



**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughdery  
**Palm / Passion Sunday [Year C] (14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 816 48474

**Lenten Pastoral Letter– People Fit for Mission**

"The Bible is full of stories about people who had to look at the past through new eyes. After 40 years wandering in the desert, the Israelites looked back and saw those difficult years as a time when God formed them. The Apostles who, on Good Friday were in despair, could look back later and see that the Cross was a necessary moment of glory... Thus, we focus not on our resources but on the divine mission. We don't have to be in charge or to major in self-pity. We let God be Lord of the harvest. The One who fed the large crowd with a few loaves and fishes can do great things when we think we are empty handed. When St Paul felt under pressure, he heard a word from God, "My grace is enough for you; my power is at its best in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

*Bishop Donal McKeown*

**Liturgy Schedule for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum [Year C] (14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 – 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2019)**

<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b> St. Macartan (bishop)	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Mary McCullagh (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) <i>Do This in Memory (week 7)</i>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b> Palm Sunday [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass
Weather permitting we will gather at Calvary in Cemetery with Blessing of Palms and Procession <b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm</b> in St. Patrick's and <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am</b> Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside			
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Mass • <b>10.00am</b> Mass: Frank Conway (18 <sup>th</sup> ) Practice for Altar Servers
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon to 7.00pm</b> <b>7.00pm to 7.20pm</b>	Adoration Confessions • <b>7.30pm</b> Mass

**Easter Triduum**

<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b> Holy Thursday	St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	Chrism Mass Mass of Lord's Supper followed by Confession to <b>9.00pm</b> Adoration to <b>11.00pm</b> with Rosary and Night Prayer
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b> Good Friday <i>Day of Fast and Abstinence</i>	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>10.00am</b> <b>3.00pm</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	Morning Prayer and Confessions to <b>11.00am</b> Celebration of Lord's Passion and Confessions to <b>4.30pm</b> Stations of the Cross with Confessions before and after
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> Holy Saturday	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> <b>9.00pm</b>	Morning Prayer followed by Confessions to <b>11.00am</b> Easter Vigil
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> Resurrection of Lord [Year B]	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass: John Anthony (12 <sup>th</sup> ) and Sarann (19 <sup>th</sup> ) McCullagh

**Penance Services:** Please consider as the culmination of your Lenten efforts attending the Sacrament of Confession between now and Easter. There are various opportunities to do so both here and in nearby parishes

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>3.00pm</b> Greencastle • <b>5.00pm</b> Gortin • <b>7.30pm</b> Cranagh
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>8.00pm</b> Sacred Heart, Omagh
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>7.30pm</b> Oratory, Newtownstewart
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>8.00pm</b> Christ the King, Strathroy

**Weekly Collection:** £950

*Thank you for your generosity*

*During Good Friday Ceremony and Stations of Cross a collection will be taken up for Holy Places in Holy Land*

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Mary McCullagh (nee McDonald) (1<sup>st</sup>), Frank Conway (18<sup>th</sup>), James Clarke Snr. (32<sup>nd</sup>) and James Clarke Jr. (28<sup>th</sup>)** whose anniversary occur now.

**Chrism Mass:** Bishop McKeown will celebrate the annual Mass of Chrism with the priests of the diocese in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Holy Thursday morning (18<sup>th</sup> April) at 10.00am. During Mass the holy Oils for Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination are blessed. The priests renew their Ordination promises. It is the only Mass celebrated in the diocese on Holy Thursday morning. *Everyone is welcome*

**Next Week's Readings:** Acts 10:34, 37-43 • Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, R/ v 24 • Colossians 3:1-4  
 John 20:1-9 • Lectionary 1:417

**Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**6.00pm Saturday Vigil**

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April (DTIM week 7)	Palm	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April
The family of <b>Sean McGlinchey</b>	Sunday	The family of <b>Ella Kane</b>
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> April (9.00pm)	Easter	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April (11.00am)
The family of <b>Grace Teague</b>	Sunday	The family of <b>Michael Meenan</b>
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Second Sunday	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
The family of <b>Kayleigh Brogan</b>	of Easter	The family of <b>Niamh McGlinchey</b>

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

**Trócaire Lenten Campaign:** You are requested to return your Trócaire boxes or envelopes to the church beginning on Holy Thursday. Please also consider filling out the Gift Aid details on the box or envelope to make your contribution go that bit further. Thank you in advance for supporting this year's campaign to help those in particular displaced due to violation of Land Rights in Syria, Guatemala and Uganda.

**Annual Blessing of the Graves:** The ceremonies this year will take place as follows

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 6.00pm – St Patrick's Church Cemetery, Greencastle  
 Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 11.00am – Our Lady of the Wayside Cemetery, followed by St. Mary's Cemetery Broughdery

**Sick and Housebound:** Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care and with the opportunity for Holy Communion and Veneration of the Holy Cross on Good Friday (19<sup>th</sup> April) from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

**Rouskey Community Centre – Jiving and Line Dancing:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 8.45pm.

*4 weeks with Chris Cross • £5 per person*

**Thornhill Ministries – Oasis Day: Everything Belongs:** Retreat day in acceptance of joy and sorrow, limitations and potential as we pray our way through Holy Week. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 9:30am to 2.15pm. (028) 7135 1233

**Milestone Centre, Carrickmore – Farm Families Health Checks Vehicle:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April from 4.00pm to 9.00pm. A 15 minute check could save your life, early detection of diabetes, heart disease and emotional health and wellbeing. *To book a place call Camowen Farmers Ltd. on (028) 8076 1339 or arrive and wait • Open to all public*

**Institute of Irish Leadership:** Bookings now taken for light refreshments after months mine Masses.

Walking group continues every Monday (11 00am to 12 noon). Meet in forest car park.

Upcoming morning classes in Art and Irish Language starting on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April. *Further details later*

**SMA Retreat Centre, Dromantine, Newry – 2 Short Retreats:**

**Awareness and Mindful Living:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm/ Conducted by Martina and Patrick Sheehan. **Forgiveness:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June from 9.30am to 5.00pm, the journey from hurt to healing, freedom and peace. Conducted by Fr. Des Corrigan SMA.  
*Call the Retreat Centre, Dromantine on (028) 3082 1964 or email admin@dromantineconference.com*

**Lough Derg One Day Retreats:** 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Why not take some time and space on Lough Derg personally or as a parish group this May?

**Parish Ministry Day:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. A new event for those who serve in lay parish ministry.

Booking essential • Tel: 0(0353) 71 986 1518 • Email: info@loughderg.org • Website: loughderg.org

**Thornhill Ministries, Culmore Road, Derry – "Everything Belongs" Retreat Day:**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30am to 2.15pm with Fr. Paschal McDonnell. A time for reflection

as we process our life experiences and learn to accept our flawed, fragile and beautiful self.

**"Queen of the May Festival":** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May. We invite anyone who would like

to set up a May Altar to please get in touch. *Call (028) 713 51233 or email thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org*

**Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events:**

*To enquire call Tom on (028) 816 48719*

<b>Music Classes:</b>	Continues each week in St. Peter's PS, Plumbridge. 6.30pm to 8.30pm.
<b>Annual Class Feis:</b>	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm in the Mellon Country Hotel.
<b>Monthly Seisiun:</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April at 9.00pm in Leo's, Plumbridge. Come along for a good night. <i>Admission free • Supper served</i>

**Lenten Days and Holy Week Retreat at Dromantine:** *A Lenten Experience: Called to Renewal Holy Week Retreat:* Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> at 5.00pm to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 11.00am • The SMA Community invites you to join them in reflectively celebrating the Easter Triduum, beginning with the Seder Meal • £250 full board  
*Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry BT34 1RH • (028) 30821964 or admin@dromantineconference.com to book*

**Pope Francis' Intention for April (please remember this in your personal prayers)**  
**Doctors and their Collaborators in War Torn Areas:** For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war torn areas, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

**Accord Counselling Services:** Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

**ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training**  
 To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.  
**Omagh Office:** (028) 8224 6535 • **Enniskillen Office:** (028) 6632 6478 • **Facebook:** Aspire Employability Programme  
*The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows.  
**St. Patrick's:** Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass  
 First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding  
 Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass on request after Mass  
**Our Lady of the Wayside:** Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass on request after Mass

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages:** 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person  
 Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service  
*To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com*

**Kindercare Fostering NI:** Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:  
**Tel:** (028) 90941690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

**Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):**  
 Prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies  
*Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply) • Join our faith family!*

**Accord Counselling Services:** Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.  
*If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

**Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure:** If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.  
*If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting derryyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org*

**The Big Knit for Age NI** Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p.  
*To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/bigknit*

**Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:**  
 All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness  
*For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com*

**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*

Parish Liturgy for April, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Joann McCullagh	Patricia Reusch	Sean Teague
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	Nora McCullagh	Eimear Bradley	Cara-Rose Brogan
<b>Collectors</b>	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Brendan Conway Peter Tracey	Tony Donnelly Pat McGuigan
<b>Altar Society</b>	Eileen McKenna and Anne McAleer		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory

**Rural Support:** We could help you with financial stress by  
 Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt  
 Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action  
**Email:** info@ruralsupport.org.uk **Website:** ruralsupport.org.uk  
 To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

**Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour:** Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers.  
*Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com*

**The Priory Institute – Study Theology Online:**  
 Come and join our supportive student community and study theology by distance learning this Spring, register now!  
**Tel:** 00353 1 404 8124 • **Email:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com • **Website:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com

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

**Family Care Adoption Services** *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*  
 For a free information contact **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)  
 us using any of these details **Email:** anne.ohagan@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*

**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*

**Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday**  
**Sean-Nós and Set Dancing** 6.00pm to 7.00pm • **Singing in Irish** 7.00pm to 8.00pm  
**Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels** 8.00pm to 9.30pm  
**Email:** kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** 07747 899 249

**Red Cross:** Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.  
*Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011*

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

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:** *John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)*

This passage is a very rich one and it would be a mistake to attempt to pray each and every part of it. Almost every phrase has something new: actions, images, symbols, words. When you read the passage, stay with whatever part of it resonates with your own life, but make sure when you pray it that you stay with the passage until you get beyond the violence and the horror to find a good news lesson for you.

A few specific points taken at random are:

1. In this scene of great tragedy, there are people helping others, either reluctantly or with compassion: Simon, the women of Jerusalem, the criminal on the cross, and Jesus himself. Note the differences in the manner in which the help given (as a burden, with sympathy, etc). What has been your experience of helping and being helped?
2. Despite the persecution by the leaders Jesus still shows forgiveness. When have you seen that spirit of forgiveness in yourself or in others? In your experience, what is the effect of a forgiving spirit, or of its absence?
3. Towards the end, there is a ray of light. Jesus says 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'. His relationship with his Father was one of trust, even at a moment like this. What difference has it made to you in times of difficulty or pain to have a relationship of trust with God, or with someone else?

**The Deep End – Towards the Cross:** *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

We know where Jesus is going to end up, and Jesus knows it too. At the beginning of today's Mass, we hear of Jesus' spectacular entry into Jerusalem. The crowds who greet him cry out and praise God – the King has come! It is similar to how victorious army generals were welcomed home. These people have set their hopes on Jesus. They are waiting for a Messiah and King, and have heard so much about this preacher – is he the one they've been waiting for?

But Jesus is not the hero they've been expecting. He has not come to raise up an army or become a great political leader. Quite the opposite: Jesus has come to Jerusalem to die. The story takes a dark and dramatic turn, and we are plunged into a tale of arrest, trial, torture and death. Before long, the crowds are shouting 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' and taunting him on the cross to 'save himself if he is the Christ of God'. Jesus' triumphant entrance into the city is also his entry into his betrayal, suffering, and death.

We play our part in the unfolding drama today, as we first hold up our palm branches and later join the crowds condemning Jesus. In his Palm Sunday homily to young people last year, Pope Francis said the changing reactions of the crowds 'expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love, but also for great hatred; the capacity for courageous self-sacrifice, but also the ability to 'wash our hands'.'

Today we place ourselves in the Passion of Jesus, and we look to the Cross as our consolation and our challenge.

**Deanery of Tyrone Statistics**

17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.

8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000

6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people

3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people

The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics

7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?

In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.

The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.

Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s

The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

**PARISH EVENTS IN 2018**

<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> Service of Light for P7	<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> First Confession for P4
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> 5 Parishioners receive Pope John Paul Awards in Armagh Cathedral	
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> Confirmation by Bishop McKeown	<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> First Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b> P7 attend Fan the Flame Mass in Celtic Park Derry	
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b> Presentations to P7 Leavers and Mr. Noel McGinn on retirement as principal	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b> Cemetery Prayers in Parish Cemeteries	
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August</b> Parishioners, along with Fr Gallagher attend Festival of Families in Croke Park and Papal Mass in Phoenix Park	
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> Mr. Neil McCloy officially takes up role as principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b> All-Ireland Final – Tyrone v. Dublin	<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Mass for Parish Deceased
<b>10<sup>th</sup> November</b> Sr. Bride Counihan makes Mission Appeal	
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> Inaugural Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council	
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> Advent Penance Service	<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> 2 New Altar servers welcomed
<b>31 December</b> Large congregation gathers for Mass at final sunset of 2018	

**IMPORTANT DATES IN 2019**

**First Confession** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm • **Confirmation** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon  
**First Holy Communion** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 12 noon

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2017
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	2 within parish • 3 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	12

**Trocaire – Recruiting Volunteers:** To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.  
*If you are interested in volunteering visit [trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer](http://trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer) or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info*

**The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration**

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". *Pope St. John Paul II*

**Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration**

**12noon – 1.00pm** Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life

**1.00pm – 2.00pm** Married couples and those preparing for Marriage

**2.00pm – 3.00pm** Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people

**4.00pm – 5.00pm** Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth

**6.00pm – 7.00pm** The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

**The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility:** This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre. Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email [lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk)

**Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry. Bishop Mc Keown will celebrate.

*If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Communion at this Mass please call the Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email [ddcc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:ddcc@derrydiocese.org)*

**Armchair Exercises:** Continue every Monday night in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. *Suitable for all ages*

**Owenkillew Credit Union – Death Benefit Insurance (DBI):**

DBI is an insurance scheme whereby for a small premium, your nominee will receive an additional £2,000 to help defray funeral expenses. Can all members who have not paid their premium please call to either office and do so.

**Accord Marriage Preparation Course:** 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April • 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June • 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June Visit [accord-ni.co.uk](http://accord-ni.co.uk) to book

**Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2019**

*Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace*

"Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the polis... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have." This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity. In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002: "Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role. Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility. Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest. Blessed be the politician who remains consistent. Blessed be the politician who works for unity. Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change. Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening. Blessed be the politician who is without fear." Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.'

**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 / 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 entrance*

**Parents Prayer:** Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.

We thank and praise you. Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity.

May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. *Amen*

**Young Person's Prayer:** Here I am Lord, standing at the crossroads of my life, The time has come for me to choose the road which leads to you. I hesitate for fear of what lies ahead of me, for I am much afraid of the unknown. Take my hand in yours and walk with me for the road is long and there are no shortcuts.

I place myself into your hands. You know the way. You are the Way. *Amen*

**Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham**

**Masters in Catholic School Leadership:** Post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. A great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. Next intake: Autumn, 2019. *For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email [tferry@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org)*

**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](http://celticprayergarden.com) • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October):** 7 nights B&B and Airport

Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing, any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service.

*Call us on 01 4434510 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com) for further info and book dates that suit*

**Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July. £679. We welcome all pilgrims, especially pilgrims in need of care. We welcome doctors, nurses and youth (aged 17years+) to assist with those in need. Application forms now available. Call (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or email [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com) at any time.

**Marian Pilgrimages:** Fully escorted group pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, £579 pps. Including visits to the town of Pietrelcina, the house of Mary Pyle and Mass at the Shrine of St. Michael Archangel, accompanied by Spiritual Director.

*For more info on joining the group call Marie Martin on 0044 7799 11 2224*

**Pilgrimage to Rome and Tuscany:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June for nights, ex Dublin (includes

Assisi, Florence and Pisa). Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Donnelly. Guide: Kieran Troy  
£1,090 per person sharing (single room supplement £280). Includes guided tours and most meals.

*Call Paul or Marie at Downe Travel on (028) 4461 3288 or email [marie@downetravel.co.uk](mailto:marie@downetravel.co.uk)*

**String Instrument Music Lessons:** Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall

For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent

**Beginners:** 6.00pm to 6.45pm • **Advanced:** 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place

**Mid Ulster Agewell:** Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

*For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email [marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org)*