Post Office. We will push this over the next few weeks. Alternatively you can send them to the Children in Crossfire office, 2 St. Joseph's Avenue Derry BT48 6TH. If you didn't get a box and would like one you can still pick them up at the back of the chapel if you are in for private prayer. You can also donate online by visiting [justgiving.com/fundraising/advent-appeal](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/advent-appeal).

*Thank you so much for your ongoing support at this challenging time*

### St. Angela's College, Sligo – Invitation for Applications for Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) with Online Delivery

Begins Autumn. The course is open to qualified primary school teachers and qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply.

*Closing date for Applications: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May (may be extended)*

For more info and application forms contact us using the following details:

**Address:** Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, School of Education, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo

**Email:** [mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie](mailto:mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie) **Website:** [stangelas.nuigalway.ie](https://www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie)

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

**SUSE+ New Courses:** Are you currently unemployed? SUSE+ can help you, we are currently offering help and support to gain qualification and employment. We run Job Searches, CV Building, Interview Preparation. Mentors work 1:1 with participants to help secure a job in local area.

New courses include Foundation Skills in Working with Children, Personal Success & Wellbeing, Progression to Employment, Customer Service, Money Management, Retail, Business Administration, Barista and Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy.

*For more information email [tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk](mailto:tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk) or call 074 3653 3475*

**Accord Counselling Services:** Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

### World Day of the Sick Prayer of the Sick Person

Ever-Present and Faithful God, I trust in You for Your protection and comfort in this time of illness and uncertainty in my life. Come to ease the fears and anxieties that trouble my heart and spirit as I wait for answers and help from all who are caring for me. Please continue to guide their knowledge and skills, and bless the work of their minds and hands as they serve as instruments of Your healing presence for me. Help me rest assured that You will hold me close in Your healing and caring embrace in all that may happen in the time to come. Give me strength, peace, and courage as I trust and give myself into Your loving care. *Amen*

**Pope Francis' Intention for February (please remember this in your personal prayers)**

**Universal Intention – Violence Against Women:** We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

**Catholic Engaged Encountered – Online Marriage Preparation Course via Zoom:**

Planned for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship.

*For more information and to book call (028) 2763 8512 or visit [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie)*

**Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):**

Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies

*Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on [radiomaria.ie](http://radiomaria.ie) or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)*

**A Prayer for Now:** God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes

the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

**Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration**

**12noon – 1.00pm** Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life

**1.00pm – 2.00pm** Married couples and those preparing for Marriage

**2.00pm – 3.00pm** Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people

**4.00pm – 5.00pm** Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth

**6.00pm – 7.00pm** The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

**Prayer for the End of the Virus:** Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an end of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities, that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. *Amen*

**Towards Peace:** A 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](http://towardspeace.ie) • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** [towardspeace@iecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie)

**Red Cross:** Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.

*Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011*

**Online Youth Programmes:** To access a wide variety of initiatives and activities by Derry Diocesan Youth, visit:

**Facebook:** [DerryDiocesanYouth](https://www.facebook.com/DerryDiocesanYouth) **Instagram:** [derryyouth](https://www.instagram.com/derryyouth)

**The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility:** This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.

*Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email [lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk)*

**Epilepsy Action NI:** Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury?

Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

**Kindercare Fostering NI:** Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:

**Tel:** (028) 90941690 • **Email:** [gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**Drink Wise, Age Well:** Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

*For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240*

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Can't stop? There is a solution.

Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email [csoofaa@btinternet.com](mailto:csoofaa@btinternet.com). [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://alcoholicsanonymous.ie).

**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 / 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 entrance*

**The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration**

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

*"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". Pope St. John Paul II*

**Mid Ulster Agewell:** Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

*For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email [marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org).*

**Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection:** O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**What Is Spiritual Communion?** It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

**Spiritual Communion Prayer:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen*

**Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure:** If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.  
*If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting [derryyouthcommunity.com](http://derryyouthcommunity.com) or emailing [dyc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org)*

**Trócaire:** Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org)
2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)
4. As with your parish envelope please leave at Broughderg Post Office, St. Patrick's Church Sacristy outside door postbox or the Parochial House. No boxes please.

Please also fill in Gift Aid details on envelope. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

**ASPIRE:** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's employability service, is currently active with new ways of working. ASPIRE staff are ready to help people apply for and secure jobs; support from the initial search through to the application and with interview prep. Also provide training courses and arrange work experience placements. Omagh (028) 8224 6535 • Enniskillen 028 6632 6478 • Mobile 07799 471 448 • [aspire@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:aspire@fermanaghomagh.com)

**Barnardo's NI – Can You Foster?** Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support.  
*To learn more call (028) 9065 2288 or visit [barnardos.org.uk/foster](http://barnardos.org.uk/foster)*

**Deanery of Tyrone Statistics**  
17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.  
8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000  
6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people  
3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people  
The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics  
7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?  
In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.  
The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.  
Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s  
The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

**The Deep End – *Jesus the Healer:*** *Jane Mellett ([mellettj@gmail.com](mailto:mellettj@gmail.com))*  
In today's Gospel we read about Jesus' first healing in Mark's Gospel. Jesus hears of the illness of the mother of Simon's wife and goes to her. Due to the purity laws of his time this scene would have been considered controversial. His first healing is of a woman and we are told that he touches her, raises her up; he completely restores her to health. Many of his actions here would have been considered inappropriate.  
The 'whole city' was crowded around the door as many people wanted to be healed. What a commotion! Jesus, very early on in his ministry is clearly a very popular and attractive figure. Another important aspect of this story is that Jesus does not remain comfortable in this house. He keeps moving, keeps going outward. This requires so much energy and an outpouring of love for those in need. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel what it takes to stay energised for our various ministries: quiet time and space for real encounter with God. Even then, the people hunted for him and said, 'Everyone is searching for you', and still today, everyone is searching.  
We too are called to bring healing to others in any way that we can, to those who are seeking, those who are lost, those who are isolated. Jesus shows us that to do this we must be connected to that Divine Presence within us and in our world. Today we can ask ourselves, what do I need healing from? Bring this to Jesus in prayer. And also, how can I reach out, with a healing presence, to others, especially during this time of pandemic?  
I ask God to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion. Let us ask him to anoint our whole being with the balm of his mercy, which heals the injuries caused by mistakes, misunderstandings, and disputes. And let us ask him for the grace to send us forth, in humility and meekness, along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace.  
*Pope Francis (Fratelli Tutti, 254)*

Some Important Dates		
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b> First Confession for P4 Children	<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b> Easter Sunday	<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am</b> Confirmation
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 12noon</b> First Holy Communion	<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> / Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b> Blessing of the Graves in Greencastle / Broughderg	

2019	PARISH STATISTICS	2020
(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(17) 8 Boys • 9 Girls
(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(11) 4 Boys • 7 Girls
(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(14) 7 Boys • 7 Girls
1 within parish • 6 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	0 within parish • 1 outside parish
11	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	8

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:***John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

This passage contains three stories and there is food for thought in each of them.

1. The first story (vv. 29-31) is one of healing. You might reflect on times when you were sick in body, mind or spirit and someone was a 'Jesus person' to you, someone who 'took you by the hand and lifted you up'. Remember them with gratitude. Have there been times also when you did this for others?
2. The second story (vv. 32-34) adds another dimension. People are freed from demons. Have you had the experience of being freed from demons that imprisoned you: fear, anxiety, guilt, low self-esteem, addictions, bitterness, etc.? What was it like for you to get that freedom? Who were the 'Jesus people' who helped to free you?
3. The third story (vv. 35-39) has a number of different elements we can consider
  - a) Jesus goes off to a desert place to pray. After a hectic day he felt the need for quiet to ground himself once more. In the busyness of life how do you keep in touch with what is going on inside yourself? How do you keep in touch with God? Where do you find your 'deserted place'? What difference does it make for you when you do succeed in taking time out?
  - b) Jesus shows himself as a person seeking to break new ground. The disciples want him to continue ministry where he is. He wants to move on. What has been your experience of breaking new ground, moving beyond your comfort zone, or trying something you had not tried before? When has this had a life-giving effect for you?

**This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February** – **St. Scholastica (virgin)** Sister of St. Benedict. She spent her life as a consecrated virgin. Patron of convulsive children. Died in 543.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Gbnait** 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.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Rural Support:** We could help you with financial stress by

Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt  
Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action

**Email:** [info@ruralsupport.org.uk](mailto:info@ruralsupport.org.uk) **Website:** [ruralsupport.org.uk](http://ruralsupport.org.uk)

To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

**Dún Uladh's Music Classes – Back for 2021 via Zoom:** Lessons available in tin whistle, flute, fiddle, banjo, harp, button accordion and concertina for all ages and abilities. Instruments also available to hire.

*For more info or to register e-mail [music@dunuladh.ie](mailto:music@dunuladh.ie)*