

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for March (please remember these in your personal prayer) General: That the whole world may recognise the contribution of women to the development of society. Missionary: That the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, persecution, or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.	
Enrolling Your Child at Our Lady of Lourdes PS: Forms are presently available for anyone wishing to enrol their child in Year One for September. <i>Forms need to be completed and returned as soon as possible</i>	
The Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Committee has received a very positive response over the past year to the request by Bishop Hegarty for the promotion of Eucharistic Adoration in all the parishes of the Diocese. Eucharistic Adoration has already been strengthened or renewed in twelve parishes of the Diocese. Please pray that Eucharistic Adoration will continue to extend throughout the Diocese, as the International Eucharistic Congress draws near, and especially in four more parishes where Adoration is being promoted by members of the Diocesan Committee in the coming months.	
How to book for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC2012): Call the IEC2012 Booking offices on (01) 2981122 Book Online on the website at iec2012.ie/registration Download a paper booking form from the Congress website and send the completed form to CSSL, 3rd Floor, Paradigm House, Dundrum Office Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14 Advance bookings are open until the 9 th of May. After that date all bookings are onsite the RDS. BOOK NOW! Last Call to Volunteer for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress: The 50 th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 will take place in Dublin from 10 th to 17 th June. This will be the biggest international event in Ireland in 2012 and one that will have a significant impact for Ireland and for the Irish Catholic Church. Volunteers will have an integral role to play in the success of the Congress. Volunteers are now being recruited for a wide range of roles and if you would like to get involved please visit the Congress website at iec2012.ie/volunteer and fill out an online application or request an application form from the Congress office on (01) 2349919 or volunteeradmin@iec2012.ie . Please note that the closing date for volunteer applications is Saturday 17th March Download a paper booking form from the Congress website and send the completed form to CSSL, 3rd Floor, Paradigm House, Dundrum Office Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14	
Special invitation to Young People to the 50th International Eucharistic Congress: Young people from 17 to 25 years of age from all across Ireland are invited to celebrate their faith at this summer's International Eucharistic Congress 2012 (from 10-16 June) in an event that is being described as one of the most ambitious youth ministry programmes ever presented in this country. 'Go! Be Church!' is the name of the Youth Programme, where around 2,500 young people will gather and experience a lively and international Church while rediscovering the meaning of communion. Come and participate in this event with workshops, dramas, interactive catechesis, concerts, social activities, games, art, fun and much more! Booking is required and youth can register as individuals or groups on www.iec2012.ie/registration . For more information on the youth programme go to www.iec2012.ie/youth . Liturgical Music for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 announced: The musical repertoire for each of the liturgies of the Congress from 10 th June to 17 th June has now been released. The goal of the music programme for IEC2012 is to encourage the entire assembly to participate as fully as possible in the liturgies of the week. A core choir will lead the music each day with the participation of many others gathered in the RDS and, on the final day, in Croke Park. We hope to involve choirs and singers from all Ireland. It is important for choirs to register for the Congress as soon as possible if you wish to sing in the Congress liturgies as part of the massed choirs. We suggest that you register as a group, giving your choir name as the group name and send an email to our offices. To book for the Congress go to www.iec2012.ie/registrations or call 01 2981122. To download the music for the Congress go to www.iec2012.ie/music	
International Eucharistic Congress 2012 – Final Phase of Preparation Diocesan Congress taking place at Thornhill, Derry Saturday 14 th – Sunday 15 th April at Thornhill, Derry The Congress will take place at the RDS, Dublin from Sunday 10 th to Sunday 17 th June with a daily timetable of activities. Tickets for the final Mass in Croke Park on Sunday 17 th June are now available. 1,600 tickets have been allocated to Derry diocese. Applications forms are available in the sacristy. IEC Online: iec2012.ie E-mail: derrydioceseiec@btinternet.com Contact Fr. Seamus Kelly at Derry Diocese IEC Office, 55, St.Patrick's Street, Draperstown. BT45 7AJ	

Strule Arts Centre, Omagh – Community Showcase: Wednesday 28 th March – Saturday 31 st March. Those who graduate through Alcoholics Anonymous are warned of, among many things, the dangers of complacency, of describing yourself as cured. The programme of AA does not promise to turn you into someone who no longer drinks, but only to help the alcoholic to resist the first drink, one day at a time. <i>John Waters (Lapsed Agnostic)</i>
Help the Red Cross Care for Older People in Your Local Community: Can you spare a few hours a week? No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed. Current mileage rate 45p per mile. (028) 8225 1116
Medjugorje Irish Centre Grand Prize: Every month for a year we are giving away one week's free apartment accommodation for up to 4 people. Text the word PILGRIM followed by your name and county to 60777 (53030 in Ireland) or phone us and we can enter you into the draw for free. Contact us for details of our 2012 pilgrimages and €280 package deals Website: med-irishcentre.com Telephone: (028) 8224 1888 (NI and UK) // (048) 82241888 (Ireland).
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
Vincent's, Castle Street, Omagh: Vincent's is the only SVP shop in this district. It depends on donations from you. Our customers really appreciate your gifts, especially good quality clothing. The shops profits are a steady source of income towards the work of SVP (St. Vincent DePaul Society). We realise there is a lot of competition from commercial and charity sources for your donations. We thank you for your ongoing support and appeal to you to continue to support SVP work in the seven SVP conferences in Omagh and district. Please leave your donations at the shop or place them in the blue bin near St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. Our SVP van can collect larger amounts of goods or furniture. Our shop number is (028) 8224 9839.
Can you spare a few hours a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for older people in your local community? No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed. Current mileage rate 45p per mile. Contact Omagh office on (028) 8225 1116.
Age NI – Digital Switchover Scheme: Age NI is one of the partners in the digital switchover scheme for Northern Ireland in the run up to switchover this October. We are now recruiting for volunteers to help with the home visit service, where older and vulnerable people get that little bit of extra help from volunteers. It is a Northern Ireland wide scheme.
Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (1st – 6th July): Nurses, doctors, care volunteers, people to push wheelchairs need. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office on (028) 7126 0293 on Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday from 11.00am to 1.00pm or phone Rosemary at the Pastoral Centre on (028) 7136 2475 from 9.30am to 1.30pm (Monday to Thursday). In 2012 the diocese will be going on pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 1 st to Friday 6 th July. The cost is £599. There are early payment schemes available in the Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry; Pastoral Centre, Maghera; St Eugene's Cathedral; Thornhill Centre and Strabane. Gift vouchers are available from the Thornhill Centre ((028) 7135 1233) and The Diocesan Pastoral Centre ((028) 7136 2475). Vouchers can be used as part or full payment. For further details contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org .
The pope said that the Holocaust should teach "new generations" that "only the difficult path of listening and dialogue, love and pardon" can lead to "fraternity and peace in truth." He expressed his prayer that the Holocaust be a warning for everyone: "May the Shoah teach especially, as much the old generations as the new ones, that only the tiring path of listening and dialogue, of love and pardon, leads peoples, cultures and religions of the world to the desired encounter of fraternity and peace in the world. May violence never again humiliate the dignity of man!"

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2012

International Eucharistic Congress		Dublin	Sunday 10 th – Sunday 17 th June
Sacramental Celebrations			
Friday 23 rd March	St. Patrick's	6.30pm	First Confession
Thursday 29 th March Fifth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop Hegarty)
Sunday 20 th May Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's	11.00am	First Holy Communion

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday 13th May	St. Patrick's
Sunday 2nd September	Our Lady of the Wayside

Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish

Friday 30 th March	Tuesday 22 nd May	Wednesday 11 th July
Thursday 30 th August		Friday 19 th October
Weekday Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church unless a Requiem is needed		

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (30th June and 1st July)

Saturday 30th June	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 1st July	Our Lady of the Wayside	Directly after 11.00am Mass
Friday 2nd November	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Commemoration of All Souls
(remembering all who died during the year)		

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Saturday 10th March	Second Sunday in Lent	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Friday 23rd March		6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation)
Saturday 31st March	Palm Sunday	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Saturday 5th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 20th May	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am First Holy Communion
Saturday 9th June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses (St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028 8224 2439)):
20th and 21st April, 11th and 12th May, and 1st and 2nd June

Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date
Couples Planning to Marry in 2012: Please confirm your details with Fr. Hasson as soon as possible.

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? For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo. Phone 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at www.knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the Bureau.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Saturday 17th March – St. Patrick (bishop and Principal Patron of Ireland) Born in Roman Britain in the early 5th century, Patrick was taken captive at 16 years of age and brought by pirates as a slave to the Braid Valley in the glens of Antrim. He worked as a shepherd around Sliabh Mis (Mt. Slemish) near the present-day town of Ballymena. After six years he escaped back to Britain, but he heard God's call to return to convert the Irish. After studies for the priesthood in France, he returned as Bishop c. 432 and commenced the remarkable conversion of the Irish. He died in 491

Sunday 18th March – St. Cyril of Jerusalem (bishop and Doctor of the Church) St. Cyril became the Archbishop of Jerusalem at 35. He was present at the Council of Constantinople in 381, where Jerusalem was first recognised as a patriarchal See, along with Rome, Antioch, Alexandria and Constantinople. This council is responsible for the Nicene Creed which was promulgated in its final form. He died on the 18th March, 386 at the age of 70, after 35 years as a bishop, of which 16 were spent in exile. [Not celebrated this year]

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012: This will take place in Dublin from 10th to 17th June under the theme '*The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another*' and expects 25,000 pilgrims to participate each day, both from Ireland and from overseas.

It is an international gathering of people, which aims to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church; help improve our understanding and celebration of the liturgy and draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist.



These aims are achieved through a programme of pastoral preparation in the years leading up to the Congress and the actual week of the Congress that consists of a programme of Prayer, Eucharist, workshops, discussion groups, catechesis and testimonies, cultural events, a youth space, tours, exhibitions, a Eucharistic Procession, a massive closing ceremony in Croke Park and more.

For more information visit iec2012.ie

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 2: 13-25:

1. In the Old Testament the privileged place of God's presence was the Temple in Jerusalem. In the New Covenant, this was replaced by the person of Jesus. This is the symbolism of the action of Jesus in the Temple. Recall how Jesus has helped your relationship with God and give thanks for this.
2. But we are the Body of Christ. When have you been particularly aware of the sacredness of people (yourself or others).
3. There are many ways in which people, the temples of God, are being profaned today. Where are you aware of the sacredness of the human person being violated? Who are the people seeking to cleanse the temple, by promoting respect for the dignity of every human person? Perhaps in ways you have done this.
4. We may also think of institutions as in some way temples of God's presence. In this time when aspects of our institutions are crumbling we can perhaps identify with the Jews who were horrified at the suggestion that the Temple would be destroyed. What is it like for you living in a time when some of the things you have taken for granted are collapsing? Where do you look for hope in such circumstances?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. When Catholics learn the commandments why is the bit about not making graven images omitted? I have been told that the reason is that Catholics worship statues.
- A. I have often heard that accusation in an attempt to discredit Catholic devotion. The entire passage on the commandments has been shortened in a few places to make it easier to memorise. Nothing essential has been omitted. The bit about not making graven images is adequately included in the short version, 'Thou shalt not have strange gods before me.' Similarly, the instruction about Sabbath observance has also been stripped down to the essential commandment. And please tell your friend that while Catholics may use the crucifix or statues as an aid to faith, we do not worship them. *Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)*

The Deep End – Plus ça change?

If Jesus was to enter your church building this Sunday, what do you think his reaction would be? How would he feel about our buildings, our liturgies, our parish activities? Would he find that our churches are houses of prayer, that our communities are living embodiments of his message of love, welcome and forgiveness? Would he be happy with how we worship? How would he feel about our new Missal translation and our attempts, and sometimes struggles, to implement it? Would he allow political parties to collect money at our church gates? How would he treat the beggar sitting at the gate? The people involved in various ministries? Those who sit up the front, and those who stand at the back? What would anger Jesus in our church today? Many people interpret this Gospel passage as evidence that even Jesus experienced anger, that anger can be justified in certain circumstances. It was certainly an understandable anger that Jesus unleashed that day in the Temple, when he saw the abuses going on and the twisting of what the Temple was meant for.

Aren't we angry? Recent years have seen an outpouring of raw anger directed at the church, which no one would suggest is unjustifiable. We are disillusioned, hurt, at times filled with rage at the scandalous revelations about the failures of the past. Would Jesus be angry too at the distortion of the gospel message which has sometimes taken place within our church?

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