Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry) St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg

of Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Brought Second Sunday of Advent [Year B] (7th December, 2014)

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

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Liturgy Schedule for the Second Week of Advent [Year B] (8th December – 14th December)

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Saturday Evening (6th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions			
		6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday:			
		Mary McBride (Month's Mind)			
Sunday Morning (7th December)	St. Patrick's	St. Patrick's 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)			
Second Sunday of Advent [Year B]	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am Confessions			
		11.00am Mass: Abina Coyle (Month's Mind)			
Sunday Evening (7th December)	Our Lady of the Wayside	7.30pm Confessions			
		8.00pm Vigil Mass for Feast Day			
Monday 8th December	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)			
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)					
Tuesday 9th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass			
Second Week of Advent					
Wednesday 10th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass			
Second Week of Advent					
Thursday 11th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass			
Second Week of Advent					
Friday 12th December	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass:			
St. Finnian (bishop) and Our Lady of Guadalupe		Michael Hollywood (Month's Mind)			
Saturday Morning (13th December)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass			
Second Week of Advent					
Saturday Evening (13th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions			
St. Lucy (virgin and martyr)		6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday			
		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)			
Sunday 14th December	St. Patrick's	10.30am Confessions			
Third Sunday of Advent [Year B]	Our Lady of the Wayside	11.00am Mass: Kathleen Duffy (Anniversary)			
If you are a homemaker, not at work or retired you are invited to make time in your					

If you are a homemaker, not at work or retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily during Advent – the best way to prepare for Christmas

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection of £952 and £28 in loose change

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for *Gerard McGurk* who entered eternal life this week, we offer his family and all who mourn him our deepest sympathy and prayerful support. We also pray for *Gerard McCrory, Patrick Joseph Devlin, James McDermott* and *Colette Haigney*, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Bishop McKeown has written to tell us that he will impart the Sacrament of Confirmation on our candidates who have prepared themselves to receive it on Sunday 26th April at 2.00pm.

St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs:

Saturday 14th March at 3.00pm. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion at this Mass call the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 / email ddcc@derrydiocese.org.

Candle-light Rosary and Advent Carol Service: This will take place in Derry today (Sunday 7th December), assembling in Guildhall Square at 4.00pm in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Rosary will be led by Fr. Roland Colhoun. You are invited to come along and carry a 'Light for Life' and pray for the protection of Ireland's unborn children. Bring your family and friends and receive many graces and blessings. Candles will be supplied. For more information, call Precious Life on (028) 9027 8484

IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – "Follow the Star" Christmas Trail: Friday 12th to Sunday 14th December, Wednesday 17th December and Friday 19th to Sunday 21st December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. Pre-booking is essential.

For tickets and further information call the IOSAS Centre (00353) 74938 4866

Trócaire – Christmas Gifts: You are invited to give someone special in your life a very special gift this Christmas by choosing from Trócaire's offer of the nine life-changing gifts. Trócaire Christmas gifts are now on sale and can make a life-changing difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries. Visit trocaire.org/gifts • Pick up a leaflet at the Church door Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

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) Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]

GAA Lotto Results: B • P • V • W • Y (4 with 3 letters winning £15 each) Next Jackpot: £3,800

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 6th December	Second Sunday	Sunday 7th December
The family of Darragh Morris	of Advent	The family of Kieran Mulholland
Saturday 13th December	Third Sunday	Sunday 14th December
The family of Patrick Morris	of Advent	The family of Niamh Tracey
Saturday 20th December*	Fourth Sunday	Sunday 21st December
The family of Shanice Morris	of Advent	The family of Joseph Warnock

As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership.

Thanks to all who participate in the life and work of our parish faith-community. *Do This In Memory Programme (week 4)

Discussion Questions Second Sunday of Advent [Year B] (7th December, 2014)

Questions on Sunday's readings for use by discussion groups, prayer or for individual prayer

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

- 1. Left to human management, world history is a wasteland or at best a rough road. Is your road smooth all the time? What is the help in this reading that will smooth out the rough spots?
- 2. Do you think God has always been walking on the roads of world history? Does God walk with you when you are in "rugged country"? How does the shepherd image smooth out the ruggedness in your life?

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

- 1. "But he (the Lord) is patient with you," Are you patient with others when a car cuts you off or you are blamed falsely? Is there a line between holy anger and patience? Are you patient with yourself?
- 2. "... we await new heavens and a new earth." What is your relationship with earth? Do you take the earth for granted, or do you treat it with reverence? Why?

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

- 1. Compare the statement of John the Baptist, I am, as Isaiah prophesied: "avoice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (John 1:23),with Pope Francis' statement below:

 My mission of being in the heart of the people ... is not an "extra" or just another moment in life. Instead, it is something I cannot uproot from my being without destroying my very self. I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing. All around us we begin to see nurses with soul, teachers with soul, politicians with soul, people who have chosen deep down to be with others and for others.

 Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium, 273)
- How do you share John the Baptist's mission to proclaim Christ's coming into the world? Do you do this with words or by the way you live? How is John's message of repentance and judgment different from Jesus'?

Youth 2000 - Christmas Retreat: Friday 12th to Sunday 14th December in Newbridge College, Co Kildare.

This event draws about 500-600 young people between the ages of 16-35 annually

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. Please familiarise yourself with the policy by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church

Pioneer Retreat in Termonbacca: Sunday 7th December, Contact committee members for details

Greencastle Pioneer Council Meeting: Tuesday 2nd December at 7.00pm in St. Patrick's.

Jack and the Beanstalk: Monday 22nd December at 3.00pm. A relaxed performance designed to create an enjoyable atmosphere for young people with learning and sensory difficulties and their families.

Pope John Paul II Award: Tuesday 10th February in the Millennium Forum, Derry. There are 800 students currently participating in the award. This is the 8th year of the award in the Derry Diocese and it will be launched in several other diocese this year. Those who are currently doing the award are due to complete by mid-November.

Fr. Hasson would like Year 13 students undertaking the award program to offer their gifts for service in our parish

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 1st to 6th July. Gift vouchers are available from the Thornhill Centre (028) 7135 1233 and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre (028) 7136 2475. Vouchers can be used as part or full payment towards the pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to Medugorje: Sunday 6th September to Sunday 13th September. Direct from Belfast. Price includes half-board, tax, insurance, will cost £439 if paid by Wednesday 10th December. For info call Maria Bradley on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Year of Consecrated Life: Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life. This year of special celebration and prayer for the gift of Consecrated Life begins this weekend with the First Sunday of Advent and ends on the World Day of Consecrated Life (Tuesday 2nd February, 2016).

An Bruach Dearg Community Centre: Friday 12th December at 8.30pm Card playing.

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)

Universal: That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

For Evangelisation: That parents may be true evangelisers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

Camowen Farmers Meeting: Monday 8th December at 8.00pm in the Milestone Centre, Carrickmore, Speaker Tom Armstrong Provita Topic: Better animal performance, also Brian Lamont DARD Topic: Equality Assessment. Also Linedance class Tuesday 9th December at 8.00pm in the Milestone Centre. Admission is £5.00

Craft Training Ltd: A leading organisation that gives young people training opportunities to learn new skills and gain gualifications that can help them to succeed in their chosen career path and earn £40 per week, all free of charge! Gain the skills you need to kick start your career.

We offer a vast range of qualifications including ICT, hairdressing, joinery, painting and decorating, hospitality and catering, retail and much more.

These are provided through two programmes. Training for Success is aimed at 16-18 year olds and Apprenticeships NI is for 18 years and up.

Tel: (028) 8225 9377 • Address: Kelvin Avenue, Omagh • Email: joincraft@hotmail.co.uk

Dalradian Gold Ltd. - Gold Panning Taster Event: Saturday 13th December from 10.00am to 12 noon in the Owenkillew Community Centre. For children as part of the Advent calendar series of events

Admission is £3.00 • All proceeds to the Omagh branch of Parkinson's UK

Due to the continued expansion and development of the project, Dalradian Gold wish to recruit a Junior Environmental Technician and an IT Assistant. Anyone interested please request a job description from the Gortin / Omagh offices or fromaconey@dalradian.com / (028) 8224 6289.

Closing date for submission of CV and cover letter no later than 5.00pm on Friday 12th December

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 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'. [Not celebrated this year]

Friday 12th December - St. Finnian (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 Cuahtlatoatzin 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.

Saturday 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.

Sunday 14th December –

St. John of the Cross (priest and doctor of the Church) [1542-1591] A Carmelite who, despite opposition and imprisonment, worked for the reform of the Carmelites. He was a man of prayer, an outstanding poet and a spiritual writer. Declared doctor of the Church. [Not celebrated this year]

Parish Liturgy for December, 2014	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)	
Readers	Francis McDermott	Catriona McCullagh	Brendan / Helen McKenna	
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke	
Prayers of the Faithful	TBC	TBC	Conan Maguire	
Collectors	Francis McLaughlin Mary Bradley	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Tony Donnelly Brendan Daly	
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory	
New choir members will always be welcome - Contact Sinead				

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses

St. Columba's Pastoral Centre. 48 Brook Street (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@accordni.com 9th and 10th January • 6th and 7th February • 6th and 7th March 10th and 11th April • 8th and 9th May • 12th and 13th June

Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date

Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults: A new resource from the Irish Episcopal Conference, designed to complement the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It has been adapted for an Irish audience and is written in accessible, easy to understand language. Whilst it can be used as an Individual private resource for reflection, it is also particularly useful for Parish Study Groups, Liturgy Groups, Parish Pastoral Councils and any individuals/groups working in parishes to promote catechesis / deepening of adult faith formation. A Study Guide to complement the Catechism has also been published. The Catechism is available from Veritas bookshops, at a cost of £19.99 / €24.99 and the Study Guide costs £11.00 / €12.99. Good discounts are available for multiple purchases. Tel: 02871 266888 or E-mail: derryshop@veritas.ie

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels - Mark 1:1-8:

John Byrne OSA (iohn@orlagh.ie)

- 1. 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 by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?
- 2. John calls the people to repentance (a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?
- 3. 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?

Musinas

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

Today's First Reading contain words of comfort and tenderness for the people of Jerusalem, words which assure them that their time of hard service is at an end and their sins paid for. It reminds me of that beautiful scene from Les Misérables when the convict Jean Valjean is returned by police to the bishop of Digne, whose silver he has stolen. Seeing Valjean's state, the bishop assures police that there has been a misunderstanding - the stolen silver had been a free gift all along, and addresses Valjean, 'but you forgot the candlesticks - here take these as well!' God's mercy is always superabundant.

Public Initiative for the Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm (PIPS) (028) 3026 6195 · info@pipsnewryandmourne.org Christmas Service of Remembrance, Hope and Healing: Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Upper Hill Street, Newry, For families and friends of loved ones lost through suicide.

Warm Homes – Are you entitled to Free Insulation and Heating?

For info call 0800 988 0559 or visit warm-homes.com

Irish Language Class for Beginners: Every Thursday in Greencastle GAA Hall from 8.00pm to 9.30pm. Teenagers and adults are welcome. Call Sinéad Warnock on 07849 394 001

The Deep End – Prepare a Way:

Jane Mellett (janemellet@yahoo.com)

John the Baptist is an interesting character. He wasn't someone who kept up with the latest fashion. We are told he wore strange clothes, ate insects and lived in the desert. And yet John was very popular as we hear that 'all of Judea' came to him. There was obviously something very attractive about John. People could see something in him; something that inspired them; something that gave them hope. John is clear that he is not the one they are looking for; rather he is someone who is pointing to the one they are looking for. John shows the way for people, he is a signpost to God.

The world says to God, 'we no longer need you, we know what is best'. And then we look at the wilderness of our modern world and hear the voice of one crying, 'Prepare a way'. How do we prepare for welcoming God's love into our hearts? God is crying out for us to welcome him again and again. It is us who are blocked; we put so many things in the way. John is urging us to clear the path, to let go of all the things that are preventing us from experiencing God's love. John is calling people out from despair into hopefulness.