

**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
**St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudate) [Year B] (14<sup>th</sup> December, 2014)**  
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
 Website: greencastleparish.com    Tel: (028) 8164 8474    Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com

Today is **Gaudate Sunday** which, taken from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, means "rejoice." Penitential violet is replaced with rose, a colour of joy. The priest may wear rose vestments; rose may be woven into the liturgical decorations; and the third candle on the Advent wreath (traditionally rose) is lit. Even in the liturgical colours we sense a shift in the liturgies of the season. This shift will be especially noticeable beginning Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, but even today's liturgy gives a hint that something is on the horizon. Possibly dating back to the Middle Ages, when the season of Advent bore an overly penitential character, the rose colours signalled joyfully that the church was closer to Christmas. Although today the rose colour is still a sign of the anticipatory Christmas joy, we understand the continuity of Advent as a season of 'devout joyful expectation.'

Today's liturgy helps to heighten the expectation, which will carry through to the celebration of Christmas.

**Liturgy Schedule for the Third Week of Advent [Year B] (15<sup>th</sup> December – 21<sup>st</sup> December)**

<b>Saturday Evening (13<sup>th</sup> December)</b> St. Lucy (virgin and martyr)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6:00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday <b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Sunday of Advent [Year B]	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass: Kathleen Duffy (Anniversary)
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Sacred Heart, Omagh	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Penitential Service with several priests available for the Sacrament
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Christ the King, Strathroy	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Penitential Service with several priests available for the Sacrament
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	<b>8.00pm</b> Mass:
<b>Saturday Morning (20<sup>th</sup> December)</b> St. Fachanan (bishop)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Saturday Evening (20<sup>th</sup> December)</b> Do This In Memory (week 4)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6:00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday <b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year B] Penitential Services in preparation for Christmas with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament individually	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's, Greencastle St. Patrick's, Gortin Sacred Heart, Plumbridge	<b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass: Peter Daly (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary) <b>3.30pm</b> <i>Fr. Forbes (PP Badoney Lower),</i> <b>5.30pm</b> <i>Fr. Donnelly (PP Badoney Upper)</i> <b>7.00pm</b> <i>and Fr. Hasson will be available</i>

*If you are a homemaker, not at work or retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily during Advent*

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection of **€938** and **€37** in loose change.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for **Gerald McGurk** whose funeral took place last Monday and for **Kathleen Duffy**, whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs:**  
 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion at this Mass call the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 / email dccc@derrydiocese.org.

**IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – "Follow the Star" Christmas Trail:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. Pre-booking is essential. *For tickets and further information call the IOSAS Centre (00353) 74938 4866*

**Trócaire – Christmas Gifts:** Trócaire Christmas gifts are now on sale and can make a life-changing difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries. *Visit [trocaire.org/gifts](http://trocaire.org/gifts) • Pick up a leaflet at the Church door*

**Next Sunday's Readings:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14; Psalm 88:2-5, 27,29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38; Lectionary I, page 70  
**Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**GAA Lotto Results:** C • F • P • V • W (9 with 3 letters, 5 drawn winning £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £3,850

<b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b> Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Patrick Morris</b>	<b>Offertory Gifts Rota</b> Third Sunday of Advent	<b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b> Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Niamh Tracey</b>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December*</b> The family of <b>Shanice Morris</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December The family of <b>Joseph Warnock</b>

As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership. Thanks to all who participate in the life and work of our parish faith-community. **\*Do This In Memory Programme (week 4)**

**Do This In Memory of Me:** Our parish First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in St. Patrick's next weekend (Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December). In preparation there will be a practice for all involved in the programme on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December in the Church at 7.00pm. Our next Sunday gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (17<sup>th</sup> January).

**The Pope Lights the Tallest Christmas Tree in the World** *Vatican City (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December) [VIS]*  
 Every year on this day in Gubbio, the Italian city where St. Francis tamed the wolf, the tallest Christmas tree in the world is lit up. Situated on the slopes of Mount Ingino, it is made up of dots of light of different types: 250 green dots trace a silhouette more than 650 metres high, which contains more than 300 lights of various colours. It is topped with a star of 1000 square metres, made up of 200 white lights. At dusk on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, the Holy Father illuminated the tree from the Vatican using a tablet, and he greeted those in attendance in Gubbio.

"In switching on the light of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the crib.

"Many thanks for your gift, it is beautiful. Also I give to you my warmest wishes, peace and happiness.

"If you have something dark in your soul, ask the Lord for forgiveness. Christmas is a great opportunity to cleanse the soul. Do not fear, the priest is merciful, forgiving all in the name of God, because God forgives everything.

"May there be light in your hearts, in your families, in your cities. And now, with this wish, let us turn on the light.

"Blessed be God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Merry Christmas and pray for me".

**Child Safeguarding:** Please familiarise yourself with the policy by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church.

**Spend time in silence and service before Christmas, pope suggests**

In the heart of Rome's high-end shopping district, sparkling with Christmas lights and shiny baubles in the windows of famous designers, Pope Francis prayed that people would spend time in silence and in service as they prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. Celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Pope Francis prayed for Mary's intercession so that, "in us, your children, grace also will prevail over pride, and we can become merciful like our heavenly Father is merciful."

Before laying a basket of cream-colored roses at the foot of a statue of the Immaculate Conception near Rome's Spanish Steps, Pope Francis recited a special prayer he composed for the occasion.

The feast is a major Rome holiday, and with brilliant blue skies replacing days of grey and rain, thousands of people lined the streets near the Spanish Steps to catch a glimpse of the pope and pray with him for Mary's assistance.

Pope Francis said Mary being conceived without sin should give all Christians hope and strength "in the daily battle that we must conduct against the threats of evil," because her immaculate conception is proof that evil does not have power over love.

"In this struggle we are not alone, we are not orphans," he said, because Jesus gave his mother to be our mother.

**Continued in the online news sheet →**

**Jack and the Beanstalk:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 3.00pm. A relaxed performance designed to create an enjoyable atmosphere for young people with learning and sensory difficulties and their families.

**Pope John Paul II Award:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February in the Millennium Forum, Derry. There are 800 students currently participating in the award. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the award in the Derry Diocese and it will be launched in several other diocese this year. Those who are currently doing the award are due to complete by mid-November.  
*Fr. Hasson would like Year 13 students undertaking the award program to offer their gifts for service in our parish*

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July. Gift vouchers are available from the Thornhill Centre (028) 7135 1233 and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre (028) 7136 2475. *Vouchers can be used as part or full payment towards the pilgrimage*

**Pilgrimage to Medugorje:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Direct from Belfast. Price includes half-board, tax, insurance, will cost €439 if paid by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. *For info call Maria Bradley on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038*

<b>Greencastle Youth Club Rota</b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P3 and P7	Rosie Morris (6.30pm – 8.00pm)
		Year 8, 9, 10	Liz Conneely (8.00pm – 9.30pm)
	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	P4 and P5	Caroline McCann (6.30pm – 8.00pm)

**An Bruach Dearg Community Centre:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30pm Card playing.

**Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)**  
**Universal:** That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.  
**For Evangelisation:** That parents may be true evangelisers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

← *Continued from above*  
 "Today we invoke her maternal protection on us, our families, this city and the world," the pope said, praying that God would "free humanity from every spiritual and material slavery."  
 "In this time that leads up to the feast of Jesus' birth, teach us how to go against the current," Pope Francis prayed to Mary. Teach people how to be unencumbered, "to give ourselves, to listen, to be silent, to not focus on ourselves, but to leave space for the beauty of God, the source of true joy."  
 In a small blue Ford Focus, the pope was driven to the Spanish Steps' neighbourhood after first stopping for a private prayer at the Basilica of St. Mary Major.  
 Earlier in the day, with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis led the recitation of the Angelus, a Marian prayer.  
 Commenting on the feast day's Gospel reading -- Luke's story of the annunciation to Mary that she would be Jesus' mother -- the pope said it was important that Mary did not respond, "I will do what you say," but "May it be done unto me."  
 "The attitude of Mary of Nazareth," he said, "shows us that being comes before doing, and that we must let God do in order to be truly as he wants us to be. He will accomplish marvels in us."  
 "We, too, are asked to listen to God, who speaks to us and accept his will," the pope said. "According to Gospel logic, nothing is more effective and fruitful than listening and accepting the word of the Lord."  
 The pope also said the Gospel story shows how Mary "is receptive, but not passive." She agrees to God's will, receives the power of the Holy Spirit and gives "flesh and blood" to the son of God.  
 And while Mary was conceived without sin -- a special and unique privilege -- "we, too, always have been 'blessed,' that is loved, and therefore 'chosen before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him,'" as the day's reading from Ephesians said.  
 Recognising how blessed they are, the pope said, Christians must be filled with gratitude and ready to share their blessings with others.  
 "If everything has been given to us, everything must be given again," he said. "How? By letting the Holy Spirit make us a gift for others."  
 Pope Francis encouraged Christians to let the Holy Spirit make them "instruments of welcoming, instruments of reconciliation, instruments of forgiveness."

**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.

**Camowen Farmers Meeting:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm in the Milestone Centre, Carrickmore, Speaker Tom Armstrong Provita Topic: Better animal performance, also Brian Lamont DARD Topic: Equality Assessment. Also Linedance class Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm in the Milestone Centre. *Admission is £5.00*

**Craft Training Ltd:** A leading organisation that gives young people training opportunities to learn new skills and gain qualifications that can help them to succeed in their chosen career path and earn £40 per week, all free of charge! Gain the skills you need to kick start your career.  
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**Tel:** (028) 8225 9377 • **Address:** Kelvin Avenue, Omagh • **Email:** joincraft@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Liturgy for December, 2014	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Francis McDermott	Catriona McCullagh	Brendan / Helen McKenna
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
<b>Prayers of the Faithful</b>	-- TBC --	-- TBC --	Conan Maguire
<b>Collectors</b>	Francis McLaughlin Mary Bradley	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Tony Donnelly Brendan Daly
<b>Altar Society</b>	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
New choir members will always be welcome – Contact Sinead			

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2015			
<b>Sacramental Celebrations</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.30pm</b> First Confession
	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	St. Patrick's	<b>2.00pm</b> Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop McKeown)
	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion

<b>Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	St. Patrick's
	<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside

<b>Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February • Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April • Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>		St. Patrick's
	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July • Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September • Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>		Our Lady of the Wayside
Morning Masses will be celebrated as above unless a Requiem is needed on the dates			

<b>Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July)</b>	<b>Saturday Evening (4<sup>th</sup> July)</b>	St. Patrick's	Directly after <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday Morning (5<sup>th</sup> July)</b>	Our Lady of Wayside St. Mary's, Broughderg	Directly after <b>11.00am</b> Mass
	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2014)

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion		
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Third Week in Ordinary Time	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Sixth Week in Ordinary Time	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Second Week of Lent	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Third Week of Lent	<b>6.30pm</b> First Confessions (Reconciliation)
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Palm Sunday	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Third Sunday of Easter	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Feast of Corpus Christi	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass

**Warm Homes – Are you entitled to Free Insulation and Heating?**  
 For info call 0800 988 0559 or visit [warm-homes.com](http://warm-homes.com)

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 1:6-8, 19-28:** John Byrne OSA ([john@orlagh.ie](mailto:john@orlagh.ie))

- John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
- John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
- John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

## Musings

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

Our Second Reading today prays 'may God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through'. What does it mean to be 'sanctified', to be 'made holy'? We suffer today from some very skewed ideas about those who are 'holy': the caricature is of people who are otherworldly, excessively serious, and who suffer from bouts of 'holier-than-thou-ism'. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. To be holy is to be 'whole', 'well-rounded', exuberant with life ('rejoice always'). And, most importantly, to have hearts full of gratitude ('give thanks in all circumstances'). In the words of Ronald Rolheiser, 'the holiest person you know is the most grateful person you know'.

## The Deep End – 'A Witness to Speak for the Light':

*Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

There is so much darkness around us: in the Church, in the troubled parts of the world, in our own families and even in our own hearts. It is easy to become cynical. The Gospel today tells us that John the Baptist was someone who was 'a witness to speak for the light.' He gave hope to people. We can think of many people in society today who witness to the light. One that comes to mind is Malala Yousafzai. Malala was shot by the Taliban on her way to school in Pakistan. She was targeted for speaking out on the rights of women to education. She has said: 'We realise the importance of our voices only when we are silenced. I was shot on a Tuesday at lunchtime, one bullet, one gunshot heard around the world.' Malala was in her chemistry class when she heard she was to be the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. She celebrated by going on to a physics class.

Look around your families and communities and you will see many who witness to the light. We each have the capacity to do the same, however dark the situation may be. The Gospel challenge is to bring hope and good news. We should take example from the Malala's of the world.

They bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light always shines, a light that darkness cannot overpower, and therefore we can all believe again.

*Michel de Verteuil*

**Public Initiative for Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm (PIPS)** (028) 3026 6195 • [info@pipsnewryandmourne.org](mailto:info@pipsnewryandmourne.org)  
**Christmas Service of Remembrance, Hope and Healing:** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Upper Hill Street, Newry. For families and friends of loved ones lost through suicide.

**Irish Language Class for Beginners:** Every Thursday in Greencastle GAA Hall from 8.00pm to 9.30pm.

Teenagers and adults are welcome.

*Call Sinéad Warnock on 07849 394 001*

## This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December – St. Fachanan (bishop)** Although little is known with certainty about Fachanan, a strong tradition from early times links him with Kilfenora and records that he founded a Church or monastery there in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. He is venerated as the patron of the diocese of Kilfenora, now part of Galway.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – St. Peter Canisius (priest and Doctor of the Church) [1521-1597]** Born in Holland. He intended to become a lawyer but joined the Jesuits. Through courtesy and learning he promoted the Catholic revival after the Council of Trent. His greatest work was a catechism of 211 questions and answers, published in 1555. [Not celebrated this year]

## ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses

St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028)8224 2439 [accordomagh@accordni.com](mailto:accordomagh@accordni.com)

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January • 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February • 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April • 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May • 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June

**Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date**