

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

St. Patrick's. Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (12th June, 2016)

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

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

Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis

Misericordiae Vultus (paragraph 17)

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"May confessors not ask useless questions, but like the father in the parable, interrupt the speech prepared ahead of time by the producal son, so that confessors will learn to accept the plea for help and mercy pouring from the heart of every penitent. In short, confessors are called to be a sign of the primacy of mercy always, everywhere, and in every situation, no matter what."

Liturgy Schedule for the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (12th June, 2016 - 19th June, 2016)

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Saturday	y 11th June		St. Patrick's	5.30pm -	- 5.45pm Confessions
St. Barnaba	as (apostle)			6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday	y 12 th June		St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Eleventh	n Sunday in			10.30am	10.45am Confession
Ordinary Tir	ne [Year C]	Oı	ur Lady of Wayside	11.00am	Mass:
				Barney M	IcGuigan (1st Anniversary)
Monda	y 13 th June		St. Patrick's		Requiem Mass of
Eleventh Week in Ord	dinary Time			Cheryl M	cCullagh of Iowa, USA
Tuesday	y 14 th June		St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass
Eleventh Week in Ord	dinary Time				
Wednesday			St. Patrick's	7.30pm	Mass
Eleventh Week in Ord	dinary Time				
Thursday	y 16 th June		St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Eleventh Week in Ord	dinary Time			12.30pm	Wedding Mass
Friday	y 17 th June		St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Eleventh Week in Ord	dinary Time				
Saturday	y 18th June		St. Patrick's	5.30pm -	- 5.45pm Confessions
Eleventh Week in Ord	dinary Time				Vigil Mass
Sunday 19 th June			St. Patrick's		Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Twelfth Sunday in					10.45am Confession
Ordinary Tir	ne [Year C]	01	ur Lady of Wayside	11.00am	Mass
Friday 24th June	St. Patrick's	7.30pm	Mass to celebrate D	iamond Ju	bilee (60 years) of the Ordination
,		. • ••••			parish priest Fr. John Ryder
Saturday 2 nd July	St. Patrick's	6.00pm			

Friday 24th June	St. Patrick's	7.30pm	Mass to celebrate Diamond Jubilee (60 years) of the Ordination
-			to the Priesthood of our former parish priest Fr. John Ryder
Saturday 2nd July	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass followed by Prayers of Intercession
			for our Parish Dead in the Cemetery
Sunday 3rd July	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass followed by Prayers of Intercession for our Parish Dead in	
			the Cemetery with the same in the Cemetery of the former church
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Sunday 10th July Year of Mercy Pilgrimage for the Parishes of Co. Tyrone Deanery to Corradina Mass Rock, Omagh

Weekly Parish Collection: We thank you for your generosity of £1,110

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Michael Keenan of Antrim (formerly Sheskinshule), and Alice Doran (Newry) who died last week, we offer our sympathy and prayerful support to all who mourn their passing. We also pray for the repose of the soul of May McDermott whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Diocesan Lough Derg Pilgrimages for Year of Mercy

Last call for booking for the two pilgrimages (Friday 17th to Sunday 19th June and Friday 5th to Sunday 7th August) For a booking form or more into call the Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email ddcc@derrydiocese.org Those participating in the June pilgrimage can start it early by joining in a Pilgrim Walk to Lough Derg, leaving Derry City on Wednesday 15th June and walking 48 miles to Lough Derg, arriving on Friday 17th June to join in the 3 day retreat on the island. The pildrim route, which includes meals and basic accommodation, will be as follows.

DAY 1 Derry to Killygordon (23.5 miles) with a Break on the way in Ballindrait. Overnight in Killygordon DAY 2 20 miles, overnight stay in Pettigo • DAY 3 4.5 miles to Lough Derg

It is open to those over 18 and fit for the challenge! Bishop McKeown will lead this unique pilgrimage. Places limited. Booking form and more information on the Pilgrim Walk is available by calling 07841 100 174 or emailing stgparkview@yahoo.co.uk

Next Week's Readings: Zechariah 12: 10-11, 13-1 • Psalm 62: 2-6, 8-9, R/ v 2 • Galatians 3: 26-29

Luke 9: 18-24 • Lectionary I, page 870 Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]

Notices for the bulletin should be left with or sent to Fr. Gallagher no later than 10,00am on Thursday mornings

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 11th June	Eleventh Sunday	Sunday 12th June
The family of Myles McElduff	in Ordinary Time	The family of Ryan Coyle
Saturday 18th June	Twelfth Sunday	Sunday 19th June
The family of Niamh McGlinchey	in Ordinary Time	The family of Cayla Donnelly

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

Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group - Monthly Meeting: Monday 13th June in the Holy Family Church,

Ballymagroarty, Derry starting with Mass at 7.15pm. There will be two 1st class relics at the meeting and everyone is welcome

St. Anthony's Retreat Centre Summer Programme

Dundrean, Burnfoot, Co Donegal • Tel: 07493 683 70 • Email: sarce@eircom.net

Opening to the Holy Spirit to enable my inner self to grow (Saturday 2nd July) £25 / €30 inc. lunch, concessions available One Day Silent and Guided Retreat

Christian Mindfulness Meditation (Friday 8th to Sunday 10th July) £110 / €140 inc. full board concessions available Weekend retreat exploring roots of contemplative practice from Desert Hermits to St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross

Praying with St. Columba and the Celtic Saints (Saturday 16th July) £25 / €30 inc. lunch concessions available One Day Silent and Guided Retreat

Christian Mindfulness Meditation (Friday 29th to Sunday 31st July) £110 / €140 inc. full board concessions available Weekend retreat exploring the modern mystics including Thomas Merton, Tony DeMello, John Main, and Thomas Keating

Viatores Christi (VC) Information and Recruitment Session: Saturday 18th June at 10.30am in the VC HQ, 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 8689 986 • Email: apply@viatoreschristi.com • Website: viatoreschristi.com

National Conference of Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June in the RDS Concert Hall, Ballsbridge, Dublin, Speakers are Dr. Mary Healy and Rev. Jonathan Frazer, Eucharist Celebrants are Archbishop Diarmuid Martin (Saturday) and Papal Nuncio Archbishop Charles Brown (Sunday).

For more information call Sr. Bridget Dunne on 021 4251 100 or email bridgetdunne@eircom.net

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

ACCORD - Fertility and Wellbeing Service: An educational service, offering instruction / counseling in Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning (NFP) for women / couples who wish to achieve a pregnancy or plan their family. ACCORD Fertility and Well Being practitioners are people who have been specifically selected and trained to deliver this service. These practitioners use this knowledge and training to inform, educate and support individuals and couples with regard to their fertility.

Appointments are held in the Omagh centre and can be made by calling (028) 8224 2439

Greencastle Youth Club Paid Position Available for Youth Leader: From October to March. Minimum 2 hours per week. Call Yvonne Bradlev for more information and a job description on 07788 170 016

Sponsored Fundraising Walk for Broughderg Area Development Association

Guided Walk - The Return of O'Neill: Saturday 18th June at 10.00am. Broughderg Community Centre to Sperrin.

Craft Training Ltd: A leading training organisation that provides 16-18 year olds with the opportunity to fulfil their potential in a vocational area, through the Training for Success programme. Gain the skills you need to kick start your career free of charge and earn £40 per week, range of qualifications include ICT, Hairdressing, Joinery, Painting & Decorating, Hospitality & Catering, Retail Tel: (028) 8225 9377 • Office: Kelvin Avenue, Omagh • Email: ioincraft@hotmail.co.uk and much more

Dalradian Gold Tyrone Fund: Now open and accepting application, Closes 30th June, More details at dalradianni.com If any contractor would like to be considered for any work that Dalradian may have coming up please send a one page company profile including rates to kmartin@dalradian.com

Institute of Irish Leadership - Upcoming Events: Now taking bookings for light refreshments after wedding mass and prior to travelling on to hotel for wedding celebrations

Email: kathleenburns@gmail.com • Tel: (028) 8775 7800

Gaeltacht thír Eoghain Enrol now (Monday 4th to Friday 8th July) • Children's Irish Fun Day (Wednesday 6th July)

Cultural Trip to Glasnevin Cemetery and Collins Barracks, Dublin Thursday 7th July. Booking essential, open to all

Greencastle Vintage Show: Sunday 26th June 2016 at the Greencastle Community Centre from 1.00pm to 6.00pm. Vintage & Classic Cars. Tractors and Lorries. Stationary Engines. Show Lorries with prizes for the best. Threshing, Mobile Fun Farm, Dog Show, Fun fair and Stalls, Steam engines, Butter and Bread making, Hot air balloon (weather permitting). Music by Radio Star's Country Claire and much more!!! A great day for all the family. Proceeds in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care, Air Ambulance (NI) and Omagh Renal Unit For more details or to book a stall call Tony on 07769 698 729. No entry if not pre-booked

The Ten Commandments of Mercy (Fr. Ronald Rolheiser OMI)

4) Remember that, having received mercy, we must show mercy to others

We only receive and appropriate God's mercy and the mercy of others when we extend that same mercy to others. Mercy has to flow through us. If we don't extend it to others we become self-indulgent and too harsh on others.

Pope Francis' Intentions for June (please remember these in your personal prayer)

Universal - Human Solidarity: That the aged, marginalized, and those who have no one may find-even within the huge cities of the world-opportunities for encounter and solidarity.

Evangelisation - Seminarians and Novices: That seminarians and men and women entering religious life may have mentors who live the joy of the Gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission.

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. An information session will take place in St. Mary's College, Derry on Monday 20th June at 4.00pm. If you'd like to attend the session or require any further information please call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Youth 2000 Summer Festival: Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th July in the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. For young people aged between 16 and 35, an opportunity not to be missed to experience the Catholic faith and meet many new people, with over 1000 young people from all corners of Ireland attending last year. Donation only • Free buses available from all over Ireland For more info and to book visit vouth2000.ie or call 016 753 690

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

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

Blood Donation Clinic: Greencastle Community Centre want to host its own clinic and NI Blood Transfusion have agreed to hold one if 100 people sign the register before Tuesday 14th June (National Blood Donor Day). To help please complete the FREEPOST enrolment cards available in Eddies Shop, Eddies Bar and the Greencastle Clubrooms or text BLOOD GC to 60081

For coverage of faith activities email editorthenet15@gmail.com or text 07809 292 852 The Net – June Edition Ordination preparations in Melmount • Corpus Christi celebration in Buncrana • Ardmore Baby Blessing Maghera Ceili Mission • Culmore Catechism Study • Irish prayer book launch in Maghera St. Eugene's welcome for Novena and Icon pilgrims • Flower Festival in Steelstown Carndonagh hosts Year of Mercy pilgrimage • Malin Well Turas, Faughanyale Legion at Lough Derg ceremony Omagh parishioner shares faith story • Fr. Michael Keaveney reflects on 65 years of priesthood Diocesan World Youth Day preparations • Eucharistic Adoration pilgrims in Knock Sr. Clare and Home of the Mother feature • Irish Pilgrimage Trust in Lourdes • Confirmation photo feature

White Oaks and YARD Project Confidential Counselling for Families Affected by Addiction:

If you are concerned about a loved one's use of alcohol, drugs or gambling please contact us. Confidential counselling, advice and information provided by a qualified addiction counsellor.

Provided at Columba House, 11 Queen St, Derry • For an appointment or further information call (028) 7126 2407

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

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 • otmail_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna 776@yahoo.com Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e cassidy@hotmail.com prayerforpriests.com

Parish Liturgy for June, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Aisling McDermott-Donaghy	Monica Coyle	Sean Clarke
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Maeve McCullagh	Aileen Tracey	Cayla Donnelly
Collectors	Margaret Morris	Eugene Tracey	Brendan Daly
	Michael McNamee	Brendan Conway	Sean McKenna
Altan Caninto	Nuala Glass	Anne McDermott	
Altar Society	Rosemary Mc	Josephine Clarke	

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 Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book keep you warm this winter.

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

The Good Ship Lollipop - Appeal For Child Refugees: 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. Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid

Website: tuesdayschild.ie • Email: info@tuesdayschild.ie • Tel: (028) 9064 6104 / 07545 452 362 Donation by Texting: TUES75 and amount to 70070 (e.g.TUES75 £5)

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

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 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass

Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass

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 17 th 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 26th June at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Melmount, Strabane Ordination of Rev. Christopher McDermott to the Priesthood for Derry Diocese

Saturday 2nd July Sunday 3rd July

Intercession for the Dead in Greencastle Cemetery Intercession for the Dead in Broughderg Cemeteries

Wednesday 2nd NovemberSunday 27th NovemberSunday 25th DecemberMass for the DeadFirst Sunday of AdventFeast of the Nativity (Christmas)

Year of Mercy – Local, National and International Pilgrimages as Arranged by the Diocese

LOCAL (beginning at 2.00pm with Sacrament of Reconciliation, procession and Mass)

Dungiven Sunday 5th June • **Omagh** Sunday 10th July • **Long Tower** Thursday 11th September

NATIONAL

Lough Derg Friday 17th to Sunday 19th June (some pilgrims will be walking to Lough Derg, leaving Derry on Wednesday 15th June and going via Castlefin and Pettigo) • Early August (date TBC)

Knock Wednesday 20th to Sunday 24th July (Cursillo Walk to Knock) • Croagh Patrick September (date TBC)

INTERNATIONAL

Lourdes Krakow (World Youth Day)

Rome and Assisi

Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July Thursday 21st to Sunday 31st July Friday 2nd to Thursday 8th September

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel - Luke 7: 36-50:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

- 1. The Reign of God which Jesus came to proclaim is marked by an inclusive love, a love which reaches beyond traditional bigotry and prejudice. When have you seen that kind of inclusive love in another? When have you been able to reach beyond your own instinctive prejudices? What was it like for you to be able to do this?
- 2. Perhaps you have had the contrasting experiences of being excluded because of prejudice, and of being accepted despite perceived difference. What were the effects on you in each case? What does this teach you about life-giving behaviour?
- 3. Jesus gave the woman an experience of being accepted as she was, despite her sinfulness. When have you had the experience of being accepted by another, warts and all? When have you been able to give that experience to another?
- 4. Forgiveness is one of the characteristics of the Reign of God announced by Jesus. When have you experienced the life-giving effects of forgiveness given or received?

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

Alzheimer's Society Carer Information and Support Programme (CrISP)

CrISP is a series of workshops for people caring for a family member or friend with dementia. It provides an opportunity for you to talk in a friendly and confidential environment about your experiences and the impact they are having on you.

Week 1 - Induction and Welcome Welcoming everyone to the programme

Week 2 - Understanding Dementia Explores the physical, psychological and emotional impact of dementia

Week 3 – Legal and Money Matters Explores legal and financial issues to help you understand the importance of planning for the future

Week 4 – Providing Support and Care Explores concerns/challenges that may arise when supporting a person with dementia

Week 5 – Coping Day to Day Looking at the physical, psychological and Emotional impact that dementia may have on you as a carer

The free workshops are run by Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers for a group of up to 12 people who care for a family member or friend with dementia

If interested Paula Canney on (028) 8225 0103 / 07718 322 726 or email paula.canney@alzheimers.org.uk

Musings

Fr. Iomar Daniels (St. Andrew's Church, Leitrim, Loughrea, Co Galway)

The one to whom little is forgiven, loves little. Luke 7:47

How come there was a woman at the Pharisee's house? How did a woman of 'ill-repute' get in? It would have been unusual to have a woman at such a gathering. Even more so at the home of this particular Pharisee who seems to be haughty, arrogant. It merits investigation. It would appear that the Pharisee is self-opinionated and liked to rub shoulders with people who were popular or who were seen as celebrities. Jesus was making a name for himself as a teacher and preacher. Hence, the invitation to dinner. The woman must have slipped in with the crowd. The Pharisee could not humble himself, nor had he the manners to afford Jesus, his guest, the customary etiquette. Visitors were usually greeted with a kiss of peace, had their feet washed and their head anointed with oil or sweet-smelling incense. The Pharisee, who is named as Simon, was so self-preoccupied that he was above showing any kind of welcome or love. The woman, on the other hand, who knew her need of mercy and love, let her love be shown. I suppose we could say that Simon was guilty of the greatest sin of all; no sense of sin! Or, as Pope Francis expresses it in Misericordiae Vultus, he has not recognised yet the grace that he, too, is a sinner.

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*

The Deep End - Celebrate Mercy.

lane Mellett (melletti@gmail.com.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is invited to Simon the Pharisee's house for dinner when an 'unwanted' guest arrives. This woman has a bad reputation in the town; we are told nothing of her past except that she was a sinner and that she is carrying something that she wants to be free from. There are many things to say about the text but perhaps today we can focus on her celebration. The woman is able to receive God's grace in contrast to the Pharisee who is unable to grasp what has happened. Those present find it difficult to comprehend a God who accepts sinners and they are also finding it difficult to accept someone who celebrates forgiveness so joyfully and extravagantly as this woman does.

Often, when we receive forgiveness from others, we are unable to forgive ourselves, unable to free ourselves from our own mistakes. We can take a good example from the woman in today's Gospel who celebrates abundantly when she is freed from whatever it was that she was carrying.

The last lines of the Gospel remind us of the prominent role of 'many' women who covered the expenses of Jesus and the twelve and journeyed with them.

God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bone s... Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth.

*Pope Francis**