

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry

Saint Patrick's Church
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Broughderg

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. 13th September, 2009

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

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

Liturgy Schedule for the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time. 14th September – 20th September, 2009

Sunday 13th September Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass: (Michael and Rosaleen Clarke – Anniversaries)
Monday 14th September The Triumph of the Cross	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows	Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	10.00am Mass: Marking the beginning of a new school year
Wednesday 16th September St. Cornelius, pope and martyr St. Cyprian, bishop and martyr	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 17th September Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 18th September Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	8.00pm Mass: (Imelda Tracey – 8 th Anniversary)
Saturday 19th September Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: 'Do This In Memory' Enrolment
Sunday 20th September Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

Confession Schedule

Saturday 12th September	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 13th September	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,100**.
Please support your parish by using your envelope even when you are on holiday or if for some reason you must attend Mass outside your parish – Thank you.

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

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Imelda Tracey, Brian Hollywood** and **Michael and Rosaleen Clarke** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Zipline Across the Lagan For 'Children in Crossfire': Children in Crossfire need 100 people on 19th September to zip 1,000 feet across the River Lagan. 140 feet up at 40mph, this is a truly thrilling and safe experience, a challenge for everyone. For more details and an application form call (028) 7126 9898. Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org

Help to contain the swine flu impact: Everyone can play their part, and simple measures such as regular hand-washing and using a tissue can go some way towards mitigating this pandemic's impact *Irish News (18th July, 2009)*

VERITAS Bookshop and Religious items: 20 Shipquay Street, Derry.

Rural Link Shopping Service: From Greencastle to Omagh Friday 9.00am-1.00pm. £4.00 return. You will be collected at your own door. Contact Rural Link on (028) 8076 0740.

White Cane Walk (10th October, 2009): Starting point at McGurks Bar, Omagh. Registration 10:00am-10:45am. Supporting blind and partially sighted people.

Irish Dancing Classes: GAA Hall. Mondays 4.30pm-6.00pm with Patricia Wilson.

Next Sunday's Readings: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 53; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37. Lectionary I, page 802

Lotto Numbers: 4, 13, 14, 21 (1 winner with 3 numbers – £50) **Next Jackpot:** £1,450

Serving Our Faith Community in Greencastle Parish

Prayers of intercession: We need committed and responsible teenagers (male and female) to lead these prayers for us at each Sunday Mass, will you volunteer?

'Do This In Memory': Our First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in Saint Patrick's next weekend. The Parish Liturgy group invites the parents / guardians of our children preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation in 2010 to an introductory meeting on Monday 14th September at 9.00pm.

Pilgrimages and Retreats

Lough Derg Pilgrimages One Day Retreats: Cost €29 including boat and light lunch):
14th, 15th, 16th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd September // Reservations essential. Book at the Lough Derg Office.
Tel/fax: 00353 7198 61518 or email info@loughderg.org. Check out loughderg.ie for other events

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (16th-21st July, 2010): Cost £629 –payable in instalments. Application forms are now available in the sacristy (Greencastle). Forms for those in need of special care or those aged 80 or over are available only from the Pilgrimage Office, Derry. Telephone: (028) 7126 0293.

Ards Friary Retreat & Conference Centre, Creeslough. Co. Donegal:

Monday 21st and Thursday 24th September | St. Padre Pio OFM Triduum

Website: ardsfriary.ie **Tel:** 00353 7491 38909 **Email:** info@ardsfriary.ie

Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry: Tel: (028) 7126 2512 during office hours.

Marriage Preparation Programmes

ACCORD Marriage-Preparation Courses 2009-2010

16th and 17th October, 2009 15th and 16th January, 2010; 5th and 6th February, 2010
13th and 14th November, 2009 5th and 6th March, 2010; 16th and 17th April, 2010
4th and 5th December, 2009 14th and 15th May, 2010; 11th and 12th June, 2010

Applications to the Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Tel: (028) 8224 2439. Email: accordomagh@btopenworld.com

Courses are limited to 15 couples. Course should be completed at least six months before your wedding.

Adult Faith Development (beginning in September)

Interested in developing your faith? Thornhill Centre has a number of short and long courses starting in October and November 2009: Pastoral Ministry: There is a Variety of Gifts; Liturgy: 'Foundations in Liturgy'; Scripture: 'Saint Luke'; Aspects of Faith: 'So What Should We Teach Them?' and Personal Development: 'Dreams Workshop'. For further details contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233.

Study Theology from Home: A Theology programme for lay people offered by distance learning with the Dominicans. This means that you can study for a certificate, diploma or degree in Theology and even more importantly become educated in the Faith, from the comfort of home. For further information contact The Priory Institute. Tallaght Village, Dublin 24. Tel: (00353) 1404 8124 or email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com and visit website www.prioryinstitute.com

Parish Stations: If you are willing to host a Station Mass in your home during the month of October, 2009, please sign the schedule in the sacristy in Greencastle. Fr. Hasson will be available on the following dates:

Monday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th; Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th; Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October.

Hosting a 'Station Mass' is a long tradition in the life of our parish communities in the Catholic Church. It reflects our openness to God and our hospitality to our neighbour. Hospitality should be kept as simple as possible. It is important that our priorities have the right focus. Mass in our homes is a blessing to the family and to the local area. It would be a blessing if one family in each townland were willing to host a 'Station'.

The Catholic Chaplaincy QUB will re-open with Sunday Mass on the 27th September at 8.00pm. Chaplains Food Bar and other Chaplaincy facilities will re-open on the Monday the 28th September at 10.00am. Mon-Fri Mass at 12.15pm. Please remember to enrol with the Catholic chaplaincy as part of the Queens online enrolment procedures. Dedication of Studies Mass will be on Sunday 12th October 8.00pm. There are a few student jobs available in Chaplains Food Bar. Please contact Liam at cc@qubcc.org or on (028) 9066 9737 (Mon 21st onwards).

Check out website for further information: www.qubcc.org.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 8:27-35:

1. 'Who do you say that I am?' Imagine Jesus putting this question to you. How would you answer it? How would you answer it, not in words taken from a catechism or textbook, but from your own experience of the significance of Jesus in your life? What does Jesus mean to you? What does his gospel mean to you?
2. Jesus went on to teach his disciples that following him would be hard at times. There would be a price to pay. Perhaps you also have found that imitating the love and compassion of Jesus is not an easy road? Nor does it come easy to have the constant trust in God that Jesus had. Yet Jesus tells us that this is the way to life. Would you agree?
3. There is a natural human tendency to shy away from what is painful or difficult. Yet if that is our standard pattern of behaviour we will not get far in reaching our potential. We will never find who we are capable of being. When have you found it worthwhile to 'carry your cross' for a while in order to achieve some goal that was important to you?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. Recently there has been talk about a law against blasphemy. What exactly is blasphemy?
- A. Blasphemy means to speak ill of God or sacred beliefs or objects in words of hatred, defiance, mockery or trivialisation. Not only is it seriously disrespectful to God but it is offensive to the religious sensibilities of believers. Profanity, which is close to blasphemy, means taking the sacred name of God or of the Saviour without proper respect.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

The Deep End – The Cross Section:

We face the cross again in today's Gospel (Mark 8:27-35). 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me' (v. 34). We're not allowed to forget the cross for long, are we? I wonder, though, did Jesus actually use the expression 'take up their cross'. If, as presented, he were talking directly to the crowd would he not have said 'you' instead of 'any', and 'yourselves' instead of 'themselves'? But maybe that's a translation issue. Maybe. Was the expression 'take up your cross' common coinage then? Is it not more likely to have been a later Christian expression in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection?

However, what is important is that Jesus – and consequently us his followers – was not a pain seeker. Suffering for suffering's sake is sick. Suffering for a purpose is not. Jesus' death on the cross is not a justification for us to seek pain. We're not masochists. But neither do we avoid the cross when it blocks the path to follow Jesus. Jesus links crosses with following him. To follow him is the reason for carrying them. But not just carrying them; using them, in fact, to serve his mission of bringing his good news to those who need to hear it. Part of that good news is that love is greater than fear, that the spirit to serve God's kingdom is stronger than the urge to preserve vested interests.

We never have to go dial a cross. The true one is always with us.

Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)