

Diocese of Derry, Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone

Saint Patrick's Church
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Broughderg

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. 8th February, 2009

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

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

Liturgy Schedule for the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time. 9th January – 15th February, 2009

Monday 9 th February Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 10 th February St. Scholastica	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 11 th February Our Lady of Lourdes	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of Lourdes	10.00am Mass 10.30am School Assembly
Thursday 12 th February Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass for the DDS (members and benefactors)
Friday 13 th February Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	8.00pm Mass: (Gerald Myles-McCullagh – 1 st Anniversary)
Saturday 14 th February Sts. Cyril and Methodius Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: 'Do This In Memory' Programme (Jim McLaughlin – 1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 15 th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

Confession Schedule

Saturday 14 th February	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 15 th February	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1000** alongside an extra **£110** for the stewardship Fund.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Bridget McBride, Knockmoyle** who died this week. We also pray for **Brenda Brennan** and **Gerald Myles-McCullagh** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

'Do This In Memory': Our First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in Saint Patrick's next weekend (Saturday 14th February). *In preparation there will be a practice for the choir and all involved in the programme on Thursday 12th February in the Church at 7.30pm. More singers welcomed.*

Samaritan Volunteers – Spring Recruitment Campaign: Samaritans is a registered charity that provides a completely confidential and non-judgemental listening service for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those that could lead to suicide. The Omagh branch, which has been active since 1975, draws volunteers of all ages and creeds from across Tyrone and Fermanagh. We need a large number of dedicated volunteers to help maintain our service, hence the necessity to recruit twice yearly – in Spring and in Autumn. We are currently recruiting new volunteers and would be grateful if you would include the following in your bulletin. Much media coverage is afforded to the increasing incidence of suicide within our society. Samaritans believe that offering people the opportunity to be listened to in confidence, and accepted without prejudice, can alleviate despair and suicidal feelings. Can you help us to provide this vital service? Find out more about our work at our Information Evening:

Monday 9th February 2009 at 7.30pm at the **Silverbirch Hotel Omagh**.

Call (028) 8225 1530 or e-mail Omagh.Samaritans@virgin.net for information/application form.

Next Sunday's Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalm 31; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45 (Lectionary I, Year B, page 750)

Lotto Numbers: 6, 8, 11, 22 (6 winners with 3 numbers – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,450

World Day of the Sick – 11th February: In 1992 Pope John Paul II instituted World Day of the Sick to be held each year on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes... 'whose shrine at the foot of the Pyrenees has become a temple of human suffering, we approach – as she did on Calvary, where the cross of her son rose up – the crosses of pain and solitude of so many brothers and sisters to bring them comfort, to share their suffering and present it to the Lord of Life, in spiritual communion with the whole Church.' May the Blessed Virgin, 'Health of the Sick' and 'Mother of the Living' be our support and our hope and, through the celebration of the Day of the Sick increase our sensitivity and dedication to those being tested along with the trusting expectation of the luminous day of our salvation, when every tear will be dried forever. May it be granted to us to enjoy the first fruits of that day from now on in the superabundant joy – *though in the midst of all tribulations* (2 Cor. 7:4) promised by Christ which no one can take from us.

Pope John Paul II message for the first World Day of the Sick

Derry Diocesan Society for sick & infirm priests: 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges, by paying, once for all, £10. 2. Likewise, any person whose ever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. These Masses go on all the time.

Privileges of members – deceased 1. A Mass every day in some parish in the Diocese (*this will take place in Greencastle on Thursday 12th February*). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the First three Sundays of each quarter. **Living** 1. Mass will be offered each month, as listed on church notice board. 2. When a living member dies, the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

ENGAGED? Getting married in 2009?

An Engaged Encounter Weekend is a recognised form of marriage preparation. It is a communication enrichment workshop designed for couples preparing for marriage. The weekend is non-residential and will take place in the Thornhill Centre, Derry on 21st to 22nd February. Early booking is advised. For information contact: Call (028) 7930 0340 or (028) 2763 8512. (after 4.30 pm).

You can also email us at engagedencounter@marriageencounter.ie or visit online at www.marriageencounter.ie

Youth Retreat: Iona Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry. 20th – 22nd February, 2009. Booking essential. Contact Natasha on 07791 42 0037 or visit www.youth2000.ie

Chest, Heart and Stroke – 5 Mile Walk: Saturday 14th February at 1.40pm, Dunnamore Hall. Des Keenan

Saint Patrick's GAA – Youth Registration: Monday 9th February at 8.00pm for all children who are going to play for the club this year

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Extended Schools Cookery Project: With chef Joe McCusker on Wednesday evening from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The theme will be French cuisine. *All are welcome to attend.*

Prayer Friends 2009 – Will you become one?

Last Monday evening (2nd February) pupils from Primary 7, their parents and their Confirmation sponsors who could attend gathered with the faith community of Greencastle to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) and to make their commitment to seriously prepare (at home, in school and in the parish) to receive the Sacrament on 25th March. To offer them further support from our parish I asked for 21 people to pray for each individual in the class at Mass and in daily prayer from now to Confirmation day. If you would like to do this, please take a card from the stand sitting beside the Baptismal font. I want to emphasise the community aspect in living our faith through praying for our young people.

Fr. Hasson

GREENCASTLE YOUTH CLUB – Parent Rota

Monday 9 th February	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Lorraine McCool (P4 and P5)
Monday 9 th February	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Michelle Meenan (Years 8, 9 and 10)
Tuesday 10 th February	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Siobhan McKenna (P6 and P7)
Thursday 12 th February	8.00pm	Meeting for parents

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

Monday 9th February Historical meeting at 8.30pm

Every Tuesday Night Dancing class from 8.30pm to 10.30pm

Every Friday Night Card playing at 8.30pm

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 1:29-39:

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 as 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 business 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?
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?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. If Jesus showed that he had power to cast out evil spirits, why doesn't God cast out the devil for once and for all to stop all evil?
- A. Certainly the devil plays a huge role in the existence of evil but we must also accept our own human responsibility. Adam and Eve were quick to blame the serpent for their own disobedience in attempting to take God's place. Jesus has overcome the devil but it is up to us to exercise our freedom properly in co-operating with the grace of God in resisting temptation.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

The Deep End – Bad Will Hunting:

The street-wise say that God created man in his own image and likeness, and then man returned the compliment. The incident in today's Gospel reading (Mark 1:29-39), where Simon and his companions go out 'hunting' for Jesus, reminds me of that quip. The Greek verb used in verse 36 is *katadiókó*. A very strong word, it usually implies a hostile intent. So, 'hunting down' Jesus more accurately conveys what Simon was doing. While people slept, Jesus made his way unhindered by the darkness to a deserted place to pray. People considered such places, devoid of human beings, as abodes of demons. Having just cast out many demons he now follows them to their dwelling. He has no fear. No evil can touch him. For Jesus, even an abode of evil is a place for prayer! That's a powerful and dramatic message: there are no God-free or prayer-free zones in life. Back to the hunt again. Why would Simon want to hunt down Jesus? Well, he has just left everything to follow him, and now Jesus has disappeared. This doesn't fit the image of Jesus that Simon has. Finding him gone in the morning is a shock. This is the first time it has happened. What does it mean? Has Jesus run off? Is he a fraud, or a loony? Has Simon made one awful fool of himself in abandoning his livelihood for him? So, in doubt, frustration, and anger he sets out to find him. He's looking for Jesus, but on his own terms.

Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)