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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Third Sunday of Advent [Year A] (11th December, 2016)
Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

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

Thought for Advent: Advent is a time we learn patience. Patience as we prepare for the birth of our Saviour. Patience with those who test us and, last but not least, patience with ourselves. How do we learn patience? By seeing testing times as opportunities in which the Holy Spirit draws close to give us strength to be calm, at peace and trusting in the Lord.

Liturgy Schedule for the Third Week of Advent [Year A] (11th December - 18th December, 2016)

Liturgy Schedule for th	ie Tilita week of Advent [1	ear A] (11" December – 10" December, 2010)		
Saturday 10th December	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions		
Do This in Memory (week 4)		6.00pm Vigil Mass		
Sunday 11th December	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)		
Third Sunday of	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am – 10.45am Confession		
Advent [Year A]		11.00am Mass		
Monday 12th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass		
St. Finnian (bishop) and Our La	ady of Guadalupe			
Tuesday 13th December	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass		
St. Lucy (virgin and martyr)				
Wednesday 14th December	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass		
St. John of the Cross (priest an	nd doctor of the Church)			
Thursday 15th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass		
Third Week of Advent				
Friday 16th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass		
Third Week of Advent		12noon Wedding Mass		
Saturday 17th December	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions		
Third Week of Advent		6.00pm Vigil Mass: Charles Tuohey (Month's Mind)		
Sunday 18th December	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)		
Fourth Sunday of	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am – 10.45am Confession		
Advent [Year A]		11.00am Mass: Peter Daly (4th Anniversary)		
Penitential Services for the parishes in this area will take place as follows on Sunday 18th December				
3.00pm Greencastle • 5.00pm Gortin • 7.30pm Plumbridge				
Please take this opportunity as part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas				

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday 24th December	St. Patrick's	9.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
Fourth Week of Advent		Please note that there is no Mass at 6.00pm
Sunday 25th December	Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Christmas Morning Mass
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass

Weekly Collection Amount: £1,000

If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the repose of the soul of *Noelle McQuillan (15 Sheskinshule View)* who died recently and for her relatives and friends at this time of loss. We also pray for the repose of the souls of *Gerard McCrory* and *Patrick J. Devlin* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group – *Christmas Meeting*: Due to our parish holding their annual Novena to Our Lady on a Monday night this will be held on Tuesday 13th December in the Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, Derry starting with Mass at 7.15pm.

There will be two 1st class relics

* Everyone is welcome

Pilgrimage to Medugorje: Wednesday 6th to Wednesday 13th September, 2017 £619 for half-board • Price increase due to falling rate of sterling Contact Maria ASAP on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14 • Psalm 23:1-6, R/ cf vv 7 • Romans 1:1-7 • Matthew 1:18-24
Sunday [Year Al • Weekday [Year 1]

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 10th December DTiM (Wk. 4)	Third Sunday	Sunday 11th December
The family of Shea Tracey	of Advent	The family of Orla Morris
Saturday 17th December	Fourth Sunday	Sunday 18th December
The family of Tadhg Clarke	of Advent	The family of Caelum Tracey
Saturday 24th December	Feast of the	Sunday 25th December (11.00am)
The family of Charles Conway	Christmas Nativity	The family of Eoin Bradley

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented

New Altar Servers – Next Practice: Thursday 15th December at 6.30pm.

New servers will be inducted at Masses on the weekend of Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th December

Parish Graveyards – *Ice Warning*: During these winter months in particular it is important we take particular care in the parish graveyards, especially on these frosty mornings. While there have been major improvements in some of these graveyards it is impossible to salt them every time there is a major frost.

So please be careful at all times, thank you Fr. E. Gallagher PP

Flaxmill Centre, Drumduff - Upcoming Events:

For more information call (028) 8076 1848

Christmas Fancy Dress Party: Sunday 11th December from 4.00pm. Children dress up as your favourite character and join in fun, games and crafts. Santa will drop in with presents for all children. £5 per child (adults free)

Old Time Dance: Wednesday 13th December from 9.30pm, with Larry & Co.

New Indoor Cycle (Spin) Classes: Begin Monday 2nd January in Greencastle Community Centre. The 3 different classes that are available are Over 50s, Under 50s (beginners) and Under 50s (advanced).

Registration: Saturday 10th December, 7.00pm – 8.00pm in Greencastle Community Centre

Cost: £25 for 6 weeks (places only confirmed upon payment)
For more info call Darryl McCullagh on 07979 378 732

Free Indoor Cycle Qualification: Course will take place Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th January from 10.00am to 4.30pm. There are 2 places available with a minimum qualification of Level 2 Fitness Instructor to be considered.

Call Darryl on 07979 378 732

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Application Forms: Now available for pupils born between Monday 2nd July, 2012 and Monday 1st July, 2013 (inclusive) who are due to start in September.

Please call the school for a form on (028) 8164 8732 if you haven't received one from the Green Elves Playgroup

Greencastle's First Blood Donation Clinic: Greencastle community invite you to save a life for Christmas by donating blood on Wednesday 14th December. You can donate between 2.00pm - 4.00pm and 5.15pm - 8.00pm at Greencastle Community Centre.

Care for Cancer - Coffee Morning: Wednesday 14th December from 10.30am. 1 Campsie Place, Omagh.

Precious Life – Stormont Rosary Vigil for Life: Please join us in a beautiful candlelight Rosary Vigil for the protection of Ireland's unborn babies at Parliament Buildings, Stormont (Main Gates) Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast at 7.30pm this Monday 12th December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadeloupe.

For more information contact Rosary Crusade for Ireland on (028) 9027 8484 or info@preciouslife.com

Birthday Thank You: I wish to thank everyone in the parish community who were so kind and generous on the occasion of my significant (50th) birthday. A special thanks to those who organised the gathering in the Greencastle Community Centre.

m May God bless you all

Fr. E. Gallagher PP

Rouskey Community Centre – Christmas Baking Demonstration: Monday 12th December at 7.00pm.
Includes Irene's carmel squares and scones, Teresa's mince pies and Christmas Cake decorating and
Jacqueline is going to treat us to a Carrot Cake.

Admission: £5

Hearing Aid Support Sessions: Do you wear NHS hearing aids? Offering advice on how to use and maintain your hearing aids and information on hearing loss / tinnitus. NO appointment required.

Call Sheena on (028) 8225 1446 / 07553 353 980

If you have a concern we offer a free hearing check. NHS batteries distributed

Rural North West Community Support, Newtownstewart

Monday 12th December from 10.30am to 12 noon

Derg Valley Health Living, Castlederg
Tuesday 20th December from 10.30am to 12 noon

Strule Family Practice, Omagh Health Centre Wednesday 21st December from 2.00 to 3.00pm

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayers)
Universal – End to Child-Soldiers: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelisation – Europe: That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership: In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.

For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme of emigration.

If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office Email: t.mcmenamin@derrydiocese.org • Tel: (028) 7126 2302 • Website: catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

ACCORD – *Relationship Counseling*: A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.

An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows.

St. Patrick's: Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass

Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass

Drink Wise Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240

Family Care Society: We are presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children.

For more information contact us via the following details (offices open weekdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm)

Tel: (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592 • Email: email@familycaresociety.org • Website: familycaresociety.co.uk

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The Apostolate prayer card offers us a special opportunity to spend ten minutes each day in pray for a priest.

The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are: prayerforpriests.com

Rosemary Johnson 07810 387 825 - brendan_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk • Ethna Hill 07528 249 838 - ethna776@yahoo.com

Siobhan Sweeney 07880 588 041 - siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk • Eamon Cassidy 077435 02165 - e_cassidy@hotmail.com

Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm: If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.

Address: IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal

Tel: (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • Website: celticprayergarden.com • Facebook: IOSASCentre • Twitter: IOSASCentre

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

Parish Liturgy for December, 2016	St. Patrick's St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) (9.00am Mass)		Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Kevin / Ryan Clarke	Catriona McCullagh	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Aileen Tracey	Grace Coneely
Collectors	Noel McElhatton	Patrick Tuohey	Brendan Daly
	Francis McLaughlin	Peter Tracey	Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott
Titul Goolety			Josephine Clarke

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:

Tel: (028) 90941690 • Email: gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • Website: kindercareni.co.uk

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

Towards Peace: A 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.

Website: towardspeace@iecon.ie • Tel: 01 505 3028 • Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie

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2015 Parish Statistics				
Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation	Marriages	
6 Boys	8 Boys	10 Boys	10 within parish	
8 Girls	8 Girls	9 Girls	5 outside parish	
Station Masses	Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13th Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE			
in October	Celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry on			
7	Thursday 17th September in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle			
Funerals	Farewell Concert and Presentation Night for Fr. Eugene Hasson			
13	Former Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE and now Parish Priest of the Parishes of Lavey			
13	and Greenlough to	ook place on Friday 13th November in GREENC	ASTLE Community Centre	

Family Care Society - Interested in Adoption? We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.

> Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • Julie or Brian (Derry Office): (028) 7136 8592 Email: email@familycaresociety.org • Website: familycaresociety.co.uk

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel - Matthew 11:2-11: John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)

- 1. In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.
- 2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in your journey of faith.
- 3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?
- 4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives, how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era?

Musings – John, Who Was in Prison (Matthew 11:2):

Fr. Iomar Daniels (Loughray, Co. Galway)

There is much waiting time in prison. Waiting for sentence, for release, waiting with patience to discover one's fate. This is where John the Baptist finds himself after confronting Herod. . John had prophesised revolutionary change but couldn't see it in Jesus. Therefore, the question: 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' Jesus knew his cousin had a depth of spirituality to sustain him and his response is simple but effective: 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see.'

We've seen it too in others who were confined. St Paul, Nelson Mandela and Viktor Frankl never lost hope. They were not self-preoccupied in waiting but focused on their mission of establishing God's kingdom, ending apartheid or not allowing evil to win the day. 'He who has a why to live for can bear with almost any how' (Nietzsche). Advent is our time for developing a spirituality that teaches patience; to wait with patience and hope despite the darkness of our time. In the depths of winter we learn to wait for the light. And the light will come just as the days begin to lengthen. We must wait.

The Net - December Edition: Now on sale, with coverage including:

Aghyaran Day of Renewal • Novena blessings for Cappagh and Christ the King Youth Choir St. Joseph's PS, Drumquin Golden Jubilee • Drung harvest time thanksgiving • Dungiven Choir launches CD Fahan Nazareth House thanks for garden funds • Galliagh marks St. Joseph's Church's 60th anniversary Life of Virginity ceremony in Galliagh

Great response to Granaghan prayer vigil Omagh Churches Forum explores role of religion • St. Eugene's Holy Door closing ceremony Waterside celebration for Syro Malabar community • Another amazing COR weekend Successful Search fundraiser • St. Joseph's Young Priest Society welcomes Claudy branch Cappagh faith story • Holy Land pilgrim reflects • Derry Knights of Columbanus Centenary Children's Catechism Club • Parish Post-its

For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call/text 07809 292 852

The Deep End: Jane Mellett (melletti@gmail.com)

Jesus asks the crowd in today's Gospel why they ran to see John the Baptist. Sometimes when we go to hear a famous speaker or go to someone we admire we are looking for answers. Our expectations are often not grounded in reality. Jesus asks the people what did they expect when they went to see John. Were they looking for someone nicely dressed? No, they were looking for a prophet and John was the greatest of these. Jesus's words are almost like a eulogy for John.

John announces and makes way for Jesus, marking the end of one era and the beginning of another. John announces a new time. John names the question we so often ask when a new exciting leader comes on the scene: Is this the one? Is this the person we've been waiting for? And if it is, how will we know? Our expectations can often be so great because we are constantly in need of renewal. Where in your life today do you need to experience fresh hope and newness?

The Gospel ends with a paradox: John is the greatest that has ever been born; yet the people who are considered the 'lowest' or the 'least' in this world are considered even greater than John by God. A statement that no doubt would have left a few people scratching their heads.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, come forth from deep within me with Christmas luminous beauty. For my heart has become the sacred crib, the birthing place of God among us.

Edward Hays (Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim)

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 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 Cuahtlatoatzin on Tepevac 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

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE Website: childrenincrossfire.org • Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org • Tel: (028) 7126 9898 Advent Appeal: Boxes for this appeal are available at the church porch over the next few weekends. Please consider taking one for this very worthy charity and during this season of excess please remember in the run up to Christmas the children and communities supported by this charity in countries across the world.

Camino De Santiago Walking Challenge: Thursday 30th March to Tuesday 4th April. Walk the way of St. James. Places are limited