

Diocese of Derry, Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone

Saint Patrick's Church
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Broughderg

The Second Sunday of Advent. 7th December, 2008

The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

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Today the liturgy turns to John the Baptist, one of the primary figures of Advent. What an entrance John makes in today's Gospel. He appears, the Gospel attests, preaching fire and brimstone. He reminds us of the urgency of Advent and the radical transformation of our lives to which the season calls us. The Lord is coming. Let your repentance show in your lives. Our observance of Advent is meant, like our observance of every other liturgical season, to change us. It is meant to have an effect upon our lives and the way we live as followers of Christ, as members of the Church. When Christmas arrives, we should be changed – different from how we were when Advent began. This transformation is the essence of John the Baptist's preaching. *LTP Sourcebook 2008*

Liturgy Schedule for the Second Week of Advent. 8th December – 14th December, 2008

Monday 8 th December Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Saint Patrick's	11.00am Mass: *Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday 9 th December Second Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass: <i>Advent Reflection after Mass</i>
Wednesday 10 th December Second Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 11 th December St. Damascus I. pope	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 12 th December Our Lady of Guadalupe	Saint Patrick's	8.00pm Mass
Saturday 13 th December St. Lucy, virgin and martyr Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday (Mickey Daly – Month's Mind)
Sunday 14 th December Third Sunday of Advent	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass – 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass: (Gerard, Mary and Gerry McCrory)

Confession Schedule

Saturday 13 th December	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 14 th December	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,120.**

Remembering Our Dead: We pray this week for **Mary Conway** and **Patrick Devlin** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Choir Practice for Christmas: There will be a choir practice on Wednesday night in Greencastle @ 7pm regarding rehearsal for Christmas masses. Please join and share your gifts.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School: Christmas Fair on Wednesday December 10th from 7.00pm to 9.00pm Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Youth 2000 Retreat: A national Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat for young people aged 16 to 35 takes place at Newbridge College, Co. Kildare from Friday 19th December to Sunday 21st December. Contact Youth 2000 office Dublin (00353) 1675 3690. Special buses available from some locations. www.youth2000.ie

Gift Voucher for Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2009: Give someone the opportunity of going on the Diocesan Pilgrimage on 16th – 21st July, 2009 as a Christmas gift! Gift vouchers are now available from the Pilgrimage Office 164, Bishop Street, Derry. Telephone (028) 7126 0293. Office is open Thursdays 11.00am-2.00pm and Saturdays 11.00am-1.00pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm.

Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry (Advent Weekend Retreat): Registration is Friday 12th December at 7.30pm until Sunday 14th December. A quiet residential weekend which will be a spiritual preparation for the feast of Christmas. For more details and to book call (028) 7126 2512.

'Surviving the Early Loss of a Mother: Daughters Speak' by Dr Anne Tracey: Published by Veritas, available at Veritas and St. Joseph's bookshop beside Sacred Heart Church, Omagh.

Knock Marriage Introductions Bureau: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo by calling (00353) 9493 75960 or visiting www.knockmarriagebureau.com

Seeing Your life through the lens of the Gospels

- John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord? To whom have you been such a messenger?
- the voice cries in the 'desert or wilderness' ...a reminder to us that when we feel we are in a desert place in our lives, we should not give up hope. It may be that God's grace will come to us at any moment. Have you had an experience of God's grace coming to you when you were in a desert place?
- John calls the people to repent (a change of heart), as a way to new life. can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?
- John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?
- John did not claim to be greater than he was and freely acknowledged the greater role that Jesus would play. When have you seen yourself, or others, act with that kind of humility, freely acknowledging the place of God and of others in what is happening? What difference does it make to you when you are comfortable with your own important, but limited worth? *Intecom magazine*

Questions People Ask:

- Q. What is the Jesse tree and its relationship to Advent?
- A. Jesse was the father of King David. The Jesse tree refers to the line of Jesus' human ancestors. 'A shoot shall spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of its shoots' (Isaiah 11:1). In Advent, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, a tree, or a banner representing a tree, may be erected. Each day, or once a week something is attached to recall a person or event from the time before Christ. In the Middle Ages it was a popular way of teaching Old Testament history.
Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

GREENCASCADE YOUTH CLUB – Parent Rota

Monday 8 th December	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Caroline McCann
Monday 8 th December	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Geraldine Wilkinson
Tuesday 9 th December	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Bronagh Maguire
There will be a short meeting for parents and youth leaders on Monday 8 th December, 2008.		

B.A.D.A. An Bruach Dearg Community Centre. Upcoming Events:

Sunday 7th December	Usual fortnightly dance continues, music by 'Country Legends' Peter and Harry
Tuesday 6th January	Dancing class resumes
Every Friday Night	Card playing at 8.30pm. <i>Light supper served</i>
Monday 15th December	Next Broughderg Historical Society meeting at 8:30pm. At present we are giving serious consideration to planning a school reunion for all past pupils of Broughderg Primary School and would greatly appreciate all interested to come along and contribute to the organisation of this event which will hopefully centre around the Schools Centenary year in 2010 as the school first opened in 1910. This will be followed with reunion for Crouck Primary School. <i>Everyone welcome</i>

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Psalm; Luke 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Lectionary I, page 48)

Lotto Numbers: 5, 11, 13, 19 (11 winners with 3 numbers – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £8,500