

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (15th February, 2015)
Day of Prayer for Temperance
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com

Day of Prayer for Temperance: What a great legacy and gift it would be for our children in this new emerging country of ours if we would be the generation brave enough to promote and work for an attitude and culture of moderation rather than excess in our use of alcohol. If we could promote abstinence or moderation and create attitudes towards alcohol use that are conducive to a better and healthier way of life, then indeed we would be leaving a wonderful inheritance to future generations.
Pastoral Letter from Irish Bishops 2007 • catholiccommunications.ie
Irish Bishops' Drug & Alcohol Initiative (IBDAI), Columba Centre, Maynooth. Co. Kildare • ibdai@iecon.ie

Liturgical Schedule for the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time and Beginning of Lent [Year B] (16th February – 22nd February)

Saturday Evening (14th February)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 15th February Day of Prayer for Temperance [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 16th February Sixth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 17th February St. Fintan (abbot) and the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (religious)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Season of Lent: Lent is the season of grace and conversion, of penance and reconciliation, of renewal of our baptismal promises. Lent is marked with seriousness, consciousness of the poorest of the poor, attention to prayer and liturgy, attentive listening to the word of God, and "with the gladness spiritual desire await holy Easter" <i>Rule of Saint Benedict, 49</i>		
Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	10.00am Mass <i>Ashes will be blessed at both Masses</i> 8.00pm Mass
Thursday 19th February Thursday after Ash Wednesday	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 20th February Friday after Ash Wednesday	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8.00pm Mass: Packie Glass (Month's Mind)
Saturday Morning (21st February) St. Peter Damian (bishop and doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (21st February)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass

If you are a homemaker, not presently working or retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection of **£776.50** with **£13.50** in loose change.
Lourdes Hospitalite Collection: Thank you for the contribution of **£705** that was taken up last week.
 This annual diocesan collection is the main source of funding for the care of the sick pilgrims from all over the diocese.
Pro Terra Sancta (Support for the Holy Land) Collection: This will be taken up on Ash Wednesday (18th February).

Baptisms: As a parish community we welcome **Keeva Gillian Tracey** who was baptised recently. May our community offer our newly baptised and her parents and sponsors prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Remembering Our Dead: Pray for **John Joe Hollywood** and **Annie Quinn**, whose anniversaries occur at this time. We also pray for **Cecilia Straza**, **Charlie Morris** and **Jeannie Keenan**, the recently enrolled members of the Derry Diocesan Society.

John Paul II Awards 2015 – Recipients from Greencastle Parish
 Francis Michael McKenna • Rosemary McCullagh • Aoibhin McKenna • Emma Hood • Aileen Touhey • Peter Fox

Do This In Memory: Our next Sunday gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (Saturday 7th March).

An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Card Playing: Every Friday night at 8.30pm.

Video of Pope Francis' Powerful Visit to an Immigrant Shantytown: youtube.com/watch?v=G7beFXdrygw

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25 • Psalm 40:2-5, 13-14, r/v 5 • 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 • Mark 2:1-12
 (Lectionary I [Year B], page 752) **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

GAA Lotto Results: C • E • H • L • O (15 with 3 letters, 5 drawn winning £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £4,250

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 14 th February The family of Caitlin Clarke	Offertory Gifts Rota Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 15 th February The family of Tara Haughey
Wednesday 21 st February The family of Sorcha Hughes	First Sunday of Lent	Thursday 22 nd February The family of Alisha McKenna

Alzheimer's Society Carer Information Programme – Upcoming Events:
 Derg Valley Healthy Living Centre, 5-7 Parkview road, Castlederg from 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Monday 16 th February	Challenging Behaviours	Nicola Hayes (Specialist Nurse)
Monday 23 rd February	An Overview of Local Services Independent Voice in Health and Social Care	Julie-Anne Casson (Alzheimer's Society) Patient and Client Council

If you have any queries call Julie-Anne Casson on (028)8224 0826 / (078) 8960 4702

Lenten Retreat – What Would Jesus Have Done? Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd February in Ards Friary Retreat and Conference Centre, Creeslough, Co. Donegal – directed by Fr. Eddie Butler (Birmingham). A Lenten journey with Pope Francis.
Residential (€140) • Non-Residential (€80)

Lenten Retreat in Irish: Sunday 22nd February from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Directed by Fr. Kieran Shorten, OFM Cap. This retreat will be delivered entirely in Irish.
Tel: 00353 07491 38909 • Email: info@ardsfriary.ie

Vocations Information Day: Do you feel god is calling you as a priest? Saturday 21st February from 11.00am to 4.00pm in Ardstraw House, 21A Buncrana Road, Derry.
 To become a priest or a religious is not primarily our choice; it is our answer to a calling, a calling of love. *Pope Francis*
 To confirm attendance or for further information contact: Fr. Paul Farren at ddcc@derrydiocese.org or on (028) 7126 4087

Forms of Friday Penance The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance:
 Abstaining from meat or some other food • Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking
 Making a special effort at involvement in family • Making a special effort to participate in Mass
 Visiting the Blessed Sacrament • Making the Stations of the Cross • Helping the poor, sick aid or lonely
 Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy
From the statement on Friday Penance issued by the Bishops' Conference, 2011

Alcohol: The Challenge of Moderation *A pastoral letter from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference*

We commend the many adults and young people who have chosen to remain abstinent from alcohol until 18 years old or for life. We encourage people who feel that for them alcohol has become a problem and decide to seek professional help from treatment centres, local health services or support groups in their community.

We commend all the good work which is done by support groups around the country and the many parishes and communities that provide meeting rooms and services for such groups.

What a great legacy and gift it would be for our children if we would be the generation brave enough to promote and work for an attitude and culture of moderation rather than excess in our use of alcohol. If we could promote abstinence or moderation and create attitudes towards alcohol use that are conducive to a better and healthier way of life, then indeed we would be leaving a wonderful inheritance to future generations.
Full text can be read at catholiccommunications.ie

Corrymeela Community 50th Anniversary Celebration – Lenten Pilgrimage of Prayer for Peace Throughout Ni: Thursday 26th February at 11.00am with a Reflection & Prayer from Omagh Churches' Forum at the premises of Omagh Support & Self Help group Campsie. At 11.30am travel to Gortin Glens and complete a 5-mile walk. *Bring a packed lunch • All welcome*

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

Southwest College – Open Day: Tuesday 24th February from 2.00pm to 8.00pm at Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh Campuses. Come along to find out about courses and options following GCSEs or A-Levels. Everyone welcome!
Tel: 0845 603 1881 • Website: www.swc.ac.uk/penday

Thornhill Ministries' Team – Supporting Parish Liturgy Series 1: 23rd February and 2nd, 9th 16th and 23rd March in the Fir Trees Hotel, Melmount Road, Strabane. A six week workshop programme for members of liturgy teams, pastoral councils, and those who have an interest in supporting the liturgical life of the parish. Cost £40. Facilitators are Sr. Perpetua McNulty and Sr. Marie Wiley. *To book call (028) 713 51233 or email thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org • Module 2 will follow in the Autumn*

We stumble and fall constantly even when we are most enlightened. But when we are in true spiritual darkness, we do not even know that we have fallen.
Thomas Merton

Man only likes to count his troubles, but he does not count his joys. *Fyodor Dostoevsky*

Pope's Message for Lent – Make Your Hearts Firm:

Vatican City (Tuesday 27th January, 2015) [VIS]

The following is the full text of the Holy Father Francis' message for Lent 2015, entitled "Make your hearts firm"

The document was signed in the Vatican on 4th October, 2014, the festivity of St. Francis of Assisi

"Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each communities and every believer. Above all it is a 'time of grace'. God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. "We love because he first has loved us". He is not out from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure. Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I do not think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalisation of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront. When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. One of the most urgent challenges which I would like to address in this Message is precisely the globalisation of indifference.

Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. In the Incarnation, in the earthly life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, the gate between God and man, between heaven and earth, opens once for all. The Church is like the hand holding open this gate, thanks to her proclamation of God's word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love. But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which God comes into the world and the world comes to him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded.

God's people, then, need this interior renewal, lest we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves. To further this renewal, I would like to propose for our reflection three biblical texts.

1. 'If one member suffers, all suffer together' – The Church

The love of God breaks through that fatal withdrawal into ourselves which is indifference. The Church offers us this love of God by her teaching and especially by her witness. But we can only bear witness to what we ourselves have experienced. Christians are those who let God clothe them with goodness and mercy, with Christ, so as to become, like Christ, servants of God and others. This is clearly seen in the liturgy of Holy Thursday, with its rite of the washing of feet. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, but he came to realise that Jesus does not wish to be just an example of how we should wash one another's feet. Only those who have first allowed Jesus to wash their own feet can then offer this service to others. Only they have 'a part' with him and thus can serve others.

Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ. In this body there is no room for the indifference which so often seems to possess our hearts. For whoever is of Christ, belongs to one body, and in him we cannot be indifferent to one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy'.

The Church is the *communio sanctorum* not only because of her saints, but also because she is a communion in holy things: the love of God revealed to us in Christ and all his gifts. Among these gifts there is also the response of those who let themselves be touched by this love. In this communion of saints, in this sharing in holy things, no one possesses anything alone, but shares everything with others. And since we are united in God, we can do something for those who are far distant, those whom we could never reach on our own, because with them and for them, we ask God that all of us may be open to his plan of salvation.

2. 'Where is your brother?' – Parishes and Communities

All that we have been saying about the universal Church must now be applied to the life of our parishes and communities. Do these ecclesial structures enable us to experience being part of one body? A body which receives and shares what God wishes to give? A body which acknowledges and cares for its weakest, poorest and most insignificant members? Or do we take refuge in a universal love that would embrace the whole world, while failing to see the Lazarus sitting before our closed doors? →

← In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to press beyond the boundaries of the visible Church in two ways.

In the first place, by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven. The prayers of the Church on earth establish a communion of mutual service and goodness which reaches up into the sight of God. Together with the saints who have found their fulfilment in God, we form part of that communion in which indifference is conquered by love. The Church in heaven is not triumphant because she has turned her back on the sufferings of the world and rejoices in splendid isolation. Rather, the saints already joyfully contemplate the fact that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, they have triumphed once and for all over indifference, hardness of heart and hatred. Until this victory of love penetrates the whole world, the saints continue to accompany us on our pilgrim way. Saint Therese of Lisieux, a Doctor of the Church, expressed her conviction that the joy in heaven for the victory of crucified love remains incomplete as long as there is still a single man or woman on earth who suffers and cries out in pain: 'I trust fully that I shall not remain idle in heaven; my desire is to continue to work for the Church and for souls'.

We share in the merits and joy of the saints, even as they share in our struggles and our longing for peace and reconciliation. Their joy in the victory of the Risen Christ gives us strength as we strive to overcome our indifference and hardness of heart.

In the second place, every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people.

Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. Her mission is to bring to all a love which cannot remain silent. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth. In each of our neighbours, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. What we ourselves have received, we have received for them as well. Similarly, all that our brothers and sisters possess is a gift for the Church and for all humanity. Dear brothers and sisters, how greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!

3. 'Make your hearts firm!' – Individual Christians

As individuals too, we have are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer! The '24 Hours for the Lord' initiative, which I hope will be observed on 13-14 March throughout the Church, also at the diocesan level, is meant to be a sign of this need for prayer.

Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organisations. Lent is a favourable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.

Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart. A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realises its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalisation of indifference.

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you".

Pope Francis' Intentions for February (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal – Prisoners: That prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.
Evangelisation – Separated Spouses: That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community

Pope's Anti-Drug Call – Say No, Simply, to All Its Forms - Also Reminds Law Enforcement That as Christians, We Are Called to Help Those Struggling With Addiction:
Vatican City (Friday 20th June, 2014) [zenit.org]

Pope Francis says drugs are a serious and complex “evil” plaguing our society, which must be combatted, without fail or compromise.

The Holy Father said this when he addressed today participants in the 31st International Conference on combatting drugs, which was held in Rome this Tuesday through Thursday.

The Pope reminded them that as Christians, we are called to help those in need, including those who have fallen into “the spiral of drugs.”

“The scourge of drugs continues to rage in impressive shapes and sizes, powered by an ugly market that crosses national and continental boundaries. In this way, there is a growing danger for young people and teenagers,” he said.

In the face of this phenomenon, Francis said that as Christians we are to help those struggling.

“The Church, faithful to the command of Jesus to go wherever there is a human being suffering, thirsty, hungry, in prison, has not abandoned those who have fallen into the spiral of drugs, but with its creative love goes out to meet them ... Takes them by the hand, through the work of many workers and volunteers so they could rediscover their dignity, helping to resurrect those resources, those talents that the drug had buried, but that could not be deleted, since every man is created in the image and likeness of God,” he said.

When one is addicted to drugs, it is a grave problem, in which the user always “loses,” he said. “Let me say very clearly: Drugs, no one wins with drugs! Drugs are an evil, and with evils, there can be no failure or compromise.”

He acknowledge that users often are those trying to cope with problems and hopelessness, noting the example that with some 75 million currently unemployed in Europe, many today are without hope.

Regardless of difficulties, the Pope said, “you still must say no to all drugs.” However, in doing so, he said, “you can say yes to life, yes to love, yes to others, yes to education, yes to sports, yes at work, yes to more job opportunities.”

Although we have a responsibility to help those who have fallen into the “spiral,” the priority should be prevention. “Job opportunities, education, sports, healthy life: this is the way of drug prevention. If you say ‘yes’ to these, then there is no place for drugs, there is no place for alcohol abuse and other addictions,” he said.

Francis shared his hope that goals set out at the meeting can be achieved, especially those “to coordinate anti-drug policies, to share relevant information and develop an operational strategy aimed at combating drug trafficking.” He urged them to continue their work to help those “eager to escape the dependency on drugs, commit themselves to rebuild their lives is an incentive to look ahead with confidence.” (D.C.L.)

Those who graduate through Alcoholics Anonymous are warned of, among many things, the dangers of complacency, of describing yourself as cured. The programme of AA does not promise to turn you into someone who no longer drinks, but only to help the alcoholic to resist the first drink, one day at a time.

From the book Lapsed Agnostic by John Waters

The pope said that the Holocaust should teach “new generations” that “only the difficult path of listening and dialogue, love and pardon” can lead to “fraternity and peace in truth.”

He expressed his prayer that the Holocaust be a warning for everyone: “May the Shoah teach especially, as much the old generations as the new ones, that only the tiring path of listening and dialogue, of love and pardon, leads peoples, cultures and religions of the world to the desired encounter of fraternity and peace in the world. May violence never again humiliate the dignity of man!”

Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behaviours. Keep your behaviours positive because your behaviours become your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.
Mahatma Gandhi

Parish Liturgy for February, 2015	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	John Enright	Mary Clarke	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of the Faithful	Caoileann Conway	Aiden / Ryan Clarke	Grace Conneely
Collectors	Colum Devlin Michael McElhatton	Eamon Tracey Brendan Conway	Pat McGuigan Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Kathleen Tracey Maria Morris		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke
New choir members will always be welcome – Contact Sinead			

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 17th February – St. Fintan (abbot) Born in Leinster, he received his religious formation in Terryglass, Co. Tipperary under the abbot Colum and was deeply influenced by his penitential practices and the severity of the Rule. Fintan made his own foundation in Clonenagh, Co. Laois. He died in 603.

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (religious) In the early 13th century seven young merchants of Florence decided to help one another live more perfect Christian lives. As the result of a vision they became known as the ‘Servants of Mary’ and followed the Rule of St. Augustine [not celebrated this year].

Friday 21st February – St. Peter Damian (bishop and doctor of the Church) A reforming monk in the circle of Pope Leo IX and a cardinal. In 1823, he was declared a Doctor of the Church.

Saturday 22nd February – Chair of St. Peter the Apostle This ancient feast relates to early Roman custom at this time of year of remembering the ancestors of the family, those who presided the Chair of St. Peter over the family fortunes. The texts today celebrate Peter as Bishop of Rome. We recall Christ's choice of Peter for service to the whole Church.

Lough Derg – Ecumenical Celebration of Friendship and Prayer on Ash Wednesday: Wednesday 18th February from 10.30am to 3.00pm. This year's guest speaker is the former president of the Methodist Church, Rev. Dr Heather Morris. The event will conclude with an ecumenical prayer service in St Patrick's Basilica. *Distribution of Ashes and Eucharist are not included*
Everyone welcome, including community interfaith groups • Admission is £22 / €25 and includes refreshments and lunch. Advance booking is essential • For more information / bookings call (00353) 7198 61518 or email info@loughderg.org

St. Joseph's Church, Galiagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs:
 Saturday 14th 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.

Couples Preparing to Celebrate Marriage in Northern Ireland: You are asked to note that the period of notice for marriage, which is required by civil law, is increasing from a minimum of 14 days to a minimum of 28 days, with effect from 2nd March. Couples must give at least 28 days notice of marriage to the civil Registrar local to the place where marriage is to be celebrated.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses
 St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@accordni.com
 6th and 7th March • 10th and 11th April • 8th and 9th May • 12th and 13th June
Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date

2014 Parish Statistics				
Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation	Marriages	Funerals
8 Boys	4 Boys	7 Boys	5 within parish	22
8 Girls	7 Girls	8 Girls	5 outside parish	
Station Masses in October	Parish Pilgrimage Sunday: This was marked with our pilgrimage to the Mass Rock at Dorville on Sunday 3 rd August where our special guest and main celebrant was our new bishop, Bishop Donal McKeown on his first visit to the parish. We have now completed our series of pilgrimages to the Penal Mass sites located within our parish boundaries. <i>Thank you for sharing your photographs</i>			
5				

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 1:40-45: John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. Jesus' compassion for people suffering was an outstanding characteristic of his ministry. We see the healing power of God at work through him. Recall times when the compassion of others has had a healing effect on you. Remember also when your compassion towards someone in trouble brought them hope, healing or strength.
2. 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Our choice is a key factor in how we affect others. We cannot choose to have no impact on the people in our lives. Even a choice to do nothing has an effect. When have you been particularly aware of the importance of your choice to be a positive influence on another?
3. Lepers were forced to live away from others. The leper's cure meant that he was also readmitted to contact with the community. Perhaps you recall people who were once ostracised being brought back into family or community. Who was the Jesus person who helped this healing to take place?
4. The joy of the leper on being healed was such that he could not keep the good news to himself. Bring to mind occasions when you were so filled with good news that you could not keep it to yourself?

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

It can be relatively easy for us to cheer Jesus on as he reaches out to someone on the margins of first-century society with a condition (and stigma) that few of us encounter in our everyday lives. But it's worthwhile to ask: who are those who are sometimes consigned to the margins of our own society on the grounds of race, creed, skin colour, sexual orientation, mental illness, criminal record, addiction, homelessness and so on - and how Christ-like is our attitude towards them?

The Deep End – Of Course I Want! Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

One short sentence strikes me in today's Gospel: 'Of course I want to!' It is Jesus' response to the leper who asks to be cured, and it shows us Jesus' generosity of spirit. He was not just carrying out his duty – he was touched by the man and really wanted to help and to heal him.

What if we were to live by this simple phrase? You may have heard of people taking on an experiment whereby they said 'yes' to everything they were asked in a particular day. Some people make new year resolutions to say 'yes' more or to be more positive. Why not make 'Of course I want to!' our motto today? We might find ourselves more prepared to respond to requests for help. We might spend more time playing with our children, or visit our loved ones more often. We may be able to approach our work with more enthusiasm, or go along to Mass with more of a sense of joy than habit.

Have a look at the Second Reading today. Paul encourages us to try to be helpful to everyone at all times, to be anxious for others rather than for ourselves – with the ultimate goal of bringing others to salvation. If we recognise the dignity of all our brothers and sisters, and realise we have a part to play in helping to bring God to them, and them to God, we might just find ourselves responding to others' needs with a resounding 'Of course I want to!'

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2015

Sacramental Celebrations	Friday 13th March	St. Patrick's	6.30pm	First Confession
	Sunday 26th April	St. Patrick's	2.00pm	Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop McKeown)
	Fourth Sunday of Easter			
	Sunday 17th May	St. Patrick's	11.00am	First Holy Communion
	Feast of the Ascension			

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

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

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (4th and 5th July)	Saturday Evening (4th July)	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm	Vigil Mass
	Sunday Morning (5th July)	Our Lady of Wayside St. Mary's, Broughderg	Directly after 11.00am	Mass
	Monday 2nd November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2015)

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Saturday 7th March	Second Week of Lent	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Friday 13th March	Third Week of Lent	6.30pm	First Confessions (Reconciliation)
Saturday 28th March	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Saturday 18th April	Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 17th May	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am	First Holy Communion
Saturday 6th June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm	Vigil Mass

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 1st to 6th 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