



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

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

Second Sunday of Advent [Year C] (9th December, 2012)

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 Second Week of Advent [Year C] (10th December, 2012 – 16th December, 2012)

Saturday Evening (8th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass
Sunday 9th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Gerard, Mary and Gerry McCrory (Anniversaries)
Monday 10th December Second Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 11th December Second Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 12th December St. Finnian (priest) and Our Lady of Guadalupe	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 13th December St. Lucy (virgin and martyr)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday (14th December) St. John of the Cross (priest and doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass 8.25pm-9.00pm Prayer Guides Preparation Evening
Saturday Morning (15th December) Second Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (15th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass: Do This In Memory Programme
Sunday 16th December Third Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,010**.

Please support your community by using your envelope, even if you must attend Mass outside your parish.

Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.

Please remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more to your parish.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Patrick Joseph Devlin** and **Gerard, Mary and Gerry McCrory** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Prayer Guides from Omagh: Will host reflections on the Gospels to be used at Sunday masses, in preparation for Christmas after 8.00pm mass in Greencastle on Friday 14th and 21st December. Please join us and together we will enhance our personal awareness of the coming of Jesus.

This is one way in which we can mark the 'Year of Faith'

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013: With Monsignor Danny Monaghan and Maria Bradley.

For info contact (028) 8164 8357. Dates TBA

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Christmas Shows: Thursday 13th December beginning at 10.35am and Friday 14th December beginning at 10.00am. *Mince pies and shortbread will be served on both days to all*

Annual Bazaar: Sunday 9th December in Greencastle Community Centre from 4.30pm.

Greencastle Youth Club Rota	Monday 10 th December	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Oria Lucas
	Tuesday 11 th December	6.30pm – 8.00pm 8.00pm – 9.00pm	Fiona Teague Noel McElhatton

Next Sundays Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Psalm – Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philipians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18; (Lectionary I, page 51) **(Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 1)**

Lotto Results: H – J – L – S – T (10 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £2,350

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 8 th December The family of Ciaran Morris	Second Sunday of Advent [Year C]	Sunday 9 th December The family of Shea McElhatton
<u>Saturday 15th December*</u> The family of Kerrie McLaughlin	Third Sunday of Advent [Year C]	<u>Sunday 16th December</u> The family of Sorch-Rose Meenan
<u>Saturday 22nd December</u> The family of Claire O'Brien	Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C]	<u>Sunday 23rd December</u> The family of Eunan Morris
* Do This In Memory Week 4		
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.		

Do This In Memory of Me Programme: Our parish programme in preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion continues at the Vigil Mass in Greencastle next weekend.

Follow the Star IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail (Facilitated by The YARD Project): This year the Celtic Prayer Garden at the IOSAS Centre, Derryvane, Muff will be transformed to provide a truly memorable Christmas experience for all the family. A guided trail under starlight around the Christmas themed houses tells the greatest story ever told – the birth of Jesus. This interactive event will also include crafts for kids and storytelling on some of our favourite Christian traditions. The event (lasting about 1 hour) runs for 3 weekends from Friday 30th November. 00353 7493 84866 or Facebook 'IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail'

Viatores Christi Overseas Volunteering: Seeking skilled people in good health who are interested in working as lay missionaries with Irish missionary priests, brothers and sisters in their work in areas of need overseas Information and Recruitment Sessions. Belfast on Monday 10th December at 7.30pm in St John's Parish Hall, 470 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6EN - Derry on Sunday 16th December at 2.00pm in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164, Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.

For more details contact colette@viatoreschristi.com Tel. 00353 1868 9986. viatoreschristi.com

St. Patrick's Church, Pennyburn – University of Ulster Choir Winter Concert: Tuesday 11th December at 8:00pm. The 70-strong Choir and Chamber Choir will perform a programme including John Rutters "Requiem" "Cantique de Jean Racine" by Gabriel Faure, along with a range of traditional Christmas music.

For more information go to ulsterchoir.com. Admission is free with a retiring collection

Candle-light Rosary Procession: Sunday 9th December, assembling in Guildhall Square at 4.30pm, and proceed 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.

Candles will be supplied. For further information, contact Precious Life on (028) 9027 8484

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July): The cost is £585. An application form is available from Rosemary at The Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ – (028) 7136 2475 (Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1.30pm). *Special forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available*

Trócaire Global Gifts: Last Christmas Trócaire Global Gifts helped change lives, please be generous again this year and pick up a leaflet from the church porch.

Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca – Advent Weekend Residential Retreat: In preparation for Christmas, beginning at 7.30pm on Friday 14th December and ending after lunch on Sunday 16th December. *Cost for the weekend is £65 – For bookings, contact the Carmelite Fathers Office on (028) 7126 2512*

Youth 2000 – National Christmas Youth Retreat: Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December. *Check out youth2000.ie and see us on Facebook*

BADA An Bruach Derg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:

Every Friday Night at 8.30pm Card playing with light supper served

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)
General – Migrants: That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities.
Missionary – Christ, the Light for all Humanity: That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church.

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

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 16 December, the second which, is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts runs from 17th December until 24th December.

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).

Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Enrolments:	
Free Computer Classes	Commencing January
Funded Course on Bach Remedies	Tuesday 11 th December (10.00am – 1.00pm) Final week <i>Includes a talk on suicide awareness</i>
One-Off Christmas Flower Arranging	Wednesday 12 th December (10.00am – 12.00 and 7.00pm – 9.00pm) <i>All materials / flowers supplied – Fee £25.00</i>

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Gratitude has been expressed for your support of the clothes bank located in the car park at St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. *Their clothes shop is in Castle Street, Omagh.*
Their ministry is important approaching Christmas

Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time

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.
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.
Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)

Barnardo's Main Office Line for the Child Bereavement Service in Belfast Number Change:
Please note that this number is no longer (028) 9069 4000 anymore and is now (028) 9066 8333.

Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half-Marathon: Sunday 17th February, £100 deposit secures your place.
For more information please contact events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898
Thank you for your time on this it is greatly appreciated

Parish Liturgy for December, 2012	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Mary Clarke	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Caoileann Conway	Emma Clarke	Elaine Coyle
Collectors	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Peter Tracey Colum Keenan	Jimmy Donnelly
Altar Society	Mary Bradley Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
New choir members will always be welcome, contact Sinead			
Altar Servers Needed: Please notice the important role of altar servers in the prayer life of our faithful community, we currently need new volunteers to strengthen the teams already serving so if you will commit, please do so as soon as possible.			

Savita Tragedy: Mother and Baby have an Equal Right to Life. - Monsignor Martin

Monsignor Eamon Martin, Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Derry has drawn attention to the equal right to life of a mother and her unborn child.

Monsignor Martin said that over the past week many people had been asking him to explain the Church's position following the death of Mrs Savita Halappanavar and her unborn child in University Hospital Galway. He said that Savita's death was a devastating personal tragedy for her husband and family and their anguish and sorrow have struck a chord with the people of Ireland. On behalf of the people and priests of the Diocese of Derry, Monsignor Martin expressed his sympathy to the family of Mrs Halappanavar and to all those affected by these tragic events. He said that the tragedy had caught the attention of the nation and that many people had been asking searching ethical questions in an attempt to fully understand the issues involved.

Monsignor Martin went on to echo the words of the Irish Bishops earlier this week in reaffirming some aspects of Catholic moral teaching.

'The Catholic Church has never taught that the life of a child in the womb should be preferred to that of a mother. By virtue of their common humanity a mother and her unborn baby share an equal right to life. Where a seriously ill pregnant woman needs medical treatment which may put the life of her baby at risk, such treatments are ethically permissible provided every effort has been made to save the life of both the mother and her baby. Whereas abortion is the direct and intentional destruction of an unborn baby and is gravely immoral in all circumstances, this is different from medical treatments which do not directly and intentionally seek to end the life of the unborn baby. Current law and medical guidelines in Ireland allow nurses and doctors in Irish hospitals to apply this vital distinction in practice while upholding the equal right to life of both a mother and her unborn baby. Some would claim that the unborn baby is less human or less deserving of life. Advances in genetics and technology make it clear that at fertilisation a new, unique and genetically complete human being comes into existence. From that moment onwards each of us did not grow and develop *into* a human being, but grew and developed *as* a human being.'

Monsignor Martin added that the Catholic Church's is not the only voice which advocates the importance of respecting all human life. He said:

'With many other religious and ethical traditions we believe in upholding the equal and inalienable right to life of a mother and her unborn child in our laws and medical practice. This helps to ensure that women and babies receive the highest standard of care and protection during pregnancy. Indeed, international statistics confirm that Ireland, without abortion, remains one of the safest countries in the world in which to be pregnant and to give birth. This is a position that should continue to be cherished and strengthened in the interests of mothers and unborn children in Ireland

Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider *The Mystery of Work*: This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux) Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon. For 5 or more copies at discounted prices, see our website. logosinstitute.org

Family Care Society – Adoption: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged under 8 and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?
*For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry)
email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net*

London Marathon (Sunday 21st April): Why not join team Foyle Hospice for a thrill of a lifetime running/walking one of the world's most exciting marathons, the Virgin London Marathon which takes place Sunday 21st April? This run takes in all the major sites and attractions in London with thousands of spectators all along the course. Places in this event will be difficult to get, but Foyle Hospice has some guaranteed entries for the marathon.
*For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager
noel@foylehospice.com, (028) 7135 9888*

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com
11th and 12th January 8th and 9th February 8th and 9th March
12th and 13th April 10th and 11th May 7th and 8th June
Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD
Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding

Our Parish cemeteries are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

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 – Luke 3: 1-6: *John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?
2. John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.
3. Behind the quotation from Isaiah lies the practice of preparing festival routes for religious celebrations. Isaiah visualises such a celebration to celebrate the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Can you recall a particularly memorable Advent? What happened? Think of how you can do it this year.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Wednesday 12th December – St. Finian (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 Cuatlatotzin 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Questions people ask: *Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)*

Q. When John the Baptist baptised people, was it the sacrament of Baptism?

A. The sacraments as we know them did not exist before the ministry of Jesus. Baptism originally meant having a bath or a good wash. John was called the Baptist, the Bath-man, because he used a ceremony of washing by which people might express a moral conversion from the ways of sin. Jesus took this ritual washing to a new level when he told the disciples to baptise 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. Christians recognise this as the institution of the sacrament.

The Deep End – Setting the Scene: *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

How was your first week of Advent? How did you 'prepare a way for the Lord' this week?

Our preparations for Christmas start early. TV advertising aimed at children has been going strong since before Hallowe'en. The organised among us may have already ventured out to begin our gift buying, rooted out the tree decorations, or made the Christmas cake. We are seasoned experts at preparing for Christmas. Or are we? When John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, his task was to 'prepare a way for the Lord', to 'make his paths straight', much as a messenger might do for a king. Do you remember the Olympic Torch relay last summer in preparation for the London 2012 Olympics? It simultaneously brought the message of the Games to the people, while also directing their attention forward to the main event.

John the Baptist had a two-pronged approach. While laying the groundwork for the arrival of Jesus, he also preached a message of repentance and forgiveness.

Amid the hustle and bustle of December and the run-up to Christmas, do we give ourselves a chance to prepare for the gift God is giving us this and every Christmas? What areas do we need to work on and what obstacles do we need to remove from our life so we are ready to welcome Jesus? It is not too late to make a straight path for the Lord to come into our lives.