

 Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry) St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderr Ascension of the Lord [Year C] (8 th May, 2016) Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshkinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474		
Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis Misericordiae Vultus (paragraph 16) "This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission echoed in the words of the prophet: to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed." Liturgy Schedule for the Seventh Week of Easter [Year C] (8th May, 2016 – 15th May, 2016)		
Saturday Evening (7th May) Sixth Week of Easter Sunday 8th May Ascension of the Lord [Year C]	St. Patrick's St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass
Monday 9th May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 10th May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 11th May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass
Thursday 12th May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 13th May Our Lady of Fátima	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday 14th May St. Matthias (Apostle)	St. Patrick's	12 noon First Holy Communion 5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Mary Morris (1 st Anniversary) 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sunday 15th May Pentecost [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass
Weekly Parish Collection: We thank you for your generosity of £1,065 . Annual Diocesan Purposes Collection (yellow envelope): This will be taken up today.		
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the repose of the soul of Dan Bonner whose anniversary occurs at this time. We also remember and pray for the repose of the souls of Philomena McLaughlin, Mary Ann McCullagh and Maggie Bradley , whom are recently deceased and now enrolled in the Derry Diocesan Society.		
First Holy Communion: Next weekend we celebrate First Holy Communion for 16 Primary 4 Children from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. Please pray for the children and their families in the coming week, especially so that next weekend's celebration will bring our children closer to the Christ they will receive and that the Celebration of the Eucharist, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be the most important event of the week for their families. <i>Jesus said, "Do This in Memory of Me"</i>		
Excerpts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church On Communion "The Holy Eucharist Completes Christian initiation." <i>Paragraph 1,322</i> "The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life... For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." <i>Paragraph 1,324</i> "In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking." <i>Paragraph 1,327</i>		
Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group – Monthly Meeting: Monday 9 th May, starting with Mass at 7.15pm in the Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, Derry. There will be two 1 st class relics at the meeting. <i>Everyone welcome</i>		
Lough Derg Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage Season Booking essential One Day Retreats continue on 7 th , 8 th , 10 th , 14 th , 15 th , 17 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd , 28 th , 29 th and 30 th May Tel: (00353) (0) 71 9861518 • Email: info@loughderg.org • Website: loughderg.org		
Termonbacca, Carmelite Retreat Centre, Derry – Cursillo Retreat Weekends: <i>If interested call 07708 066 939</i> Thursday 12 th to Sunday 15 th May [men] / Thursday 19 th to Sunday 22 nd May [women].		
Next Week's Readings: Acts 2: 1-11 • Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34, R/ cf. v 30 • Romans 8: 8-17 (Pentecost Sunday) John 14: 15-16, 23-26 • Lectionary I, page 601 and 606 Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]		

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
<u>Saturday 7th May</u> The family of Aisling Lucas	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	<u>Sunday 8th May</u> The family of Ciaran Morris
<u>Saturday 14th May</u> The family of Laoise Teague	Pentecost Sunday <i>First Holy Communion</i>	<u>Sunday 15th May</u> The family of Claire O'Brien
<u>Saturday 21st May</u> The family of Caoileann Maguire	Feast of the Holy Trinity	<u>Sunday 22nd May</u> The family of Eimear Tracey
<u>Saturday 28th May</u> The family of Michael McAleer	Feast of Corpus Christi	<u>Sunday 29th May</u> The family of Ciaran Warnock
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 <i>We need new volunteers in every aspect of life</i>		
LITTLE WAY NOVENA – HOW HAPPY AM I TO SEE MYSELF AS IMPERFECT AND TO BE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY Saturday 7th May at 7.30pm Sacrament of the Sick Sunday 8th May at 6.00pm Bishop McKeown will speak during a time of prayer and devotion		
Monday 9th to Friday 13th May Daily Novena Masses at 6.30am (followed by Confessions) and 10.00am with a guest speaker at the 7.30pm Evening Services (followed by Confessions) (followed by Confessions) • Guest speakers: Mickey Harte, Marian Partington, Manoj Raitatha, Margaret Mizen and Archdeacon Robert Miller • Relic of St. Thérèse available for veneration		
Saturday 14th May at 10.00am Mass offered for those who have died		Sunday 15th May at 3.00pm Mass closing at Novena
<i>Everyone is welcome to St. Eugene's Cathedral for this time of prayer and petition</i>		
Diocesan Lough Derg Pilgrimages for Year of Mercy: In this Jubilee of Mercy there are two Diocesan Pilgrimages to Lough Derg. Bishop McKeown invites you to join in one or both! The first pilgrimage is from Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th June and the second one is from Friday 5 th to Sunday 7 th August. <i>For a booking form or more info call (028) 7126 4087 or email ddcc@derrydiocese.org</i>		
Pilgrim Walk to Lough Derg: Those participating in the June pilgrimage can start it early by joining in a Pilgrim Walk to Lough Derg, leaving Derry City on Wednesday 15 th June and walking 48 miles to Lough Derg, arriving on Friday 17 th June to join in the 3 day retreat on the island. The pilgrim route, which includes meals and basic accommodation, will be as follows: DAY 1 Derry to Killygordon (23.5 miles) with a Break on the way in Ballindrait. Overnight in Killygordon DAY 2 20 miles, overnight stay in Pettigo • DAY 3 4.5 miles to Lough Derg <i>It is open to those over 18 and fit for the challenge! Bishop McKeown will lead this unique pilgrimage. Places limited. Booking form and more information on the Pilgrim Walk is available by calling 07841 100 174 or emailing stgparkview@yahoo.co.uk</i>		
Prince's Trust Team Programme – New Year, New Challenge: Monday 9 th May at South West College. Are you between the ages of 16 and 24 and not in full time education, training or employment? This is a 12 week personal development course giving you the opportunity to gain new skills and qualifications. Meet new people, go on an action packed residential, help your community and complete a work placement. <i>For more info call Oonagh on 07544 915 362 or email oonagh.mullin@swc.ac.uk</i>		
Thornhill Ministries – Dry the Tears Flower Festival: Saturday 6 th to Sunday 8 th May in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown. In the Year of Mercy, the Pope has asked us to reflect on the joys and challenges of life and celebrate those who help us through the more difficult times. The flowers will be magnificent. Light refreshments available • Donations towards the flowers and the work of Thornhill Ministries welcome		
Balmoral Shows: Bus leaving Gortin on Friday 13 th May. Anyone interested please give names to Angela at Owenkillew Centre (028) 8164 8346 or Bridie 07847 459 428, 07591 047 566 or (028) 8164 8706 or leave a message. <i>Names must be given by Tuesday 10th May</i>		
Annual Pilgrimage to Knock for the Year of Mercy: Sunday 5 th June. Bus from Gortin via Greencastle and Mountfield. <i>For further details call Pat McSwiggan on (028) 8164 7099 or Brigid Carlin on (028) 8077 1357</i>		
AI-Anon family Groups – Public Information Meeting: Worried about someone drinking? Saturday 21 st May from 5.30pm to 7.00pm in Studio 5, The Waterfoot Hotel, Waterside, Derry.		
Ards Friary Retreat & Conference Centre, Creeslough, Co. Donegal – Legion of Mary, Strabane Curia Retreat: Friday 6 th to Sunday 8 th May • Directed by Fr. Tom Forde • £105 / €145 • Open to all <i>For more information call Kathleen McSwiggan on (028) 8164 8436</i>		
Youth 2000 Summer Festival: Thursday 7 th to Sunday 10 th July in the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. For young people aged between 16 and 35, an opportunity not to be missed to experience the Catholic faith and meet many new people, with over 1000 young people from all corners of Ireland attending last year. <i>Donation only • Free buses available from all over Ireland • For more info and to book visit youth2000.ie or call 016 753 690</i>		
Notices for bulletin should be left with or sent to Fr. Gallagher no later than 10.00am on Thursday mornings		

<p>Pope Francis' Intentions for May (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>Universal – <i>Respect for Women</i>: That in every country of the world, women may be honoured and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.</p> <p>Evangelisation – <i>Holy Rosary</i>: That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelisation and peace.</p>
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<p>Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm: If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.</p> <p>Address: IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal</p> <p>Tel: (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • Website: celticprayergarden.com • Facebook: IOSASCentre • Twitter: IOSASCentre</p>

2015 Parish Statistics			
Baptisms 6 Boys 8 Girls	Confirmations 8 Boys 8 Girls	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation 10 Boys 9 Girls	Marriages 10 within parish 5 outside parish
Station Masses in October 7	Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13th 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		

<p>Drink Wise Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?</p> <p><i>For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240</i></p>

<p>Consultation for HLF Landscape Bid for the Wider Broughderg, Carrickmore and Pomeroy Area:</p> <p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council together with Mid Ulster District Council are considering the development of a Stage One application to the Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Scheme for the Landscape Character Area known as "Carrickmore Plateau & Pomeroy Hills". As such they are holding a series of consultation events to get feedback from local people and groups about the important heritage features in the area, how they could be better conserved and how local people can become involved in their protection and promotion.</p> <p>The following 2 open public consultation events will be held throughout the area in the coming weeks</p> <p>Monday 9th May (7.00pm to 9.00pm) An Bruach Dearg Community Centre, Broughderg</p> <p>Wednesday 11th May (7.00pm to 9.00pm) Rowan Centre, Pomeroy</p> <p>Feel free to come along and give your view • If you have any queries email Gerry Darby at darby.gerry@gmail.com</p>

<p>Family Care Society – <i>Interested in Adoption?</i> We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.</p> <p>Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • Julie or Brian (Derry Office): (028) 7136 8592</p> <p>Email: email@familycaresociety.org • Website: familycaresociety.co.uk</p>
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<p>Derry Youth Community: Are you a young person aged between 18 and 25? Are you interested in a gap year experience with a difference? The DYC is a group of committed young people who live in a community based in Derry City who serve the Diocese of Derry. You will live in a structured, secure environment, from where you will be given the opportunity to reach out to other young people in schools and parishes to facilitate faith-based activities and youth ministry. You will also live in mutual co-operation with others; explore and deepen your faith; participate and share in leisure activities such as music, art, sport and drama. If you feel you are equal to the very real challenges of the initiative.</p> <p>Web: derryyouthcommunity.com • Closing Date: Friday 27th May</p>
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<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.</p> <p>3rd and 4th June • 24th and 25th June</p> <p>To book (opening time can be found on the website):</p> <p>Website: accord.ie • Tel: (028) 8224 2439 • Email: omagh@accordni.com</p>

Parish Liturgy for May, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Nuala Glass	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Brianna Clarke	Conan Maguire
Collectors	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Dominic Warnock Leo Donnelly	Pat McGuigan Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Kathleen Beggs and Mary McCullagh		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley

<p>Yoga with Margaret Franklin: Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán</p>
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<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.</p> <p><i>For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org</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.</p> <p><i>Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid</i></p> <p>Website: tuesdayschild.ie • Email: info@tuesdayschild.ie • Tel: (028) 9064 6104 / 07545 452 362</p> <p>Donation by Texting: TUES75 and amount to 70070 (e.g. TUES75 £5)</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.</p> <p><i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i></p>

<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding</p> <p>Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass</p> <p>Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass</p>
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<p>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.</p> <p>Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • otmil_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com</p> <p>Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com <i>prayerforpriests.com</i></p>
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<p>Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July): <i>Places are still available</i></p> <p>Lourdes has been designated as one of the International Jubilee sites for this Year Of Mercy.</p> <p>For more info call the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or 07517 965 751 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 6.00pm)</p>
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<p>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.</p> <p>Website: towardspeace.ie • Tel: 01 505 3028 • Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie</p>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Sunday 3rd July

Intercession for the Dead in Greencastle Cemetery

Intercession for the Dead in Broughderg Cemeteries

Wednesday 2nd November

Sunday 27th November

Sunday 25th December

Mass for the Dead

First Sunday of Advent

Feast of the Nativity (Christmas)

Year of Mercy – Local, National and International Pilgrimages as Arranged by the Diocese

LOCAL (beginning at 2.00pm with Sacrament of Reconciliation, procession and Mass)

Carndonagh

Dungiven

Omagh

Long Tower

Sunday 8th May

Sunday 5th June

Sunday 10th July

Thursday 11th September

NATIONAL

Lough Derg Friday 17th to Sunday 19th June (some pilgrims will be walking to Lough Derg, leaving Derry on Wednesday 15th June and going via Castlefin and Pettigo) • Early August (date TBC)

Knock Wednesday 20th to Sunday 24th July (Cursillo Walk to Knock) • **Croagh Patrick** September (date TBC)

INTERNATIONAL

Lourdes

Krakow (World Youth Day)

Rome and Assisi

Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July

Thursday 21st to Sunday 31st July

Friday 2nd to Thursday 8th September

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*

Musings

Alan Whelan (Camahone, Beaufort, Co. Kerry)

In these final verses of Luke's Gospel, Jesus explained to his chosen disciples the nature of His Mission and how what had just happened to Him, and what was about to happen, was foretold in the Jewish scriptures. He is powerful in stating and communicating His Mission and in telling His own followers that fortified with the Spirit they are to give witness to this truth and to share the Good News with each member of humankind. Today, we should hold our heads high and look to the heavens while we witness and proclaim this same message of joy and hope. We have a divine duty to communicate this good news by every means possible. As a child, I so much looked forward to this special feast day which was celebrated on Thursday and brought with it a day off school. Sadly these occasional free days are no more!

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – *Luke 24: 46-53*:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. The Ascension of Jesus was an important growth point for the disciples. Jesus would be with them in a different way from now on. Painful though it was, it was necessary for them to let go of his physical presence and adjust to the new reality. Perhaps you have known similar transition points in your own life.
2. Jesus invited the disciples to be witnesses to the good news they had learned. The way we live, speak and relate to others speaks of what we have learned about life. We all are witnesses. How have you been a witness to the goodness of life?
3. In particular, Jesus invited them to be witnesses to the good news of forgiveness. Recall people who have been witnesses to you of forgiveness and reconciliation. What effect did they have on your life? Have you been able to be a witness to the good news of forgiveness in your life?
4. In v.49 Jesus instructs the apostles to wait patiently for the moment of grace. What been your experience of waiting for a moment of grace? What are the moments of grace that you particularly recall (a friendship, a new opportunity, birth of a baby etc.)?

The Deep End – *Conveyors of Mercy*:

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

As well as the feast of the Ascension, today is World Communications Day 2016. This year's theme is 'Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter'. The theme was chosen to coincide with the Holy Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis to highlight the mercy of God.

In his message for the 50th World Communications Day, Pope Francis talks about how our every word and gesture should express God's compassion, tenderness and forgiveness.

If our hearts and actions are inspired by charity, by divine love, then our communication will be touched by God's own power. I would like to invite all people of good will to rediscover the power of mercy to heal wounded relationships and to restore peace and harmony to families and communities.'

He also highlights the importance of technology and social media as tools of communication, which must be used responsibly. 'The digital world is a public square, a meeting-place where we can either encourage or demean one another, engage in a meaningful discussion or unfair attacks. The internet can be used wisely to build a society which is healthy and open to sharing.'

It is fitting that this day coincides with the Feast of the Ascension. When Jesus was lifted up to heaven, he entrusted his disciples with the important task of preaching forgiveness to all the nations.

The Church's words and actions are all meant to convey mercy, to touch people's hearts and to sustain them on their journey to that fullness of life which Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to bring to all.'

Pope Francis' message for the 50th World Communications Day

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Friday 13th May – *Our Lady of Fátima* The title based on apparitions to three shepherd children at Fátima, Portugal, on the thirteenth day of six consecutive months in 1917, beginning on 13th May. The three children were Lúcia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

Saturday 14th May – *St. Matthias (Apostle)* Like all apostles was chosen to become 'a witness to Christ's resurrection'. He seems to have spent a great deal of time working in Judea; then he travelled east to Cappadocia (now Turkey), where it is said that he was the vital instrument in bringing many pagans back to faith. He is said to have been martyred at Colchis on the Black Sea and his relics brought to Rome by St Helena.

Sunday 15th May – *St. Carthage (bishop)* Hailed from a rich family in Kerry. As he loved the chanting of the psalms the local king arranged for him to become a priest. Having spent a year, possibly at Bangor, he founded his own monastery at Rahan in 595. It grew rapidly. But opposition made him move southwards around 637. He, with hundreds of monks and patients from their leper colony, finally arrived at Lismore, where he made a foundation. Died in 638.

[NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

The Net – May Edition *For coverage of faith activities email editorthenet15@gmail.com or text 07809 292 852*

Steelstown Parish celebrate 40th anniversary • Dungiven parishioners arise for Dawn Mass

Faughanvale ceremony at 'The Banking' • Ardmore parishioner celebrates 80th

Great interest in Cappagh Bible study • Legacy of Long Tower's Sr. Clare

Divine Mercy talk in Long Tower • Urney and Castlefinn prayer stations

Kilrea seminarian ordained deacon • Omagh hosts Youth 2000 weekend

Omagh 'Life in the Spirit' seminars • Glenullin pioneers • Clonmany legionaries host Inishowen ceremony

St. Eugene's Little Way Novena • Walk to Knock • Sunday prayer to protect Foyle Bridge

Festival of Flowers • New Christian band rocks St. Columb's Hall • Derry Search