



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

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year C] (13th March, 2016)

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

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



Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis Paragraph 15 of Misericordiae Vultus

"How many are the wounds borne by the flesh of those who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out by the indifference of the rich! During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal these wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care."

Liturgy Schedule for the Fifth Week of Lent [Year C] (13th March, 2016 – 20th March, 2016)

Saturday 12th March	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Willie Joe Morris (9 th Anniversary) and Margaret Morris (4 th Anniversary)
Sunday 13th March Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 14th March Fifth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass
Tuesday 15th March Fifth Week of Lent	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Lourdes PS	NO MASS Day of Mercy with confession for children during the day
Wednesday (16th March)	Our Lady of the Wayside	7.30pm Confessions 8.00pm Vigil Mass for Feast Day 11.00am Mass
Thursday 17th March St. Patrick (bishop and Patron of Ireland)	St. Patrick's	
Friday 18th March St. Cyril of Jerusalem (bishop and Doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass <i>Note Mass on Friday will be at 7.30pm during Season of Lent</i>
Saturday 19th March St. Joseph (husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass: John Tuohy (8 th Anniversary)
Sunday 20th March Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confessions 11.00am Mass

Weather permitting we will gather at Calvary in Cemetery for Procession and Blessing of Palms at **6.00pm** Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday on **Sat. 19th March** in St. Patrick's and **11.00am** Mass of Palm Sunday on **Sun. 20th March** in Our Lady of the Wayside

Collection: £1,090 including **£45** loose plate

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Willie Joe Morris** and **Margaret Morris** whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Pioneer Lenten Challenge: Many people abstain from alcohol and take the Short-Term Pledge for the duration of Lent. Make your Lenten pledge by visiting pioneerassociation.ie and joining online or by contacting your local rep / branch of Pioneer Association). Take this opportunity to help someone you know / love with an alcohol or drug problem by offering up your Lenten sacrifice as a prayer for their freedom and well-being.

Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July): Doctors and Nurses are needed to help with this Pilgrimage. For further information please call the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or 07517 965 751 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 6.00pm)

Vocations Information Day – Is God calling you to be a priest? Saturday 19th March at 11.00am in Ardstraw House, 21a Buncrana Road, Derry, BT48 8LA. For more information and to confirm attendance email Fr. Paul Farren, Diocesan Vocations Director at ddcc@derrydiocese.org or call (028) 7126 4087.

Irish Pilgrimage Trust: The Irish Pilgrimage Trust travel to Lourdes every Easter with children and young people from all over Ireland with physical needs / illness, intellectual disabilities and social needs. One of the groups from the Derry area is urgently looking for a nurse to travel with the group on the 27th March for 6 nights. If interested please call Jimmie on 07802 545 282 or Mary on 00353 87796 2047 as soon as possible for more details.

Children in Crossfire – Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 2nd April.
If you would like more information email shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org or call the office on (028) 7126 9898

Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group – Monthly Meeting: Monday 14th March in the Holy Family church, Ballymagroarty, Derry, starting with Mass at 7.15pm. There will be two 1st class relics at the meeting. *Everyone is welcome*

Penitential Services in Prep. for Easter (Sun. 20th March): 3.30pm (Greencastle) • 5.00pm (Gortin) • 7.30pm (Plumbridge)

Next Week's Readings (Palm Sunday): *PROCESSION:* Luke 19: 28-40 • Lectionary I, page 345
MASS: Isaiah 50: 4-7 • Psalm 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24, R/v2 • Philippians 2: 6-11 • Luke 22:14-23:56 • Lectionary I, page 346

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 12 th March The family of Micheál Meenan	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Sunday 13 th March The family of Shea McAleer
Saturday 19 th March (DTIM Week 7) The family of Jake O'Connor	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	Sunday 20 th March The family of Eoin McCullagh

Traditional Latin Mass: St. Patrick's Day at 12.45pm in St Mary's Church, Aughabrack, Dunamanagh. *Everyone is welcome*

Veritas and James Kilbane – Overnight Pilgrimage To Knock: Departs Thursday 7th April from Derry at 8.00am with stops at Strabane and Omagh. Arriving in Knock at around 12noon. Presentation of the film "The Story of Knock" at 1.00pm. Mass in Apparition Chapel at 4.00pm with Fr. Gerry Gillespie as celebrant (music by James Kilbane). Overnight stay in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris (approx. 10 miles), where dinner will be served followed by a night of music and song in the hotel. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Gillespie in the hotel the following morning after breakfast with music by James Kilbane before departing. Total cost £85 (inc. bus, hotel accommodation, evening meal and Breakfast).

For booking and further information call Marie or Lucy at Veritas on (028) 7126 6888.

Foyle Down Syndrome Trust – Recipe for Success Project: Please visit thepeoplesprojects.org.uk and vote for the Recipe for Success Project so they can provide a kitchen and qualified support staff to enable young people with Down Syndrome to learn essential culinary skills. Alternatively, you can vote by postcard to FREEPOST The People's Projects, including the project name, your name, address and telephone number. *Thank you*

Notice from Bishop Donal McKeown to Parishioners: An important key to maintaining and handing on the faith is knowledge of the faith. In seeking to help us deepen our knowledge, I have arranged for every person in the parish to have trial access to online resources from the Augustine Institute (USA). Every parishioner will have free 24/7 access on any device including computer, smartphone and tablet with internet access, until Thursday 17th March. You will find high quality videos, courses and other material that explain the Catholic faith, explore Scripture and reflect on the deepest meaning of Marriage and Baptism, as well as many other inspiring audio talks and books on a variety of topics relevant to our faith.

After the period of free trial access, the Augustine Institute hopes to be able to offer a service to parishes who then wish to subscribe on a permanent basis. You are encouraged to look at this online material and your feedback is welcomed by your Parish Priest

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events:

Monthly Seisiun: Friday 18th March at 9.00pm in Eddies Bar, Greencastle. All welcome • Admission Free • Light Supper Served
Fundraising Dance: Saturday 2nd April in Shepherds Rest, Sixtowns (music by TG4's Glór Tire winner Liam Kelly)
Hot supper served • Tickets £8 • Call Roisin on 07789 697 238 or pay at door • Proceeds to subsidise cost of music classes

Maths Grinds – Tutor Required: Must be qualified up to Degree level with the capability of covering both Junior and Leaving Cert course. Lessons can be given on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. If you're having problems with maths and want help:
Tel (Cathal): 086 407 1638 • All enquires welcome • **Email:** clmcgren@yahoo.co.uk

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

Derry Youth Community: Are you a young person aged between 18 and 25? Are you interested in a gap year experience with a difference? The NYC is a group of committed young people who live in a community based in Derry City who serve the Diocese of Derry. You will live in a structured, secure environment, from where you will be given the opportunity to reach out to other young people in schools and parishes to facilitate faith-based activities and youth ministry. You will also live in mutual co-operation with others; explore and deepen your faith; participate and share in leisure activities such as music, art, sport and drama. If you feel you are equal to the very real challenges of the initiative. **Web:** derryyouthcommunity.com • **Closing Date:** Friday 27th May

Talk on "Celebrating the Life of Joseph Mary Plunkett" by his grandniece Honor O'Brolchain:
Tuesday 15th March at 8.00pm. We are now taking bookings for light refreshments after wedding mass and prior to travelling on to hotel for wedding celebrations. Admission is £5. Light refreshments included
Email: kathleenburnsiii@gmail.com • **Tel:** (028) 8775 7800

Broughderg Area Development Association – Surnames and Their Irish Origins: Thursday 24th March, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Funded by Midulster Council is holding an evening of lively banter with Niall Comer on the origins of our names.
Admission: £3 • Everyone is welcome to come along • Refreshments served • **Tel:** (028) 8675 2004

An Caislean Glas Gaa Tir Eoghain – Cleaner Required: 3-4 hours per week. *If interested call Mick Coyle on 07817 401 639*

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Relief Caretaker / Cleaner Required: For the school for Holiday Relief.
Anyone interested is asked to call the school on (028) 8164 8732

<p>Pope Francis' Intentions for March (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>Universal – <i>Families in Difficulty</i>: That families in need may receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy and peaceful environments.</p> <p>Evangelisation – <i>Persecuted Christians</i>: That those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.</p>

<p>ACCORD Pre-Marriage Courses: All couples intending to be married in the parish are expected to have completed a Pre-Marriage Preparation Course. Please book well in advance of your wedding date.</p> <p>1st and 2nd April • 6th and 7th May • 3rd and 4th June • 24th and 25th June</p> <p>To book (opening time can be found on the website):</p> <p>Website: accord.ie • Tel: (028) 8224 2439 • Email: omagh@accordni.com</p>

<p>Lourdes Pilgrimage (Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July):</p> <p>The Lourdes Pilgrimage Office is now open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm.</p> <p><i>Forms available from Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: (028) 7126 0293 / 07517 965 751 (Mon. to Fri. 9.00am to 6.00pm)</i></p>

<p>I AM Alive – <i>Christian ROCKS Concert</i>: Easter Sunday 27th March from 8.00pm to 10.00pm in St Columb's Hall, Derry. Take part in a musical celebration of our love for Jesus and his love for us. A 14-piece band will deliver music in a fresh new way aimed at lifting your soul and inspiring your faith.</p> <p>Tickets (available at Veritas): Adult (£10) • Students (£7)</p>
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<p>Thornhill Ministries 8-Day Retreat Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:</p> <p>Thursday 15th to Friday 23rd September. There are still a few places are still available.</p> <p>For more details call Sr. Perpetua on (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org</p>

<p>Yoga with Margaret Franklin: Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán</p>
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<p>Drink Wise Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?</p> <p><i>For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240</i></p>

<p>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.</p> <p><i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i></p>

<p>Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – <i>Master of Arts in Catholic School Leadership</i>: A post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to leadership roles or with an interest in the Catholic School system.</p> <p><i>For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org</i></p>

<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding</p> <p>Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass</p> <p>Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass</p>
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<p>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.</p> <p>Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • otmail_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com</p> <p>Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com <i>prayerforpriests.com</i></p>

Parish Liturgy for March, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Mary Slane	Siobhan McKenna	Geraldine Scullion
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Louise Coyle	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Erin Hood	Lauryn Hollywood	Grace Conneely
Collectors	Francis McLaughlin Mary Bradley	Colm Keenan Michael Clarke	Tony Donnelly Brendan Daly
Altar Society	Mary McNamee, Patta McDermott and Mary McCrory		Anne McDermott Martina McBride

<p>Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children – <i>Use of Photography and Video</i>:</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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. <p>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.</p> <p><i>From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</i></p>
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<p>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. <i>See poster at entrances</i></p>

<p>The Net – <i>March Edition Now Available</i>: For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call / text 07809 292 852. This month's coverage includes the follow.</p> <p>Focus on Cappagh • Greenlough • Dungiven • Ballerin • Carndonagh and Park schools celebrating their faith</p> <p>Bellaghy raises mental health awareness • Strabane Contemplative Prayer Group • Clonmany Pioneers</p> <p>Newtownstewart children's adoration • Creggan Eucharistic Ministers reflect • Omagh marriage and family Mass</p> <p>St. Brigid's Cross-making in Aghyaran and Ballerin • Swatragh feature on Fr. Colm and Sr. Teresa</p> <p>Catholic Schools Week launch • Pope John Paul II Awards • End of an era at Foyle Hospice</p> <p>Churches of 'The Parish', Co Donegal • Time of prayer for Cursillo</p> <p>End of Year of Consecrated Life • Diocesan Diary</p>
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<p>Towards Peace: A new 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.</p> <p>Website: towardspeace.ie • Tel: 01 505 3028 • Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie</p>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS <i>Please note that events for the Year of Mercy will be added at later date</i>		
Thursday 17 th March	St. Patrick's Day	Sunday 20 th March
Thursday 24 th March	(Mass of the Lord's Supper) at 10.00am in St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry	Palm Sunday
	Holy Thursday Mass of Chrism (Blessing of Holy Oils and Priestly Renewal of Vows)	
Friday 25 th March	Good Friday	Saturday 26 th March
		Holy Saturday
		Sunday 27 th March
		Easter Sunday
Sunday 24 th April	at 2.00pm	Saturday 14 th May
	Confirmation	at 12 noon
		First Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th June	at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Melmount, Strabane	
	Ordination of Rev. Christopher McDermott to the Priesthood for Derry Diocese	
Saturday 2 nd July		Sunday 3 rd July
Intercession for the Dead in Greencastle Cemetery		Intercession for the Dead in Broughderg Cemeteries
Wednesday 2 nd November	Sunday 27 th November	Sunday 25 th December
Mass for the Dead	First Sunday of Advent	Feast of the Nativity (Christmas)

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 8: 1-11:		<i>John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)</i>
1.	Compassion for human frailty combined with a gentle challenge to a better life marked the response of Jesus. From whom have you experienced a compassionate challenge? What was that like for you? To whom have you given such a challenge?	
2.	The Pharisees and scribes self-righteously condemned the woman until Jesus brought them in touch with their own sinfulness. This was a conversion moment for them and they turned away from their quest for the death of the woman. Have there been times when your awareness of your own fragility and sinfulness has helped you to be less judgemental of others?	
3.	'What do you say?' can be an embarrassing question. Jesus had the courage to voice an opinion, even though it was against the party line of the day. When you have seen that courage shown – by yourself, or by another? What was the result?	

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. <i>Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid</i> 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)	
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Musings	<i>Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)</i>
This week we will celebrate the fifth-century mission of Patrick to the Irish. But, like any vocation, or way of life, Patrick's sense of mission only unfolded gradually. He tells us in his Confessio: 'I was not quick to accept what [the Lord] showed me, and so the Spirit prompted me. The Lord was merciful to me a thousand, thousand times, because he saw in me that I was ready, but that I did not know what I should do about the state of my life ... I was not quick to recognise the grace that was in me'. Lord, help us to recognise the grace that is in each one of us.	

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:	
Thursday 17th March –	<i>St. Patrick (bishop and Principal Patron of Ireland)</i> Born in Roman Britain in the early 5 th 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. Died in 491.
Friday 18th March –	<i>St. Cyril of Jerusalem (bishop and Doctor of the Church)</i> 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. Died on the 18 th March, 386 at the age of 70, after 35 years as a bishop, of which 16 were spent in exile.
Saturday 19th March –	<i>St. Joseph (husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary)</i> The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a 'just' man, which means he was a man who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. The main feast of St. Joseph is on this date - 19 th March. It was believed his death occurred on this day. The feast was fixed in the 15 th century and was extended to the whole Church by Pope Gregory XV in 1621. On December 8 th 1870, Pope Pius IX ordered that this feast be celebrated throughout the Church. Holy Church also dedicates to St. Joseph the entire month of March. In addition, by custom, Wednesday of each week is dedicated to St. Joseph. The lineage of Mary's husband as the legal father of Jesus is traced in Matthew's gospel (1:18-25). Matthew sketches the confusion, humiliation and misery experienced by Joseph when he recognises that Mary is <i>with child</i> . This just man was simply, joyfully, and wholeheartedly obedient to God; in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth and in years of quiet faith and courage.

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)			
Carndonagh	Dungiven	Omagh	Long Tower
Sunday 8 th May	Sunday 5 th June	Sunday 10 th July	Thursday 11 th September
NATIONAL			
Lough Derg	Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th June (some pilgrims will be walking to Lough Derg, leaving Derry on Wednesday 15 th June and going via Castlefin and Pettigo) • Early August (date TBC)		
Knock	Wednesday 20 th to Sunday 24 th July (Cursillo Walk to Knock) • Croagh Patrick September (date TBC)		
INTERNATIONAL			
Lourdes	Krakow (World Youth Day)	Rome and Assisi	
Friday 1 st to Wednesday 6 th July	Thursday 21 st to Sunday 31 st July	Friday 2 nd to Thursday 8 th September	

The Deep End – *Open the Door:*

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

Today marks the third anniversary of the election of Pope Francis. His papacy has been marked by a focus on openness, forgiveness, and mercy - summed up, perhaps, in his oft quoted remark: 'Who am I to judge?' So prevalent is his focus on God's mercy that Pope Francis has declared this a Jubilee Year of Mercy – a special year to receive blessing from God and remission of sins.

Some of us will make a pilgrimage during this year to one of the many holy doors in our cathedrals and churches. Pope Francis has called on Catholics around the world to use the occasion to open wide the doors of their hearts to forgive others and not to exclude them.

'When we go through that door, it is good to remember that we must also open wide the doors of our heart,' he said, suggesting that before passing through the Holy Door, people should pray: 'Lord, help me to open the doors of my heart!'

The holy year won't be very effective if the doors of our heart do not let Christ enter, who pushes us to go towards others, to bring him and his love. Therefore, as the holy door remains open because it is the sign of the welcoming that God himself reserves for us, so also our doors – those of the heart – must always be open to not exclude anyone. Not even those that bother me. No one!

It is very much in the tradition of today's Gospel, where we meet a Jesus who is merciful to sinners, and who challenges us all to look at our own attitudes and our tendency to judge others.

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

The Deep End – *A New Creation:*

Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)

The parable of the prodigal son is so familiar to us, and when stories are familiar they can lose their meaning. But let us look a little closer at the context of the story. Jesus told this parable in response to some comments and complaints by the Pharisees and the scribes: 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.' What would these detractors have made of the story, flying as it did in the face of their traditional morality?

What about the so-called sinners? The 'tax collectors and sinners' were already at ease in the company of Jesus; they were seeking him out to hear what he had to say, and he in turn was welcoming them. How this parable must have spoken to them! It wouldn't have been much of a stretch for them to compare the generous welcome and forgiveness of the father in the story to the treatment they were already receiving from Jesus.

One sentence strikes me from today's second reading: 'For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation'. The 'sinners' with whom Jesus associated were made new by his presence, just as the son in the parable was surely a changed man after his reunion with his merciful father. He was 'dead and has come to life'.

This familiar parable is not just about how forgiving and merciful God is. It is about how his mercy brings us to new life. If we, sinners, return to him and let him welcome us back, we are new creations.