



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderrg

**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (8<sup>th</sup> November, 2015)**

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

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



**Liturgy Schedule for the Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (8<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 – 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2015)**

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b> St. Willibrord (bishop and missionary)	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass followed by confessions: Mickey Hollywood (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b> Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) followed by confessions
		<b>11.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confessions: Abina Coyle (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b> St. Leo the Great (Pope and Doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b> St. Martin of Tours (bishop)	St. Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b>	Mass: Deceased members of Greencastle St. Patrick's GAC
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b> St. Josephat (bishop and martyr)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b> Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b> St. Laurence O'Toole (bishop)	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass followed by confessions: Mick Hollywood (8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b> Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) followed by confessions
		<b>11.00am</b>	Mass

**Collection:** Thank you for your kindness in last week's collection of **£908.50** and **£31.50** in the loose plate.

**Mission Sunday Collection:** Gratitude is extended for the generous contribution of **£860** so far.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for **Mick Hollywood, Abina Coyle** and **Michael Conway** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Annual Diocesan Mass for Deceased Young People and Children:** To be celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in St. Eugene's Cathedral. If you wish to have the name of your loved one on the Remembrance Tree you will have an opportunity to do so before the Mass.

*Refreshments to be served after Mass*

**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.

Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • brendan\_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk

Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk

Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com

Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e\_cassidy@hotmail.com *prayerforpriests.com*

We offer congratulations and prayerful support from our parish community to  
**Christopher McCullagh (Badoney Lower) and Rosemary Conway (Greencastle)** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October  
**Dominic McCann (Drumragh) and Leanne Heggan (Greencastle)** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
 They recently committed themselves to each other in the sacrament of Christian Marriage  
*Fill their hearts with your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of understanding, joy fortitude and peace*

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

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Deuteronomy 12: 1-13 • Psalm 15: 8-11, R/ v. 1 • Hebrews 10: 11-14  
 Mark 13: 24-32 • Lectionary I, page 826      **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Niamh McGlinchey</b>	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>John McGlinchey</b>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Katie McGurk</b>	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Alana McGuigan</b>

**The Bible – Our Everlasting Story; A day with Jeff Cavins:** Web: waterfront.co.uk • **Box Office:** (028) 9033 4455  
 Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10.00am to 5.00pm in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

**Pioneer Association Short-Term Pledge Campaign for November:** In honour of the Holy Souls and to help an addicted friend. November is traditionally dedicated as the Month of the Holy Souls when we pray in a special way for family members, relatives, and friends who are no longer with us. By a long-standing Irish custom, many people choose to abstain from alcohol for the month of November and offer this sacrificial act for the benefit of their deceased loved ones, for all the Souls in Purgatory as well as someone they know and / or love with an addiction.

**Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Monthly Seisiun:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 9.30pm in An Creagán.  
*Come along and enjoy a good night's entertainment where everyone's welcome*

**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.  
*Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book*

**Dalradian Gold Limited – Aerial Survey:** There will be carrying out an aerial survey of the contours of the land from Rousky to Greencastle week commencing Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November. We will be using a drone to acquire a plan view of the area. This is not intrusive and non-invasive in terms of privacy and the drone will fly at up to 150 metres.  
*If you have any queries please call the office on (028) 8164 7799*

**The Net – November Edition Now Available:** For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call / text 07809 292 852. This month's coverage includes the follow.

Melmount Youth 2000 • Rouskey chapel reopens • Castlederg Mission • Omagh day of renewal

Desertmartin parishioners savour kitchen delights • Sharing Fair in Strabane

Urney and Castlefin's farewell to Fr. Brian McGoldrick • Maghera's Island retreat

Moville Care of the Aged • Long Tower SPReD marks 25 years

Swatragh hosts Pioneer gathering • Ballykelly welcomes new Catholic College

Ballymagroarty history feature • Derry youths conquer Croagh Patrick

Search feature • Cursillo • Catechism introduction • Columba heritage trail

**An Bruach Dearth Community Centre – Upcoming Events:**

**Every Friday Night at 8.00pm** Card playing with a light supper served (please note the new start time)  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm** Owenkillew Play Actors – A night of 2 special productions (tickets are £7)  
 The Hard Man by Michael Murphy • A Thing of Beauty by Charles Kray

**Tyrone Health and Wellbeing Committee – Coach Trip to Dublin and Tour of Croke Park Stadium:**  
 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November and costs £5 per club person. The outing, which is being supported by the Red Cross, is available to those aged 60 or over, male and female and is aimed at providing those participating with an opportunity to escape the routine of everyday life, socialise and enjoy each others company on a relaxed day trip. A fascinating insight into the running of Croke Park, along with an informative commentary on its history, will be provided by your tour guide. A visit to the GAA Museum is also included in the itinerary, and a meal will be served in one of the corporate suites at the conclusion of the tour.

*Seats can be booked and more information can be found by contacting hwb.tyrone@gaa.ie or (028) 8556 7723*

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

**Pioneer Council Meeting:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Direct from Belfast for the special price of £439 including half-board, tax and insurance if paid by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.  
*For further details call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038*

**Meeting for Fr. Hasson's Farewell Function:** Monday at 9.00pm in the Greencastle Community Centre.

<p><b>Pope Francis' Intentions for November (please remember these in your personal prayer)</b></p> <p><b>Universal:</b> That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.</p> <p><b>Evangelisation:</b> That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.</p>
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<p><b>The Bible – <i>Our Everlasting Story; A day with Jeff Cavins:</i></b> Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10.00am to 5.00pm in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Jeff Cavins, best known for his Quick Journey through the Bible, is one of the foremost Catholic teachers of the scripture today. You are invited to join Jeff as he explores the transformative power of the bible stories. It will be a day of input, music, prayer and reflection. Jeff has created Bible study programmes used by more than five thousand parishes in the United States, Ireland and other countries. He is the founding host of EWTN's weekly programme Life on the Rock and the author of several books including Walking with God which gives an overview of the Bible.</p> <p>To book visit <a href="http://waterfront.co.uk">waterfront.co.uk</a> or call the box office on (028) 9033 4455</p> <p>For more information email <a href="mailto:livingchurch@downandconnor.org">livingchurch@downandconnor.org</a></p>
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<p><b>Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimage:</b> Airport Transport and 7 nights B&amp;B for £195.</p> <p><i>Call (028) 8224 1888 or email <a href="mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com">reservations@med-irishcentre.com</a> for flight info</i></p>
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<p><b>Children in Crossfire – <i>Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage:</i></b> Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.</p> <p><i>If you would like more information email <a href="mailto:shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org">shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org</a> or call the office on (028) 7126 9898</i></p>
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<p><b>Knock Shrine – <i>One-Day Workshop on The Joy of the Gospel:</i></b> Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Led by the Jesuit theologian, lecturer and author Brian Grogan SJ the workshop is an ideal opportunity for parish, diocesan or other faith groups to make a trip to Knock Shrine this autumn and take part in an interesting and thought provoking programme for the day. Fr. Grogan's workshop will explore Pope Francis' call to us in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation The Joy of the Gospel, which speaks about topics such as evangelisation in the modern Church, social justice, the family, faith and politics. The workshop is part of a new series of faith renewal events at Knock Shrine giving people the opportunity to attend an interesting day programme to discuss and explore their faith along spiritual, intellectual and pastorally practical lines.</p> <p>For more info visit <a href="http://knockshrine.ie/joy-of-the-gospel-workshop/">knockshrine.ie/joy-of-the-gospel-workshop/</a> • Group bookings welcome • Costs €30 per person inc. lunch</p>
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<p><b>Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – <i>Master of Arts in Catholic School Leadership:</i></b> Beginning this Autumn in partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham. This is 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 <a href="mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org">tferry@derrydiocese.org</a></i></p>
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<p><b>Towards Peace:</b> 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><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://towardspeace.ie">towardspeace.ie</a> • <b>Tel:</b> 01 505 3028 • <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie">towardspeace@iecon.ie</a></p>
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<p><b>GCSE Irish Class:</b> Tuesday afternoons from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh. This is also open to students from other schools and to adult learners of Irish.</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kevin.goodwin@fermanaghomagh.com">kevin.goodwin@fermanaghomagh.com</a> • <b>Tel:</b> (028) 8225 6220</p>
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<p><b>Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession:</b> 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><b>St. Patrick's:</b> 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><b>Our Lady of the Wayside:</b> Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass</p>
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Parish Liturgy for November, 2015	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Mary Slane	Mary Clarke	Sean Clarke
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Mary Tracey	Eileen Bradley	Mary McCrory
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	Caoileann Conway	Claire Tuohy	Helen / Peter McKenna
<b>Collectors</b>	Mary Bradley Raymond Bradley	Dominic Warnock Leo Donnelly	Pat McGuigan Perry McCrory
<b>Altar Society</b>	Kathleen Tracey Maria Morris		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke

<p><b>Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre – <i>Upcoming Events This Autumn:</i></b></p> <p>Dún Uladh, Drumnakilly Road, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT79 0JP, United Kingdom</p>
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<p><b>Gaeilge i nDún Uladh</b></p> <p><b>OCN NI Irish Qualification</b></p>	<p><b>Level 1 Award:</b> Wednesdays, 5.30pm to 7.30pm (£130, reduced £90)</p> <p><b>Level 2 Award:</b> Wednesdays, 8.30pm to 10.00pm (£130, reduced £90)</p> <p><b>Level 3 Award:</b> Thursdays, 6.30pm to 8.30pm (£155, reduced £115)</p> <p>All courses are subject to demand • Register interest by emailing <a href="mailto:sean.anton@dunuladh.ie">sean.anton@dunuladh.ie</a></p> <p>Classes will be held in Dún Uladh in cooperation with South West College</p>
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<p><b>Ceol Cois Tine</b> All tickets are £10</p> <p><b>Graham Guerin and James Duggan:</b> Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30pm</p> <p>Two All-Ireland Champions on Button Accordion and Fiddle. The third in our series of concerts</p> <p><b>Sean Keane and Gearoid Keane:</b> Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30pm</p> <p>On concertina and fiddle for a night to remember. Our final night.</p>
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<p><b>Concerts</b></p> <p><b>Iarla Ó Lionáird and Steve Cooney:</b> Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30pm (tickets are £10)</p> <p>Steve Cooney is joined by extraordinary traditional vocalist Iarla Ó Lionáird for this eagerly awaited concert. The duo will be joined by Scottish Singer and Harpist Misha MacPherson.</p>
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<p><b>Institute of Irish Leadership – <i>Upcoming Programmes:</i></b> Email: <a href="mailto:kathleenburnsill@gmail.com">kathleenburnsill@gmail.com</a> • Tel: (028) 8775 7800</p> <p><b>Mindfulness Walking</b> 5 weeks from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November (11.00am to 12.30pm)</p> <p><b>Healthy Christmas Cookery</b> 4 weeks from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November (10.30am to 12.30pm)</p>
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<p><b>Padre Pio Prayer Group – <i>Christmas Meeting:</i></b> Due to our parish holding their annual Novena to Our Lady on a Monday night, this will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November in the Holy Family church, Ballymagroarty, Derry, starting with Mass at 7.15pm.</p> <p>There will be two 1<sup>st</sup> class relics at the meeting • Everyone is welcome</p>
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<p><b>Yoga with Margaret Franklin:</b> Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán.</p>
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<p><b>The Good Ship Lollipop – <i>Appeal For Child Refugees:</i></b> 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. <i>Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid</i></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://tuesdayschild.ie">tuesdayschild.ie</a> • <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:info@tuesdayschild.ie">info@tuesdayschild.ie</a> • <b>Tel:</b> (028) 9064 6104 / 07545 452 362</p> <p><b>Donation by Texting:</b> TUES75 and amount to 70070 (e.g. TUES75 £5)</p>
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<p><b>ACCORD Pre-Marriage Courses:</b> It is important that all those preparing for Marriage should attend a pre-marriage course. If you intend to be married here in the Parish between now and the end of 2016 you should make arrangements to attend one of the ACCORD Courses in Omagh or at another centre if that suits you. These following dates are presently available.</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February • 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March • 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April • 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May • 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June • 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://accord.ie">accord.ie</a> • <b>Tel:</b> (028) 8224 2439 • <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:omagh@accordni.com">omagh@accordni.com</a></p>
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### This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November – St. Leo the Great (Pope and Doctor of the Church)** Taught the two natures of Christ at the Council of Chalcedon, 451, and the primacy of the See of Peter. Died in 461.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – St. Martin of Tours (bishop) [335-397]** Bishop of Tours, apostle of rural Gaul and founder of monasteries. Patron Saint of France, soldiers, beggars and inn-keepers.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – St. Josephat (bishop and martyr) [1580-1623]** Bishop of Polatz, worked for reunion of Ukrainian Catholics but his murder by those who opposed it brought about many conversions.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November – St. Laurence O'Toole (bishop) [1128-1180]** Lorcán Ua Tuathail, also known as St. Laurence O'Toole, was born at Castledermot, Kildare, Ireland and died at Eu, Normandy, France, he was canonised in 1225 by Pope Honorius III..

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November – St. Albert the Great (bishop and Doctor of the Church) [1206-1280]** Dominican theologian who taught in Cologne, was called the 'Universal Teacher' for the vast range of his interests. Patron Saint of scientists.  
[NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

### 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*

### Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Mark 12: 38-44:

*John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. The scribes are presented as ostentatious and devious, acting more out of self-interest than the love of God or people. There can be a element of self-interest in each of us. Perhaps there have been times when you have been disturbed by glimpsing in yourself 'other motives' in your doing good. Recall when you were awakened to this fact. Where was the good news for you in that awakening?
2. In material terms what the widow had to offer was very little. Recall when you felt yourself called to give and gave even though you apparently had very little. Perhaps you have had the experience of finding that what you thought was little and insignificant meant a great deal to another person. Recall some of those moments.
3. The widow 'gave everything she had, all she had to live on'. In doing so she placed herself in a very vulnerable position, trusting that things would work out. Have you ever found that what seemed a generous but reckless giving of yourself proved life-giving for yourself and others?

### The Deep End – Giving Everything:

*Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

In today's Gospel, Jesus is courageously speaking out against the hypocrisy of the so-called 'religious' of his time. This passage is encouraging all his followers to engage in a reality check. The hypocrisy of the scribes is in total contrast to the humility and generosity of the widow in the second part of the Gospel. She gives not of what she has to spare, but everything she has. She is free. We don't have to restrict this example to money either.

At the end of this month, a vitally important meeting is taking place in Paris called COP21. World leaders will gather to try to settle on a universal agreement on climate change action. It is a hugely difficult task; one that has not been achieved before. We are asked to pray and to continue to put pressure on our governments to take real action on climate change. The widow gave her all in the Gospel today and we are challenged to model her behaviour rather than the behaviour of the 'elite' of the opening verses.

The idea of infinite or unlimited growth... is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry at every limit. Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start. *Pope Francis, Laudato Si'*

### Musings

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

The First Reading and the Gospel present the stories of two widows who are not worldly-rich, but who nevertheless choose to give the very little that they have. In the First Reading, the woman's donation of a handful of meal and a little oil in a jug, meagre though it was, is nonetheless honoured by the Lord who promised, through Elijah, his prophet that 'the jar of meal will not be emptied, nor the jug of wine fail'. But she was not to know this. Her donation was blind. Let's remember today the people we have known whose default position is to give first and consider the consequences later.