

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry

Saint Patrick's Church, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg

The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (15th November, 2009)

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

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Liturgy Schedule for the Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary Time. 15th November – 22nd November, 2009

Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: (Brendan Morris – 12 th Anniversary)
Sunday 15th November Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 10.30am Confessions 11:00am Mass
Monday 16th November St. Margaret and St. Gertrude	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 17th November St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 18th November Dedication of the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul A practice for choir and families involved in the <i>Do This In Memory</i> programme	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass 7.30pm More singers are welcomed
Thursday 19th November Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 20th November Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	8.00pm Mass: (Naomh Padraig GAA Deceased Members)
Saturday 21st November Presentation of the BVM	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass: (Brian O'Neill – 10 th Anniversary)
Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: (Do This In Memory)
Sunday 22nd November Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 10.30am Confessions 11:00am Mass

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,000. Please support your parish by using your envelope even if you must attend Mass outside your parish, thank you.** Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes. Thank you also for the last week's contribution of **£680** to the **Retired Priests' Fund**. In 2008 a contribution of **£920** was made and in 2007 **£1,550** was made.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Brendan Morris** and **Brian O'Neill** whose anniversaries occur at this time. We pray today for the most recently enrolled members of the DDS (Derry Diocesan Society): **Fr. William Rafferty, Dan Bonner, Sissy Forster** and **Susan McAleer**.

Confirmation, 2010: The Bishop has informed us that he will come to Greencastle for Confirmation on Sunday 18th April (Third Sunday of Easter). **Other important dates for 2009:** Primary 4 pupils will make their First Confession on Friday 16th April and First Holy Communion on Sunday 16th May (The Feast of the Ascension).

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Please support the clothes bank in the car park. Your donations are greatly welcomed. If you wish for support from the society should visit St. Vincent de Paul Shop, Castle Street, Omagh. Tel: (028) 8224 9839.

Naomh Padraig GAA Greencastle: All parents playing for both St. Patrick's GFC and Sperrin Og Ladies are asked to attend a brief information night in The Community Centre on Friday 20th November at 8.45pm. As this is a one-off meeting we ask all parents to make a special effort to attend.

Next Sunday's Readings: Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 92; Apocalypse 1:5-8; John 18:33-37 Lectionary I, page 829

Lotto Numbers: 3, 8, 10, 19 **Jackpot:** £1,000 **Congratulations to Maurice Bradley who won the £1,850!**

Serving Our Faith Community in Greencastle Parish

21 st / 22 nd November, 2009	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Prayers of Intercession	Seoirse Conway	Volunteer needed	Helen McKenna
Offertory Gifts	The family of Serene Morris	The family of Connor Bradley	

Do This In Memory of Me: Our parish programme, in preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, continues at the Vigil Mass in Greencastle next weekend (Saturday 21st November – Vigil Mass for the Feast of Christ the King).

Pilgrimages and Retreats

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (16th – 21st July, 2010): Cost £629 – payable in instalments. Application forms are now available in the sacristy (Greencastle). Forms for those in need of special care or those aged 80 or over are available only from the Pilgrimage Office. Give someone whom you love an opportunity of going on our pilgrimage as your Christmas gift. Vouchers worth between £25 and £100 are now available from the Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. (028) 7126 0293. Office hours are Tuesday 11.00am-1.00pm, Thursday 11.00am-2.00pm and Saturday 11.00am-1.00pm.

Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry – One Day Retreat for Senior Citizens:

Tuesday 17th November at 8.00pm.

Annual Pioneer Retreat: Sunday 6th December beginning at 10.30am. Donation: £14.

St. Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot, Co. Donegal: A space of quiet, prayer and solitude. Available for individual retreats and spiritual guidance. Residential accommodation and meals in the Centre's hermitages. Promotions offer €45 per night. "Come away by yourself to a desert place and rest for a while." Contact Fr. Neal Carlin on 00353 74936 8370 or sacre@eircom.net for enquiries and bookings.

BADA An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:

Every Friday Night	Card game from 8.30pm
Saturday 14th November	Table Quiz at 9.00pm
Sunday 22nd November	Dance, with music by <i>Country Legends Peter and Harry</i>

Greencastle Youth Club – Parent Rota:

Monday 16 th November	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Louise Coyle
Monday 16 th November	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Angela Slane
Tuesday 17 th November	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Kelly McAleer

Children in Crossfire are launching their 2009 Advent campaign in Greencastle, the proceeds from which will help vulnerable children and young people in Ethiopia and Tanzania. Children in Crossfire Advent calendars will be available over the weekends of **21st and 22nd November**, and **28th and 29th November**. For more details, please visit www.childrenincrossfire.org/advent

Footprints of God: Fr Kevin McElhennon will lead a series of reflection evenings from February - April entitled "*In The Footprints of God*". These evenings are offered to everyone who would like to journey reflectively through the Gospel stories. By reflecting on the Gospel stories, and getting to know the people and places of the Gospels, we hope to deepen our faith and enrich our relationship with Jesus. Though open to everyone, these reflections will be especially beneficial for anyone who is intending to join us on our Holy Land Pilgrimage (see ad in our Pilgrimages section) as it is hoped that these reflections will enhance our experience and enjoyment of the Holy Land. Details of our planned Advent Reflection evenings will be published in a couple of weeks.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Board of Governors: A vacancy has arisen. If you wish to volunteer for this important role; supporting our children and our school community please make contact with Mr. Francis Bradley (Chair) or Fr. Eugene Hasson (Parish Priest).

Help to contain the swine flu impact: Everyone can play their part, and simple measures such as regular hand-washing and using a tissue can go some way towards mitigating this pandemic's impact.

Irish News (18th July, 2009)

This Week's Calendar of Saints:

- Monday 16th November** – **St. Margaret (1045-1093)** Wife of Malcolm III, King of Scotland, helped by her example and influenced the work of reform in the Church.
St. Gertrude (1256-1302) A Benedictine nun, from the age of five she cultivated devotion to the Sacred Heart and advocated frequent Communion.
- Tuesday 17th November** – **St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231)** Queen at fourteen, widowed and exiled at twenty. Franciscan tertiary until her death at twenty-four. A woman of prayer and service of the poor.
- Wednesday 17th November** – **Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome** There are four major basilicas in Rome and each of them has an observance on the Church's universal calendar: it is not so much the church buildings that we are honouring, as the saints to whom they are dedicated. Today's scripture readings focus our attention on the special grace God gave through two imperfect, impetuous, but exceptional men, Peter and Paul.
- Saturday 21st November** – **Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Originated in the East and was included on the General Calendar in the 16th century. With the feasts of Immaculate Conception and the Nativity of Mary, this feast reminds us that Mary was the chosen vessel of God from the very first moment of her life.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – **Mark 13:24-32**:

1. Jesus speaks of the established order falling apart, but the collapse of the old order opened the way for new possibilities. When have you seen something new and hopeful emerge after the collapse of something that you had expected to endure much longer, perhaps even forever?
2. The parable of the fig tree. Even in winter it begins to put forth leaves which give a hint of the fruit to come. Where have you found signs of hope in a wintry situation – in your own life, in the life of some group, in the life of the Church?
3. Jesus proposes no clear time-scale for the events being foretold, so the final sentence (v.32) is a call to alertness, to live the present to the full. What difference does it make to you when you are able to live the present moment to the full?
John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. Jesus spoke of a time when the sun would be darkened and the moon would lose its light. Does this refer to three days darkness when the only source of light will be blessed candles?
- A. The words of Jesus are in the context of the end of this material universe before the final triumph of God's reign. It is not meant as a message of terror but of hope in the anticipation of God's glory. This message of three days darkness is something that is predicted regularly by self-appointed prophets. Invariably the predicted date comes and goes without the darkness. Pay no attention to this nonsense but celebrate Christian hope every time you pray 'Thy Kingdom come'.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

The Deep End – **Beyond the Senses**:

There are only two possibilities: human life has meaning or it hasn't. It has direction powered by purpose, or else it's like a fungus, free-floating on a speck of cosmic dust going nowhere fast. But if there is nothing beyond what we see, touch, taste, hear and smell from where comes the heart's deep yearning for things beyond the senses? Francis Thompson expresses that yearning in his poem, *In No Strange Land*: 'O world invisible, we view thee/O world intangible, we touch thee/O world unknowable, we know thee/Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!' That clutching is for that which gives life its mystery, for that which shatters the daily deceit of seemingly ordinary things to grace us with a glimpse of their grandeur. It's palpable in music that captives the soul, in poetry that punctuates the mundane with rhythm from another zone. It's in art that sates the eye with beauty transcending time. It's in people when they love, and even when they don't. When we're in touch with mystery today's First Reading (Dan 12:1-13) will not seem as bizarre as it might otherwise appear. Its style won't take from its substance. Resurrection of the dead is clearly central to God's plan for his creation. We need to focus on resurrection else death will have the final say. And the spot for that focus is life's ordinary things. Again Francis Thompson: 'Not where the wheeling systems darken/And our benumbed conceiving soars!/The drift of pinions, would we hearken/Beats at our own clay-shuttered doors.'

Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)