

**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg  
 Third Sunday of Advent [Year A] (15<sup>th</sup> December, 2013)  
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
 Website: greencastleparish.com    Tel: (028) 8164 8474    Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com

**The Faith-community of Greencastle parish thank Fr. Dave Nixon MSC for celebrating Mass this weekend**  
**Liturgy Schedule for Third Week of Advent [Year A] (15<sup>th</sup> December – 22<sup>nd</sup> December)**

<b>Saturday Evening (14<sup>th</sup> December)</b> <i>Do This In Memory Week 3</i>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6:00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> Second Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo) <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass: Gerard, Mary and Gerard McCrory (Anniversaries)
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <i>Sick and housebound visits</i>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> St. Fachanan (bishop)	St. Patrick's	<b>8.00pm</b> Mass: Peter McCaffrey (Month's Mind)
<b>Saturday Morning (21<sup>st</sup> December)</b> St. Peter Canisius (priest and Doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Saturday Evening (21<sup>st</sup> December)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6:00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> Third Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo) <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) in Preparation for the Feast of Christmas**

<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Sacred Heart Church, Omagh	<b>7.30pm</b>
	St. Columille's Church, Carrickmore	<b>8.00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Church of Christ the King, Strathroy	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle	<b>3.00pm</b>
	St. Patrick's Church, Gortin	<b>5.00pm</b>
	Sacred Heart Church, Plumbridge	<b>7.30pm</b>

**The latter has been kindly arranged by Fr. John Forbes PP Badoney Lower**

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£800**.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for **Peter McCaffrey**, whose anniversary occurs at this time.

<b>Greencastle Youth Club Rota</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P4 to P6 P7 to Y10	Rosie Morris / Michelle Clarke Plunkett McAleer / Michelle Clarke
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**We wish all our members a Happy Christmas – Resuming Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

<b>Greencastle Community Centre Upcoming Events</b>	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Card playing from 7.00pm.
	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Annual bazaar from 5.00pm.

**BADA – Upcoming Events:** **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** Card playing at 8.00pm. Refreshments served

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 146:6-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11;  
**Sunday: Year A • Weekday: Year 1**

**Lotto Results:** A • G • J • O • Q (12 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn winning £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,300

<b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b> Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December* The family of <b>Odhran Hughes</b>	<b>Offertory Gifts Rota</b> Third Sunday of Advent	<b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b> Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Tiernan Teague</b>
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> The family of <b>Cody McAleer</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> The family of <b>Caitlin Warnock</b>
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December (8.00pm)</b> The family of ---	Feast of the Nativity of the Lord	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December (11.00am)</b> The family of <b>Caomhe Warnock</b>
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December (6.00pm)</b> The family of <b>Molly McCullagh</b>	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> The family of <b>Meaghan Clarke</b>
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> The family of <b>Ronan Coyle</b>	Second Sunday of Christmas	<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> The family of <b>Aine Lucas</b>

As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership. **What can you volunteer to do in your parish?** Thanks to all who participates in the life and work of our parish faith-community. **\*Do This In Memory Week 3** *We need new volunteers in every aspect of life*

**Tuesday's Child – All Ireland Christmas Art Competition:** Children and young people (aged 3-21) are invited to get creative and sign up. Great prizes to be won across all age categories including 1,000 euro family voucher kindly donated from Marian pilgrimages for trip to Rome, Fatima, Medjugorje, Lourdes, Holy Land, hand-made cribs from Bethlehem and painting sets. Proceeds to Tuesday's Child's Christmas Appeal for children in Gaza, Syria and Kenya. Also beautiful Christmas cards of the Holy Family, 100% of cost to catholic missionaries helping families in Tacloban, Philippines. **Online:** tuesdayschild.ie **Email:** info@tuesdayschild.ie **Text Orla or Patricia:** 07545 452 362

**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2014) – Gift Vouchers:** Now available at The Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. **Tel:** (028) 71362475 *Vouchers can be obtained for any amount*

**Family Disco in Broughderg:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**The Mill Memorial Sponsored 4 Mile Walk:** In memory of Alice, Bernie and Eileen. Starts at 1.00pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December from McCrear's, Glenhull. Donation on registration. Santa arriving at 6.30pm. Proceeds in aid of Care for Cancer, Omagh and Green Elves Playgroup. *Please come along, your support is welcome*

**Prayer from the Community at Taize:** God of love, we are disconcerted by the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the world. So we turn to you - you do not let us give in to discouragement. You bring us to understand that our prayer and our compassion count. Be close to those who are suffering and send your Holy Spirit, that all humans may be inspired to make signs of peace.

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

**Friday 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.

**Saturday 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.

**Children in Crossfire – Advent Appeal:** A Derry-based charity helping some of the most vulnerable children in Tanzania, Ethiopia and Gambia. By supporting our Advent Appeal you can help us make a real difference. £19 will provide a family with a food boost kit with essential seeds, grains and plants for a family to cook balanced nutritional meals. £45 will buy a bike for a health extension worker to cycle to remote areas to conduct home visits. *If you would like to find out more please contact us on (028) 7126 9898 or visit our website at [childrenincrossfire.org](http://childrenincrossfire.org)*

**IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – Follow the Star Christmas Trail:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. *Pre-booking essential. For more information call the IOSAS Centre on (00353) 74938 4866*

**Sharing the Good News:** A new monthly one page newsletter from the Catholic Communications Office. This newsletter, which is for the benefit of parishioners, will be published monthly to promote Church teaching and the pastoral work of bishops as well as the councils, agencies, offices and initiatives of the Bishops' Conference.

**Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)**  
**General – Victimised Children:** That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need.  
**Missionary – Prepare the Saviour's Coming:** That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Saviour's coming.

**The Advent Candles:** Candles are lit to symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ. On the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent a purple candle is lit (each Sunday the candle from the previous Sunday is re-lit) the colour purple as used during the period of Lent, reminds us to prepare a welcome for Jesus during the Advent season. On the third Sunday of Advent a pink candle is lit. Pink is the colour of joy to remind us that we should be ready to welcome Christ at Christmas. On Christmas Eve the white candle is lit to celebrate the Birth of Christ – the Light of the World.

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. There are two stages in Advent: the first runs until 16<sup>th</sup> December, the second which, is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts runs from 17<sup>th</sup> December until 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**The Advent Wreath:** Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes especially in Germanic countries and in North America – we do so in Church each year. The Advent wreath with its progressive lighting of four candles, each Sunday until Christmas is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of Justice (cf Mal 3:20; Luke 1:18).

**Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half Marathon:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.  
*Please contact Eileen at [events@childrenincrossfire.org](mailto:events@childrenincrossfire.org) or call (028) 7126 9898 / 07840 182 004*

**Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time** *Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)*  
 God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura. Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help. Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time. Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.  
**Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.**

**Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau:** The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying?  
*For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo on 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at [knockmarriagebureau.com](http://knockmarriagebureau.com) and read about the workings of the Bureau*

**Appeal on behalf of Family Care Society:** Family Care Society is a voluntary adoption agency with its roots in the Catholic Church and we provide an adoption service throughout all of Northern Ireland. A core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. These children are often from the care system and may have had a difficult start in life. We are experienced in finding families for these children but given the number of children being referred and their specific needs we are always looking for families to come forward. We would like to thank you for the support you have provided to date. It has proved to be a very successful way of finding adoptive families. Given however our urgent need presently to find families for more young children, we are again respectfully asking for your help.

**Adoption:** Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged between 2 to 6 years and need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?  
**Tel:** (028) 9069 1133 [Belfast] // (028) 7136 8592 [Derry] • **Email:** [email@familycaresociety.org](mailto:email@familycaresociety.org) • **Web:** [familycaresociety.co.uk](http://familycaresociety.co.uk)

Parish Liturgy for December, 2013	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	John Enright	Nuala Glass	Brendan / Helen McKenna
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	TBC		TBC
<b>Collectors</b>	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Mickey Beggs Cathal Keenan	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
<b>Altar Society</b>	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
Anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries should make themselves known			

**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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

*The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

**The Deep End – The Simple Life:** *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*  
 John the Baptist certainly grabs our attention, appearing in the desert in his garment of camel hair, eating locusts and wild honey. His language can be cryptic – he addresses the Pharisees and Sadducees as 'Brood of vipers', and speaks of trees and axes, winnowing fans and wheat. He is a peculiar mixture of signs and messages, even to the people of the time who were on the lookout for prophetic figures. Nowadays, John would cut an even more eccentric figure.  
 Sometimes a person's lifestyle can offer an even more powerful witness than their words. John's basic diet and dress suggest a lifestyle that is at once simple and radical, one which challenged the norms of the day. It all brings to mind another man who caught our attention with his simple lifestyle earlier this year. As soon as Pope Francis was elected, all the talk was of his modest living quarters as Bishop and his preference for public transport. He has made a point to continue this simple lifestyle as Pope. That a senior clergy man should choose to live a simple and ethical life should hardly come as a shock to the world. Yet there was a powerful witness in his actions.  
 While we might not be called to the desert life, we are challenged to examine our values and our relationship with material things – an apt message as we enter the most materialistic season of the year. John the Baptist's message can be summed up by the first word he speaks: repent. The Greek word for 'repentance' is metanoia, literally a change of heart.

**Omagh Volunteering Centre:** Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and make a real difference within your local community. There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities currently available across the Omagh District area. Volunteer Befrienders, Coaches and Mentors are required by organisations including Mencap, Guide Dogs NI and Action on Hearing Loss, to enable them to deliver vital services for people with a learning or sensory disability. Organisations such as RNIB and NI Hospice need local volunteers to help set up local Support Groups, raise vital funds and awareness of their work in the Omagh area. Training and support is provided for all of the Volunteer roles.  
**Tel (Michelle):** (078) 5444 6821 or (028) 8224 0772 **Email:** [omatghvc2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:omatghvc2@yahoo.co.uk) **Office:** First Floor of Community House

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 3:1-12:**

John Byrne OSA ([john@orlagh.ie](mailto:john@orlagh.ie))

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to us of the good news of the gospel that God loves us – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have we borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. 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 content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?
3. 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?

**Engaged Encounter – Rules for Arguing:** Couples who discover they have a disagreement are invited by Engaged Encounter to share their opinions in the following manner. The sentences following the rules are Jay Keenan's comments from his perspective as an Engaged Encounter leader with his wife Suzanne.

<b>NO NAME CALLING</b>	This includes using affectionate names sarcastically
<b>NO THIRD PARTIES</b>	The argument is between the two of you
<b>NO PAST HISTORY</b>	If it's already been settled, don't bring it up again
<b>STICK TO THE SUBJECT</b>	Identify the real problem — don't go to other issues
<b>NO CHEAP SHOTS</b>	Don't use the other's weakness to gain advantage; you may win the argument, but injure your relationship
<b>DON'T GO TO BED ANGRY</b>	Finish the argument or call a truce and agree on a time to continue
<b>MAINTAIN A SENSE OF HUMOUR</b>	Don't take yourselves too seriously; laughter can be the best medicine
<b>HOLD HANDS WHILE ARGUING</b>	This helps to keep your focus where it belongs — on the person who means more to you than anyone in the world