

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

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

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete) [Year C] (13th December, 2015)

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

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

Year of Mercy Quote for Reflection from Pope Francis Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Misericordiae Vultus

“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith”

“We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace”

Liturgy Schedule for the Third Week of Advent in Ordinary Time [Year C] (13th December, 2015 – 19th December, 2015)

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| Saturday 12th December St. Finian (bishop) and Our Lady of Guadalupe <i>Do This In Memory (week 4)</i> | St. Patrick's | 5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 13th December Third Sunday of Advent [Year C] | St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside | 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Patrick Devlin (Anniversary) |
| Monday 14th December St. John of the Cross (priest and doctor of the Church) | St. Patrick's | 7.30pm Mass <i>Please note time change</i> |
| Tuesday 15th December Third Week of Advent | St. Patrick's | 9.00am Mass |
| Wednesday 16th December Third Week of Advent | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass <i>Please note time change</i> |
| Thursday 17th December Third Week of Advent | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Friday 18th December Third Week of Advent | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Saturday 19th December Third Week of Advent | Sacred Heart Church, Omagh St. Patrick's | 10.30am – 6.00pm Confessions 5.15pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass followed by confessions: Charles Donnelly (Month's Mind) |
| Sunday 20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C] | St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside | 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass followed by confessions: Peter Daly (Anniversary) |
| Penitential Services with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament individually There will be up to 5 priests available | St. Patrick's, Greencastle St. Patrick's, Gortin Newtownstewart | 3.30pm Penitential Service 5.00pm Penitential Service 7.00pm Penitential Service |
| Tuesday 22nd December Penitential Service | Sacred Heart, Plumbridge | 7.30pm Penitential Service |
| Wednesday 23rd December Confessions | St. Patrick's | 6.45pm – 7.20pm and after 7.30pm Mass |

Our Lady of Lourdes PS pupils will have opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the coming week in school

Collection: Thank you for your kindness in last week's collection of **£959** and **£21** in the loose plate

Remembering Our Dead: We also pray for **Patrick Devlin** whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Holy Year of Mercy: As part of the diocesan celebrations for the Holy Year of Mercy Bishop McKeown has established the following four Centres of Mercy in the diocese:
St. Eugene's Cathedral • Sacred Heart Church, Omagh • St. Mary's, Maghera • The Oratory, Bunrana
The first Day of Mercy in these centres will be held on Saturday 19th December, when Confessions will be heard in these churches continuously from 10.30am to 6.00pm, with visiting priests.
You are welcome to come and experience the mercy of God as we begin our celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy

New Altar Servers Induction: A short and simple service of Induction of Altar Servers will take place during all masses next weekend (19th and 20th December). We welcome 10 new servers to service at the Altar and in service of the parish faith community. We thank each of them and their families for their generosity and look forward to their commitment in the future.
May this be just the beginning of a lifetime of service to God and his Church

Holy Trinity Church, Cookstown – Advent Carol Service: Led by the pupils of Holy Trinity College on Wednesday 16th December at 7.30pm.
All welcome to refreshments after the service in the school canteen

Next Sunday's Readings: Micah 5: 1-4 • Psalm 79: 3, 15-16, 18-19, R/ v4 • Hebrews 10: 5-10 • Luke 1: 39-44
Lectionary I, page 73 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

| 6.00pm Saturday Vigil | Offertory Gifts Rota | 9.00am Sunday Morning |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 12 th December* The family of Rian Slane | Third Sunday of Advent | Sunday 13 th December The family of Ciaran Morris |
| Saturday 19 th December The family of Caolan Tracey | Fourth Sunday of Advent | Sunday 20 th December The family of Claire O'Brien |
| Saturday 24 th December The family of Eoghan Conway | Feast of the Nativity of the Lord | Friday 25 th December The family of Laoise Teague |

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented
As the wider parish community we support these young people and their families with our prayers and thank them

***Do This In Memory Week 4** • We need new volunteers in every aspect of life

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992

YOUTH 2000 Group: Thursdays from 5.15pm to 6.30pm in The Oratory, Main Street, Newtownstewart. Prayer, music, friendship and Newtownstewart coffee! This will also be our Pope John Paul Award Project for 2015-2016. *16 year olds and over welcome*

IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – “Follow the Star” Christmas Trail: Friday 11th to Sunday 13th December, Wednesday 16th December and Friday 18th to Sunday 20th December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. Pre-booking is essential. **Tel:** (00353) 74938 4866 • **Email:** goldenagecentre@hotmail.com

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Wednesday 31st August to Wednesday 7th September. Direct from Belfast for the special price of £439 including half-board, tax and insurance if paid by Sunday 10th December.
For further details call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

The Net – December Edition Now Available: 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.
St Brigid's, Camhill students in Medjugorje • Scoile Mhuire, Bunrana • Burt youth tea • DYC in Bellaghy
Iskaheen Harvest Thanksgiving • Omagh healing Mass • Banagher 'au revoir' to Fr Graham
Bereavement support in Camdonagh and Greenlough • Fatima celebrations for Derry nun's Golden Jubilee
Ardmore hosts St Breacan's reunion • Killyclogher Altar Society • Lavey missionary making a difference
Limavady Mercy programme • Strabane pioneer's amazing pilgrimage • Life-changing Cor weekend
Advent prayer with Thornhill Ministries • St Joseph's Young Priests' Society
Inspiring talks for primary and post-primary teachers

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat: Friday 18th to Sunday 20th December in Newbridge College, Co Kildare. Youth 2000 invites all young adults between ages of 16 and 35 to a Catholic weekend retreat. This will be an exciting weekend attracting over 600 young people from all over the country. Expect good fun, excellent speakers, inspiring talks and workshops, prayer, fantastic live music, group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, a Healing Service, games, lots of time to chill out and meet new people. The weekend is being organised by young people for young people. Parental consent is essential for all those under 18. All meals are provided for and accommodation is on site! Don't let money be an obstacle; just bring a donation and a sleeping bag. Newcomers very welcome! There will be free buses picking up from various areas throughout the country. Booking is essential.
Website: youth2000.ie • **Facebook:** Y2KUlster • **Tel:** 00353 (0) 1 6753690

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

Flaxmill Centre Drumduff – Upcoming Events: (028) 8076 1848
Sunday 13th December (begins at 4.00pm) Santa Sunday with Santa – Magical Mascot Characters. £5 per child, adults free.

Owenkillew Play Actors – The Hard Man (by Michael J. Murphy) and A Thing of Beauty (by C. Kray):
Two One-Act Plays in Greencastle Community Centre on Saturday 12th December at 8.00pm sharp.

Thornhill Ministries – Upcoming Events:
Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July. Lourdes has been designated as one of the international places of pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy. Gift vouchers for any amount are available for purchase.
Application forms are available from Rosemary on (028) 7126 0293 or Theresa on 07517 965 751
Trip to the Holy Land: An 8-Day Retreat Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Thursday 15th to Friday 23rd September.
For more info call Sr. Perpetua on (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org

Camowen Farmers Meeting – Future in Farming: Monday 14th December at 8.00pm in the Milestone Centre, Carrickmore with Cormac Mckervy of Ulster Bank acting as speaker. *Everyone welcome*

Parking at Vigil Mass: It has been brought to my attention that there are problems occasionally with parking at the Vigil Mass on a Saturday night which can make it impossible for lorries and other large vehicles to pass the church during mass time. I would make an appeal for mass goers to have some consideration in this instance and to ensure that when parking at the church there is sufficient room for all vehicles to pass. Your cooperation in this matter would be deeply appreciated. *Fr. Edward Gallagher PP*

Fr. Hasson's Contact Details
63 Mayogall Road, Knockloughrim, Magherafelt, Co. Derry. BT45 8PG • (028) 7964 2458 • laveyandgreenloughpp@yahoo.co.uk

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God who never tires of forgiving.
Evangelisation: That families, especially those who suffer may find in the birth of Jesus sign of a certain hope.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:
Sunday 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.
 [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]
Monday 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. [Not celebrated this year]

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

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)

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – Master of Arts in Catholic School Leadership. 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.
For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Yoga with Margaret Franklin: Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán.

GCSE Irish Class: Tuesday afternoons from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh. This is also open to students from other schools and to adult learners of Irish.
Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** (028) 8225 6220

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

| Parish Liturgy for December, 2015 | St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) | St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass) | Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass) |
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| Readers | Francis McDermott | Nuala Glass | Martina McBride |
| Eucharistic Ministry | Francis Bradley | Maria Bradley | Josephine Clarke |
| Prayers of Intercession | Eimear Bradley | Ryan Clarke | Shauna Morris |
| Collectors | John Bradley Colm Devlin | Eugene Tracey Brendan Conway | Brendan Daly Sean McKenna |
| Altar Society | Kathleen Beggs Mary McCullagh | | Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory |

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

ACCORD Pre-Marriage Courses: It is important that all those preparing for Marriage should attend a pre-marriage course. If you intend to be married here in the Parish between now and the end of 2016 you should make arrangements to attend one of the ACCORD Courses in Omagh or at another centre if that suits you. These following dates are presently available.
 5th and 6th February • 4th and 5th March • 1st and 2nd April • 6th and 7th May • 3rd and 4th June • 24th and 25th June
Website: accord.ie • **Tel:** (028) 8224 2439 • **Email:** omagh@accordni.com

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 3: 10-18:*John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. 'What should we do?' The common thread in John's answers was to encourage his questioners to be other-centred rather than self-centred, each in the context of their own circumstances. In your experience what difference has it made for you when you changed your attitude in this way?
2. John told the people in a direct and honest way what they should do. Perhaps you have had friends who did not beat about the bush but have told you honestly what they thought about your behaviour when you asked them? In gratitude recall such friends.
3. The humility of John comes out in this passage, happy to acknowledge that he only had a minor role to play in relation to the Messiah. At the same time he was enthused by his mission to 'proclaim the good news to the people'. What difference has it made for you when you were able to see the good in yourself, and use your gifts without having to score by portraying yourself as greater than someone else?

Musings*Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)*

Joy is what makes life worth living, but, for many, joy seems hard to find. They complain that their lives are sorrowful and depressing. What then brings the joy we so much desire? Are some people just lucky, while others have run out of luck? Strange as it may sound, we can choose joy. Two people can be part of the same event, but one may choose to live it quite differently than the other. One may choose to trust that what happened, painful as it may be, holds a promise. The other may choose despair and be destroyed by it. What makes us human is precisely this freedom of choice.

*Henri Nouwen***The Deep End – Rejoice!***Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

In his poem Japanese Maple, Clive James offers a heartrending description of some of the beauty he observes during what he believes are his final days.

*You feel the drain
Of energy, but thought and sight remain:
Enhanced, in fact. When did you ever see
So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls
On that small tree
And saturates your brick back garden walls*

Faced with his mortality, the poet was able to celebrate and take pleasure in the simplest of things. The poem radiates with acceptance and a certain contentment as he reflects on the world and its 'sweet beauty'. (A year later he wrote of his embarrassment at still being alive after the attention the poem garnered!)

Today is Gaudete Sunday; the day takes its name from the Latin Gaudete meaning 'Rejoice'. The first line of our Second Reading uses the word 'happy' twice and 'happiness' once. This happiness Paul speaks of is not a passing mood, but a deeper happiness and contentment, a peace of heart. Do we take the time to cultivate this deeper sense of happiness? It is something we can think about as we prepare for Christmas. It is not the gifts and festivities that will bring us true and lasting happiness.

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 • otmal_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk

Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk

Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com

Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com prayerforpriests.com

Save Our Sperrins Meeting: First Wednesday of every month in Greencastle Community Centre with the next meeting on Wednesday 16th December at 8.00pm. Join your local environmental group with an interest in protecting and promoting our Sperrins, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Special guest speakers and an opportunity to immerse yourself in your local community with shared interests in using our local knowledge and previous generations' determination to preserve our beautiful, natural countryside for future generations.

Learn about local areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) like Cashel Rock, special not just for its 450 million year old geographical rock formation but also for protected wildlife including the Irish Hare and the Lapwing more commonly known as the 'Peewit'. The Owenreagh River running through Greencastle, due for designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as one of the last breeding grounds of the rare Freshwater Mussel (*Margaritifera*) in these islands. **Facebook:** SaveOurSperrins • **Email:** saveoursperrins@gmail.com