



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

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

Second Sunday of Advent [Year A] (8th December, 2013)

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

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The Faith-community of Greencastle parish thank Fr. Donal Bennett for celebrating Mass this weekend		
Liturgy Schedule for Second Week of Advent [Year A] (9 th December – 15 th December)		
Saturday Evening (7th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 8th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
NOTE: There will be NO MASS from Monday 9 th December to Friday 13 th December		
Saturday Evening (14th December) <i>Do This In Memory Week 3</i>	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 15th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Gerard, Mary and Gerard McCrory (Anniversaries)

Sacrament of Confirmation (Sunday 2nd March, 2014): The Diocesan Office has informed us that this will be conferred on the candidates who have been prepared. We hope that a new bishop will be appointed before that date and if so then we can welcome him to our parish for that occasion.

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,040**.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Patrick Devlin**, whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: As you are aware, this year because 8th December falls on a Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday 9th December. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Ordination to Priesthood: The Reverend James Devine will be ordained to the Priesthood for this diocese of Derry on Sunday 8th December at 3.00pm in St. Columba's Church, Long Tower. This is an important occasion for the candidate for ordination, for his family and for the whole diocese. Keep him especially in your prayers and pray that more young men may offer themselves for Priestly service in the faith-community which is our diocese.

Cookstown Parish – Advent Carol Service: Led by pupils of Holy Trinity College in Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th December. Archbishop Eamon Martin will preside at the Liturgy.

Family Disco in Broughderg: Sunday 29th December.

Special Candle-light Rosary Procession: Sunday 8th December In Derry, assembling in Guildhall Square at 4.30pm and proceeding through the streets behind the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for Ireland. The Rosary will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. 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 blessings and graces. (028) 9027 8484

Greencastle Youth Club Rota	Monday 9 th December	P4 to P6	Michelle Warnock / Caroline Coyle
	Note: Due to a trip on Friday 6 th December there will be no youth club for P7 to Y10		
Greencastle Community Centre Upcoming Events	Sunday 8th December	Card playing from 7.00pm	
	Sunday 8th December	Christmas Fayre from 2.00pm to 6.00pm. <i>Local gifts and crafts, Santa, kids disco and refreshments</i>	
	Sunday 15th December	Annual bazaar from 5.00pm.	
BADA – Upcoming Events:	Friday 6th December	Card playing at 8.00pm.	<i>Refreshments served</i>
Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12; Sunday: Year A • Weekday: Year 1			
Lotto Results: I • S • Q • W • Z (2 people with 3 letters winning £25 each) Next Jackpot: £1,250			

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 7 th December The family of Brian McDermott	Offertory Gifts Rota Second Sunday of Advent	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 8 th December The family of Catherine O'Connor
Saturday 14 th December* The family of Odhran Hughes	Third Sunday of Advent	Sunday 15 th December The family of Tiernan Teague
Saturday 21 st December The family of Cody McAleer	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 22 nd December The family of Caitlin Warnock
Tuesday 24 th December (8.00pm) The family of ---	Feast of the Nativity of the Lord	Wednesday 25 th December (11.00am) The family of Caoimhe Warnock
Saturday 28 th December (6.00pm) The family of Molly McCullagh	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Sunday 29 th December The family of Meaghan Clarke
As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership. What can you volunteer to do in your parish? Thanks to all who participates in the life and work of our parish faith-community. <i>*Do This In Memory Week 3</i> <i>We need new volunteers in every aspect of life</i>		
Tuesday's Child – All Ireland Christmas Art Competition: Children and young people (aged 3-21) are invited to get creative and sign up. Great prizes to be won across all age categories including 1,000 euro family voucher kindly donated from Marian pilgrimages for trip to Rome, Fatima, Medjugorje, Lourdes, Holy Land, hand-made cribs from Bethlehem and painting sets. Proceeds to Tuesday's Child's Christmas Appeal for children in Gaza, Syria and Kenya. Also beautiful Christmas cards of the Holy Family, 100% of cost to catholic missionaries helping families in Tacloban, Philippines. Online: tuesdayschild.ie Email: info@tuesdayschild.ie Text Orla or Patricia: 07545 452 362		
Youth 2000 Ireland – Annual Christmas Retreat: Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare from Friday 13 th to Sunday 15 th December. Over 500 young people from across Ireland (aged 16-35) are expected at this donation only event, with all newcomers very welcome. This is a great opportunity to find out what your faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. Retreat starts with registration on Friday at 8.00pm. Free buses available. Online: youth2000.ie Tel: 01 675 3690 Facebook: youthtwothousandireland <i>Online booking necessary</i>		
Northwest Bereaved by Suicide Support Group and Roe Valley Bereaved by Suicide Group Annual Memory Tree of Lights Ceremonies: Sunday 8 th December at 5.30pm at the Foyle Search & Rescue Headquarters, Victoria Road, Derry and Tuesday 17 th December at 7.30pm in the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre, Limavady supported by the Western Health & Social Care Trust, Be Safe Be Well and The Big Lottery.		
Viatres Christi Lay Missionary Association – Information and Recruitment Session: For those interested in overseas volunteering. Thursday 12 th December at 8.00pm in Queen's University Belfast Catholic Chaplaincy, 28-38 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast Tel: 01 868 9986 Email: apply@viatreschristi.com Online: viatreschristi.com		
Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal: Many families throughout Ethiopia struggle daily to find adequate food to feed themselves. In partnership with St Luke's hospital Children in Crossfire are significantly reducing the numbers of children dying from malnutrition in the areas where we work. 'Children in Crossfire is lighting the light of many lives in our community. I ask that you continue your valuable support to create a better and brighter future for the citizens of Ethiopia'. Sr. Dr. Bella, General Manager of St. Luke's Hospital, Woliso, Ethiopia.		
Christian Brothers Grammar School, Omagh – Coffee Morning: Friday 13 th December from 11.00am to 12.15pm in the School Library. For all SVP volunteers as a small thank you for all their great work in our local communities. Senior Citizens within our local Parishes and Community are also warmly invited to attend. There will be live music and the GCSE Hospitality pupils will take part in a baking extravaganza to provide hot and cold tasty treats. Please help spread the word to any SVP volunteers and/ or senior citizens throughout the parish and community about this event and encourage them to attend. Please telephone the school on 82 243 567 if you/ anyone you know would like to attend to give us an idea of numbers.		
IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – Follow the Star Christmas Trail: Friday 13 th to Sunday 15 th December, Wednesday 18 th December and Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. <i>Pre-booking essential. For more information call the IOSAS Centre on (00353) 74938 4866</i>		
Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (1st to 6th July, 2014) – Gift Vouchers: Now available at The Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Tel: (028) 71362475 <i>Vouchers can be obtained for any amount</i>		

<p>Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>General – Victimised Children: That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need.</p> <p>Missionary – Prepare the Saviour's Coming: That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Saviour's coming.</p>

<p>The Advent Candles: Candles are lit to symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ. On the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent a purple candle is lit (each Sunday the candle from the previous Sunday is re-lit) the colour purple as used during the period of Lent, reminds us to prepare a welcome for Jesus during the Advent season. On the third Sunday of Advent a pink candle is lit. Pink is the colour of joy to remind us that we should be ready to welcome Christ at Christmas. On Christmas Eve the white candle is lit to celebrate the Birth of Christ – the Light of the World.</p> <p>Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. There are two stages in Advent: the first runs until 16th December, the second which, is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts runs from 17th December until 24th December.</p> <p>The Advent Wreath: Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes especially in Germanic countries and in North America – we do so in Church each year. The Advent wreath with its progressive lighting of four candles, each Sunday until Christmas is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of Justice (cf Mal 3:20; Luke 1:18).</p>

<p>Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time</p> <p>God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura. Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help. Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time. Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.</p> <p>Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.</p>	<p><i>Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)</i></p>
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<p>Prayer from the Community at Taize: God of love, we are disconcerted by the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the world. So we turn to you - you do not let us give in to discouragement. You bring us to understand that our prayer and our compassion count. Be close to those who are suffering and send your Holy Spirit, that all humans may be inspired to make signs of peace.</p>
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<p>Appeal on behalf of Family Care Society: Family Care Society is a voluntary adoption agency with its roots in the Catholic Church and we provide an adoption service throughout all of Northern Ireland. A core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. These children are often from the care system and may have had a difficult start in life. We are experienced in finding families for these children but given the number of children being referred and their specific needs we are always looking for families to come forward. We would like to thank you for the support you have provided to date. It has proved to be a very successful way of finding adoptive families. Given however our urgent need presently to find families for more young children, we are again respectfully asking for your help.</p> <p>Adoption: Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged between 2 to 6 years and need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?</p> <p>Tel: (028) 9069 1133 [Belfast] // (028) 7136 8592 [Derry] • Email: email@familycaresociety.org • Web: familycaresociety.co.uk</p>
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Parish Liturgy for December, 2013	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	John Enright	Nuala Glass	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	TBC	Shanley Clarke	TBC
Collectors	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Mickey Beggs Cathal Keenan	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
Anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries should make themselves known			

<p>Musings</p> <p>The First and Second Readings and Psalm today are shot through with an encouragement to cling tenaciously to a hope for better days. While astrophysicists now tell us that our sun will eventually burn out, the person who composed today's Psalm was certainly not aware of this when speaking of God's name 'enduring like the sun'. Likewise, the moon was not expected to 'fail' and neither was the peace that God's reign would bring. How many individuals and communities today crave such a time of peace. Let us stand in solidarity and hope with them today.</p>	<p><i>Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)</i></p>
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<p>Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half Marathon: Friday 14th February to Monday 17th February, 2014. Please contact Eileen at events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898 / 07840 182 004</p>
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<p>The Deep End – The Simple Life:</p> <p>John the Baptist certainly grabs our attention, appearing in the desert in his garment of camel hair, eating locusts and wild honey. His language can be cryptic – he addresses the Pharisees and Sadducees as 'Brood of vipers', and speaks of trees and axes, winnowing fans and wheat. He is a peculiar mixture of signs and messages, even to the people of the time who were on the lookout for prophetic figures. Nowadays, John would cut an even more eccentric figure.</p> <p>Sometimes a person's lifestyle can offer an even more powerful witness than their words. John's basic diet and dress suggest a lifestyle that is at once simple and radical, one which challenged the norms of the day. It all brings to mind another man who caught our attention with his simple lifestyle earlier this year. As soon as Pope Francis was elected, all the talk was of his modest living quarters as Bishop and his preference for public transport. He has made a point to continue this simple lifestyle as Pope. That a senior clergy man should choose to live a simple and ethical life should hardly come as a shock to the world. Yet there was a powerful witness in his actions.</p> <p>While we might not be called to the desert life, we are challenged to examine our values and our relationship with material things – an apt message as we enter the most materialistic season of the year. John the Baptist's message can be summed up by the first word he speaks: repent. The Greek word for 'repentance' is metanoia, literally a change of heart.</p>	<p><i>Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)</i></p>
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<p>Omagh Volunteering Centre: Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and make a real difference within your local community. There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities currently available across the Omagh District area. Volunteer Befrienders, Coaches and Mentors are required by organisations including Mencap, Guide Dogs NI and Action on Hearing Loss, to enable them to deliver vital services for people with a learning or sensory disability. Organisations such as RNIB and NI Hospice need local volunteers to help set up local Support Groups, raise vital funds and awareness of their work in the Omagh area. Training and support is provided for all of the Volunteer roles.</p> <p>Tel (Michelle): (078) 5444 6821 or (028) 8224 0772 Email: omatghvc2@yahoo.co.uk Office: First Floor of Community House</p>
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<p>Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying?</p> <p><i>For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo on 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the Bureau</i></p>

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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

*The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 3:1-12: John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to us of the good news of the gospel that God loves us – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have we borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?
3. John was ‘the voice of one crying out in the wilderness’ – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God’s grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

Engaged Encounter – Rules for Arguing: Couples who discover they have a disagreement are invited by Engaged Encounter to share their opinions in the following manner. The sentences following the rules are Jay Keenan’s comments from his perspective as an Engaged Encounter leader with his wife Suzanne.	
NO NAME CALLING	This includes using affectionate names sarcastically
NO THIRD PARTIES	The argument is between the two of you
NO PAST HISTORY	If it’s already been settled, don’t bring it up again
STICK TO THE SUBJECT	Identify the real problem — don’t go to other issues
NO CHEAP SHOTS	Don’t use the other’s weakness to gain advantage; you may win the argument, but injure your relationship
DON’T GO TO BED ANGRY	Finish the argument or call a truce and agree on a time to continue
MAINTAIN A SENSE OF HUMOUR	Don’t take yourselves too seriously; laughter can be the best medicine
HOLD HANDS WHILE ARGUING	This helps to keep your focus where it belongs — on the person who means more to you than anyone in the world

This Week’s Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 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]

Thursday 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 Cuahltlatoatzin 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.