



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

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

**Third Sunday of Lent [Year A] (15<sup>th</sup> March, 2020)**

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

Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 816 48474



### PARISH OF GREENCASTLE CORONAVIRUS STATEMENT

Dear Friends, unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 virus all weekend / Sunday Masses will be suspended from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March until further notice. All are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to attend mass. We are now only permitted to have no more than 100 people in the church at any time. The idea of having small masses of up to 100 people is intended to be an **EXCEPTION** rather than a rule and is mainly to facilitate the holding of funeral services or weddings for immediate family members and close relatives only. Given that our attendance is relatively small, weekday masses will continue until otherwise directed. Remember when in attendance to observe the recommended safe distance from each other.

The parish churches will be open for your private prayer. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue in St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday as usual. Parishioners can avail of weekend / weekday masses on various parish webcams, e.g. Drumragh, Cappagh and Melmount Parishes or Radio Maria Ireland (see bulletin notice). It is hoped that a Sunday Mass will be streamed live via our Parish Facebook Page.

I will happily attend any residence if needed in an emergency. At the request of the Bishop, Hospital and Nursing Home visits are suspended. Parish Confirmation ceremonies are being suspended until further notice. Advice will be given at a later date regarding arrangements for First Confession and First Holy Communion.

To maintain parish upkeep and to facilitate the weekly Sunday collection, provision will be made through posting your weekly envelope through the Parochial House letterbox. I intend to make some provision for Broughderg in the coming week.

We continue to pray for and with each other in spirit. *Fr. Edward Gallagher PP*

**Thought for the Week:** "If we are constantly upset and impatient with others, we will end up drained and weary. But if we regard the faults and limitations of others with tenderness and meekness, without an air of superiority, we can actually help them and stop wasting our energy on useless complaining."

*Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness (section 72)*

### Liturgy Schedule for the Third Week of Lent [Year A] (15<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> March)

<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Do This in Memory (week 7)</i>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Philomena Feeney (5 <sup>th</sup> Ann.)
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b> Third Sunday of Lent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>6.30am</b> <b>8.00pm</b>	Mass Vigil Mass for St. Patrick's Day
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> St. Patrick (bishop and Principal Patron of Ireland)	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b>	St. Patrick's Day Mass
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon – 7.15pm</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	Adoration Mass
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.30am</b> <b>8.00pm</b>	Mass Mass followed by Stations Mass: Memorial for late Benny Clarke (FAMILY ONLY)
<b>Please note that there will be NO MASS on the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March, see the Parish website for more details</b>			

**Weekly Collection:** £1,040

*Thank you for your generosity*

**Irish Language Collection:** After St. Patrick's Vigil and Day masses. This money will go towards helping our local children as well as adults with the cost of attending the summer Gaeltacht courses to learn Irish. We have a long tradition of the Irish language in our area and this is a great way to continue to support our national language.

*For info on scholarships, message club Oifigeach Gaeilge Orla Warnock on 07795 309 487*

### Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):

Commercial free 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!

**Baptisms:** We pray for the families and friends of **Isibéala Rose Ferrity** and **Ronan John Campbell** who were welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March in St. Patrick's Church and Our Lady of the Wayside respectively.

**Remembering our Dead:** We pray for the soul of **Pat Casey (formerly Westmeath and London)** wife of Margaret (nee McCullagh) who died this week and for the happy repose of the soul of **Benny Clarke (formerly Binnefreaghan)** who died in England recently and for the soul of **Philomena Feeney (5<sup>th</sup>)** whose anniversary occur at this time.

**Trócaire Fundraiser – Easter Basket:** This will be raffled in aid of this year's Trócaire Lent Appeal. The basket can be seen in O'Neill's Centra, Greencastle in the near future. Further details in the shop and future parish bulletins.

**Foster Carers – Urgently Required in the WHSCT Area:** To meet the unfortunate demand for foster placements. If you think you can help, please call 0800 0720 137

**COVID-19 – Important Notice:** All GAA activities suspended until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March.  
Card playing and all other community centre activities suspended until further notice.

**An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Card Playing:** Every Friday night at 8.00pm. *Refreshments served*

**Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Monthly Seisiún:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 8.30pm for juniors and 9.30pm onwards for seniors in Leo's Lounge, Plumbridge. Admission free. *For more info call Tom on (028) 816 48719*

**St. Patrick's Day Masses** in both churches will be celebrated in both Irish and English. The Clerical Education and Ongoing Formation collection will be taken up at the St. Patrick's Day Masses. There is a special envelope for it. This collection is used for the fees and expenses of diocesan seminarians and for the ongoing formation costs that arise for priests of the diocese.

**Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. £579.  
Includes half-board, tax and insurance. *Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or Whatsapp 07768 395 038 for more info*

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (led by Bishop Donal McKeown):**  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. For enquiries / book call (028) 7126 0293 / email derry pilgrim@outlook.com  
Doctors and nurses are invited to consider taking part to assist those in need. *Contact Lourdes Office for details*

**Next Week's Readings:** 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 • Psalm 22, R/ v 1 • Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41 • Lectionary 1:276 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

### Lent 2020 in the parishes of the Diocese of Derry

Throughout Lent resources and parish events for Lent will be published on the diocesan website and its social media channels. You are encouraged to follow and share these resources:

**Web:** derrydiocese.org **Twitter:** @DioceseOfDerry **Facebook:** @derrydiocese

You are also asked to recite daily during Lent the following Diocesan Lenten Prayer

Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. *Amen*

**Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection:** O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

<p><b>Pope Francis' Intention for March (please remember this in your personal prayers)</b>  <b>Catholics in China:</b> We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.</p>
<p><b>Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends</b>  Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry.  <i>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</i></p>
<p><b>SMA Retreat Centre, Dromantine – Lenten Retreat Days:</b> Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March (led by Fr. Damian Bresnahan) and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March (led by Fr. John Gallagher). These Days of Reflection offer opportunities to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. 9.30am to 5.00pm. Cost £25, including lunch.  <i>To book call (028) 3082 1964 or email sma.dromantine@sma.ie</i></p>
<p><b>Drink Wise, Age Well:</b> Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?  <i>For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240</i></p>
<p><b>Accord Counselling Services:</b> 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. <i>To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com</i></p>
<p><b>Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers:</b> To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.  <i>If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info</i></p>
<p><b>Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour:</b> 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.  <i>Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com</i></p>
<p><b>ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training</b>  To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.  <b>Omagh Office:</b> (028) 8224 6535 • <b>Enniskillen Office:</b> (028) 6632 6478 • <b>Facebook:</b> Aspire Employability Programme  <i>The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy</i></p>
<p><b>Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October):</b> 7 nights B&amp;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.  <i>Call us on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com for further info and book dates that suit</i></p>
<p><b>MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas):</b> 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.  <i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i></p>
<p><b>Accord Counselling Services:</b> Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.  <i>If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com</i></p>
<p><b>Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure:</b> 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.  <i>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</i></p>
<p><b>Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:</b>  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  <i>For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com</i></p>

Parish Liturgy for March, 2020	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Martin McCullagh	Patricia Reusche	Sean Teague
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	Sorcha Hughes	Miceal McCann	Caoileann Maguire
<b>Collectors</b>	Daniel McCrory Raymond Bradley	Frank Keenan Eugene Tracey	Brian Gillen Perry McCrory
<b>Altar Society</b>	Mary Conway	Mary Meenan	Anne Mc Dermott and Martina Daly
<p><b>Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages:</b> April – October. 7 night stay and airport shuttle service from Dubrovnik or split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for more info and book the dates that suit you. <i>0144 345 10 • reservations@med-irishcentre.com</i></p>			
<p><b>Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration</b>  <b>12noon – 1.00pm</b> Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life  <b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b> Married couples and those preparing for Marriage  <b>2.00pm – 3.00pm</b> Sick and the Housebound • <b>3.00pm – 4.00pm</b> Strengthening of Faith in our young people  <b>4.00pm – 5.00pm</b> Parish Unity • <b>5.00pm – 6.00pm</b> Protecting life and the Earth  <b>6.00pm – 7.00pm</b> The Holy Souls and the Bereave</p>			
<p><b>String Instrument Music Lessons:</b> Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall  For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent  <b>Beginners:</b> 6.00pm to 6.45pm • <b>Advanced:</b> 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place</p>			
<p><b>Rural Support:</b> 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  <b>Email:</b> info@ruralsupport.org.uk <b>Website:</b> ruralsupport.org.uk  To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606</p>			
<p><b>Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration</b>  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".  <i>Pope St. John Paul II</i></p>			
<p><b>Towards Peace:</b> 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.  <b>Website:</b> towardspeace.ie • <b>Tel:</b> 01 505 3028 • <b>Email:</b> towardspeace@jecon.ie</p>			
<p><b>The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility:</b> 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.  <i>Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk</i></p>			
<p><b>Thornhill Ministries, Derry – Holy Land Pilgrimage Retreat (applications now available):</b>  Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October.  <b>Tel:</b> (028) 7135 1233 • <b>Email:</b> thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org • <b>Website:</b> thornhillministries.co.uk</p>			

**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](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Epilepsy Action NI:** Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury? Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

**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)*

**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

**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*

**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*

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

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	11

Some Important Dates		
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm</b> Service of Light for P7 Confirmation children		
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm</b> First Confession for P4 Children	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b> Easter Sunday	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm</b> Confirmation
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 12noon</b> First Holy Communion	<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> / Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b> Cemetery Prayers in Greencastle / Broughderg	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> All Souls Day Mass for Faithful Departed

**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*

**Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham**  
**Masters in Catholic School Leadership**  
A 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. The next intake will be Autumn.  
*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

**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](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**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](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Can't stop? There is a solution.  
Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email [csoofaa@btinternet.com](mailto:csoofaa@btinternet.com). [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://alcoholicsanonymous.ie).

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

**Family Care Adoption Services** *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*  
For free info contact us **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)  
**Email:** [anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org](mailto:anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org) • **Website:** [familycaresociety.co.uk](http://familycaresociety.co.uk)

### 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%

**In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II – 10 Night Pilgrimage to Poland:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Follow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, visit the capital of Divine Mercy, venerate the messenger of Mercy, St. Faustina's relics, see the cell that imprisoned St. Maximilian Kolbe (martyr) as well as visit the largest Marian shrines and sanctuaries in Poland – daily Mass and spiritual activities. Flights from Belfast, luxury coach travel and excellent accommodation.

For more info, a detailed itinerary and price email Fr. Micheál McGavigan at [michealmcgavigan@icloud.com](mailto:michealmcgavigan@icloud.com)

### Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:

John Byrne OSA ([jpbymeosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpbymeosa@gmail.com))

1. Jesus leads the woman along a wonderful journey towards a deeper, fuller human life. You can enter the story from the perspective of the woman. Recognise her resistance to growth, her complacency, her evasions, and her eventual acceptance, partial though it was, of Jesus. When have you made a similar journey in your relationship with God? With others? With your own self?
2. The woman is attracted by what Jesus is saying, but for a very human motive: the thought of having water in such a way that she did not have to come and draw it from the well. We too can be attracted to Jesus by very mixed motives, some of them matters of personal interest: belonging, community, security. What have been the motives attracting you to faith, prayer, religion, church? In what way have these been stepping stones to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus? Perhaps we can also see the same movement in the growth of some of our human relationships.
3. You can also enter the story with Jesus, the ideal leader, parent, teacher, or spiritual guide. Notice how he meets the woman where she is, needing her assistance, how he is patient with her, but also challenges her to grow to what she is capable of.

### The Deep End – 'Give Me a Drink!'

Jane Mellett ([mellettj@gmail.com](mailto:mellettj@gmail.com))

In today's Gospel, we hear the wonderful account of the woman at the well. We hear of physical thirst but also of a much deeper thirst, for connection and conversion.

During Lent, we are invited into the lives of Trocaire's partners in the global south. We meet Madris in Kenya, who walks around the dusty brown patch of land beside her small home, where she lives with her six children. There are no crops visible, just a few scraggy bushes. Madris tells us, 'I feel very bad when the rains don't come because all my plants depend on rainfall.' Water scarcity worldwide is being accelerated by the climate crisis. Scientists tell us that rain-fed agriculture will drop by 50% world-wide by 2030, due to global warming.

When we think of how we might help, we give, and that is good. But we must also be aware of a deeper conversion that is needed. Change is possible, solutions are there, and as faith communities we are invited into this journey of change. The woman in the Gospel today is so deeply affected by her encounter with Christ that she runs to tell the others. May we also be enthused and open to a real thirst for climate justice, aware that we are called to 'an ecological conversion whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.' (Laudato Si, 217)

A challenge: How much water do you use? Where water is concerned how can you serve God more fully?

For water tips visit [taptips.ie](http://taptips.ie)

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

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – St. Patrick (bishop and Principal Patron of Ireland)** Born in Roman Britain in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century, Patrick was taken captive at 16 years of age and brought by pirates as a slave to the Braid Valley in the glens of Antrim. He worked as a shepherd around Sliabh Mis (Mt. Slemish) near the present-day town of Ballymena. After six years he escaped back to Britain, but he heard God's call to return to convert the Irish. After studies for the priesthood in France, he returned as Bishop c. 432 and commenced the remarkable conversion of the Irish. Died in 491.

### Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2020: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Applications are now being sought for the 2020 Youth Pilgrimage, from those who will be age 17 at time of travel. Forms can be requested through schools or directly from the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ (email [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com)).  
Gift Vouchers for all pilgrims to the value of £25 and £50 can be ordered via these same contact details