



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A] (16th February, 2014)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474 **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Liturgy Schedule for the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time [Year A] (17 th February, 2014 – 23 rd February, 2014)			
Saturday Evening (15th February) <i>Do This In Memory Week 5</i>	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass: Jim McLaughlin (6 th Anniversary) Noel McLaughlin (13 th Anniversary) 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass	
Sunday 16th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	10.00am Mass	
Monday 17th February St. Fintan (abbot) and the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (religious)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
Tuesday 18th February Sixth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Rose Meenan (8 th Anniversary)	
Wednesday 19th February Sixth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
Thursday 20th February Sixth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
Friday 21st February St. Peter Damian (bishop and doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	**NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME**
Saturday 22nd February Chair of St. Peter the Apostle	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass	
Saturday Evening (22nd February)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass	
Sunday 23rd February Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass	
Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to £1,015 .			
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Peter Coyle (Broughderg) , who died this week, we offer our faith community's prayerful support to his wife Abina, sons Michael and Raymond and his wide family circle. We also pray for Gerald Myles McCullagh, Cecelia Woodhall, Jim McLaughlin, Noel McLaughlin, Rose Meenan and John Hollywood , whose anniversaries occur at this time. We also pray for Patrick Anthony Daly, James McCullagh and Peter McCaffrey , the most recently enrolled members of the Derry Diocesan Society.			
Day of Friendship and Prayer in Lough Derg: Ash Wednesday (5 th March). Special Guest Speaker Rev. John Dunlop. Boats run from 10.00am. Admission is €25 and includes boat fare, tea / coffee, services and lunch. Advance booking is essential. Web: loughderg.org Email: info@loughderg.org Tel: (028) 6863 2391 / 00353 71 986 1518			
Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (1st to 6th July, 2014): £599. From 18 th January the Pilgrimage Office will be open at The Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry on Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. You can also contact the office by calling (028) 7126 0293 on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11.00am and 1.00pm. <i>Booking forms are available in the St. Patrick's Sacristy</i>			
Full Divine Mercy Conference: Streamed from the RDS at the Plaza, Buncrana on Saturday 22 nd and Sunday 23 rd February. Mass on site on Sunday 23 rd February at 3.15pm with Fr. Roland Colhoun and Fr. Rafal Januszewski. Confessions on Saturday. <i>For further information visit theplazabuncrana.com / divinemercyconference.com or call 074 936 1253 or 087 419 6045</i>			
Our Lady of Lourdes PS – Fund-Raising Cycle Event: Sunday 23 rd February. <i>Distances to suit all levels of ability and fitness</i>			
If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI/local Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland). If contacting the local Health and Social Care Trust, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively, if you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wishes to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will, in turn, report this concern to the relevant statutory authorities.			
Greencastle Youth Club: Please note that that there will be no youth club this week due to trip. <i>Children going must be in hall for 2.00pm</i>			
Next Sunday's Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48; Lectionary 1 (page 656) Sunday Scripture Readings cycle [Year A] • Weekday Scripture Readings cycle [Year 2]			
Lotto Results: B • K • L • O • X (1 drawn with 3 letters, winning £50) Next Jackpot: £1,700			

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 15 th February * The family of Nicole Cahill	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 16 th February The family of Catherine O'Connor
Saturday 22 nd February The family of Niamh Clarke	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 23 rd February The family of Tiarnan Teague
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. <i>*Do This In Memory Week 5 We need new volunteers in every aspect of life</i>		
Mass, even with the Pope, isn't a tourist activity; it's God's time: <i>Cindy Wooden (Catholic News Service)</i> An invitation to attend Pope Francis' early morning Mass is a hot ticket in Rome, but the pope said the Mass -- in his residence or anywhere else -- isn't an event, but a time for entering into the mystery of God. "Maybe someone would say, 'Oh, I must get to Mass at Sanctae Marthae because the pope's morning Mass is on the Rome tourist itinerary,' " he said, according to a report by Vatican Radio. Addressing those gathered for the Mass on Monday, he said, "All of you come here, all of us gather here to enter into a mystery, which is the liturgy. It is God's time, it is God's space, it is God's cloud that envelops us all." Throughout history, God has spoken to his people in different ways: through prophets, priests and the Scriptures, the pope said. But the Bible also tells of special moments, "theophanies," when God is present in a more direct way. The Mass is one of those occasions when the Lord is present, Pope Francis said. The Mass isn't a social occasion or even "a prayer meeting. It's something else. In the liturgy, God is present." Pope Francis said that when Catholics construct a Nativity scene, pray the rosary or participate in the Stations of the Cross, they are remembering historical events, which helps them to pray. But the Mass is something different. It's not a re-enactment of the Last Supper, he said. "It is the Last Supper. It is living again the passion and redeeming death of the Lord. It is a theophany: the Lord is present on the altar to be offered to the Father for the salvation of the world." The pope said it's not right for people to look at their watches during Mass -- "we must put ourselves there, in God's time and space, without looking at our watches."		
Youthlife – Growing through Change Residential Weekend: Friday 21 st to Sunday 23 rd February. Are you aged between 11 and 25 years old and have experienced loss or bereavement? This loss may be due to the death of a loved one or in relation to the separation or divorce of parents or for young people in the care system who are experiencing numerous losses in their life. This residential programme is designed to help young people work through the 5 stages of the grief process. <i>To find out more or get an application form please visit youthlife.org or call (028) 7137 7227</i>		
Daytrip to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth: The Seminarians of the Diocese warmly invite you to participate in a Day Trip to our National Seminary, St Patrick's College, Maynooth on Saturday 22 nd February for people from the Co. Tyrone Deanery: The trip will consist of a tour of the College, dinner in Pugin Hall and the celebration of Mass in the magnificent College Chapel. Cost, including travel is £25 / €30. <i>To reserve a place call Chris McDermott on (028) 8224 2092 or email Sean O'Donnell on sodnuff@hotmail.com</i>		
Seventh Annual Award Ceremony for The Pope John Paul II Award: Tuesday 25 th February. Archbishop Charles J Brown, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland will present the awards. Due to the large numbers receiving the award, there will be two ceremonies: one at 5.00pm for the Derry City and Inishowen deaneries and one at 7.30pm for the County Derry and County Tyrone deaneries. Both ceremonies will take place in the Millennium Forum, Derry.		
Annual Pope John Paul II Award – Information Evening: For parishes of the Tyrone Deanery on Wednesday 12 th March at 7.30pm in Omagh Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street, Omagh. Possible new contacts who help with the award scheme in Greencastle Parish are invited to attend. The meeting will also address some safeguarding points for U18s and parish volunteers		
Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Youth Group: Are you aged between 16 and 18 and interested in travelling to Lourdes on Tuesday 1 st Sunday 6 th July? Join the Youth Group in Lourdes for a fun week filled with prayer, music, new experiences and the opportunity to meet new friends. The Youth Group will come together prior to Lourdes and fundraising will be possible at local level. Cost is £599 and includes flights, transfers, accommodation and all meals. <i>If interested please contact (028) 7126 0293 or 07714 882 955 before Friday 28th February for an application form or more details</i>		
Family Care Society Appeal: This is an appeal on behalf of Family Care Society, a voluntary adoption agency with its roots in the Catholic Church. 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. <i>Given our urgent need presently to find families for more young children, we are again respectfully asking for your help</i>		
St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry – Time of Information, Prayer, Questioning and Reflection: Is God calling you to serve as a priest in our Diocese? Join us on Saturday 1 st March at 11.00am. <i>Fr. Paul Farren</i> Web: derrydiocese.org Email: ddcc@derrydiocese.org Tel: (028) 7126 4087		

Pope Francis' Intentions for February (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal: That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people.
For Evangelisation: That priests, religious and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelisation.

St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs:
 Saturday 5th April 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 ddcc@derrydiocese.org.

I'm not a man who constantly thinks up jokes. But I think it's very important to be able to see the funny side of life and its joyful dimension and not to take everything too tragically. I'd also say it's necessary for my ministry. A writer once said that angels can fly because they don't take themselves too seriously. Maybe we could also fly a bit if we didn't think we were so important.
Pope Benedict XVI

Cappagh, Badoney CCE – Monthly Seisium: Friday 21st February in Glens Cottage, Lislap, Gortin at 9.00pm.
Tea and refreshments served • Admission Free • Come along and join in or relax and enjoy the entertainment

Stagefright Theatre Company, Omagh – Nightmare by Norman Robbins (A 2 Act Thriller):
 Strule Arts Centre, Omagh Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd February – booking now.
A gripping and unforgettable night at the theatre

Album Launch: Singer and whistle player Lisa Murphy from Fintona will launch her new album Skylark in the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh on Thursday 20th February at 8.00pm at a traditional concert taking place there. Lisa will also perform at the concert that will also feature other local traditional musicians.
 Tickets are £7.00 and available from Box Office **Web:** struleartscentre.co.uk **Tel:** (028) 8224 7831

Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Attention Farmers: Register now for 3 Free Farming events
BVD Talk: Tuesday 18th February • **Farm Safety Awareness Event:** Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm
Keeping Farm Records on Computer

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 [not celebrated this year].

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.

Sunday 23rd February – St. Polycarp (Bishop and Martyr) bishop of Smyrna or Izmir in modern Turkey. Born around the year 69 and was a disciple of Saint John the Apostle. He was martyred in 155 [not celebrated this year].

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2014 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com
 7th and 8th March • 4th and 5th April • 9th and 10th May • 6th and 7th June
 Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD
 Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding

Parish Liturgy for February, 2014	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Mary Slane	Caitriona McCullagh	Martina McBride
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Seoirse Conway		
Collectors	Francis McLaughlin Gerry McCullagh	Michael Clarke	Francis Keenan Colm Beggs
Altar Society	Siobhan McKenna, Ciara McKenna and Caitriona McCullagh		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke
New choir members will always be welcomed – contact Sinead			

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group – Monthly Meeting: Monday 10th March in the Holy Family church, Ballymagroarty, Derry starting with Mass at 7.15pm. There will be two 1st class relics at the meeting.
Everyone is welcome

Derry Search Youth Group Retreat Weekend: Search is a faith based programme designed to provide young people aged 15 – 19 with a dynamic and life changing experience of the Catholic faith. For you or any young person you know who may be struggling with life, with choices, the future, or just seeking direction, this weekend aims to help put things into perspective and provide the space you need to figure things out. The next Search Weekend will take place in Ard's Retreat Centre, Co Donegal, from Friday 14 – Sunday 16 Feb. 2014. Bus transport available from Derry. Cost: £40 (includes transport, food and accommodation).
Tel: 07564 032 130 **Web:** derrysearchyouthgroup.org Find us on Facebook

Broughderg Community Centre – Upcoming Classes:	
Computers for Beginners	Are you new to the Internet? This class will guide you through the basics, at a pace to suit you. Starting Wednesday 12 th February from 8.00pm to 9.30pm for 6 weeks. £15.
Beaded Jewellery for Beginners	Come along and learn the basic techniques to make a braided rope and then step up a level by adding beads to make a stunning bracelet. Starting Thursday 13 th February from 10.00am to 12.30pm for 4 weeks. £10.
To register call the Broughderg Tourism Centre on (028) 8675 2004 and ask for Therese or Anne	

Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half Marathon: Friday 14th February to Monday 17th February.
Please contact Eileen at events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898 / 07840 182 004

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 and read about the workings of the Bureau

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 the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

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.

Greencastle Parish Pilgrimage Sunday to the Mass Rock in the Townland of Dorville (3rd August): For

3.00pm. There are three penal Mass sites in the parish and in previous years we have made pilgrimage to Formil (2012) and Crouck (2013). Dorville will be a physically challenging experience as well as an opportunity to express our faith. *Please mark this date into your diary and volunteer your services to help prepare for it*

Lough Derg Pilgrimage Season (1st June to 13th August): Check out the Lough Derg website for details.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 5:17-37:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus proposes standards that go beyond external ways of behaviour. He challenges our inner attitudes. When have you found that living out of inner conviction is more life-giving than keeping up appearances?
2. Jesus applies his teaching to feelings of anger and sexual desire. He suggests that if we do not keep an eye on our feelings and thoughts we will not be able to control our actions. Perhaps you have experienced the truth of this. What has helped you to integrate your feelings so that you were able to live in right relationship with yourself and others?
3. For Jesus, persons with genuine authenticity do not need to swear an oath to be convincing. Their 'yes' or 'no' suffices. Recall people who had this kind of credibility for you. When have you found that your simple, direct and honest communication had a positive persuasive force?

Musings

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

One description of the interiors of Heaven and Hell presents a similar picture of both places. In each, there is a large room with very wide tables. People sit at both sides of the tables with extremely long-handled knives and forks to eat their food. This curious cutlery presents practical problems for both sets of residents. But whereas in Hell the inhabitants stare despairingly at the rich food on their tables, realizing that their knives and forks are too awkward to use (and thus face starvation), those in Heaven happily tuck in, circumventing the problem by feeding each other across the wide tables.

The Deep End – Toeing the Line:

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

Be honest – are there times when you approach Mass with a niggling feeling that something is not quite right? Perhaps you've fallen out with someone, or been less than fair in your dealings with a friend or colleague. Then there are times when we happily go along to Sunday Mass without so much as a thought to how we have lived that week. Jesus has some strong words for us all in today's Gospel. We must first reconcile with our brothers and sisters and even be on good terms with our opponents before we approach the altar. How can we be in communion with God if we are not in communion with our neighbours?

If we believe that all that is expected of us is to go to Mass on Sunday and 'follow the rules', we have missed something important along the way. Jesus does not want us to merely follow the letter of the law. Where is the joy or the challenge in that? There is more to living out our Christian life than obeying the rules. This is what Jesus challenges us to see in today's Gospel.

I read a comment recently about Pope Francis: 'He seems to have read the book'. His actions are speaking just as loud as his words, and even his words are challenging us to look at how we live and how we treat others. The Gospels are not a rule book; they are a blueprint for a radical way of life.

Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but 'by attraction'.
Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 15

Pope's Message for Lent 2014 – An Invitation To Evangelical Poverty In Our Time:

Vatican City (Tuesday 4th February) [VIS]

"He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" is the title of the Holy Father's Message for Lent 2014. The title is drawn from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians in which the apostle encourages them to show their generosity by helping their brothers in Jerusalem, who were experiencing difficulties. In the document, dated 26 December, feast of St. Stephen protomartyr, the Pope explores the meaning of St. Paul's invitation to evangelical poverty in our times. The full text of the message is published below:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich'. The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean to us today?

Christ's Grace

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: 'though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ...'. Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things. God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus 'worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin'.

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says 'that by his poverty you might become rich'. This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ's love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptised by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion; he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins. In this way he chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery. It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but by his poverty. Yet Saint Paul is well aware of the 'the unsearchable riches of Christ', that he is 'heir of all things'.

So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is his way of loving us, his way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of the road. What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of his love. Christ's poverty which enriches us is his taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us. Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus' wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in his being the Son; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor. When Jesus asks us to take up his 'yoke which is easy', he asks us to be enriched by his 'poverty which is rich' and his 'richness which is poor', to share his filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons and daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the first-born brother.

It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint (L. Bloy); we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.



← Our Witness

We might think that this 'way' of poverty was Jesus' way, whereas we who come after him can save the world with the right kind of human resources. This is not the case. In every time and place God continues to save mankind and the world through the poverty of Christ, who makes himself poor in the sacraments, in his word and in his Church, which is a people of the poor. God's wealth passes not through our wealth, but invariably and exclusively through our personal and communal poverty, enlivened by the Spirit of Christ.

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. Destitution is not the same as poverty: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are three types of destitution: material, moral and spiritual. Material destitution is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work and the opportunity to develop and grow culturally. In response to this destitution, the Church offers her help, her diakonia, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity. In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.

No less a concern is moral destitution, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members – often a young person – is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography! How many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, how many have lost hope! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as breadwinners, and by lack of equal access to education and health care. In such cases, moral destitution can be considered impending suicide. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin, is invariably linked to the spiritual destitution which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love. If we think we don't need God who reaches out to us through Christ, because we believe we can make do on our own, we are headed for a fall. God alone can truly save and free us.

The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness. It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep. In union with Jesus, we can courageously open up new paths of evangelisation and human promotion.

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.

May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are 'as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything', sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy. In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe".

Presentation of the Pope's Message for Lent – *Poverty and Destitution are Different:*

Vatican City (Tuesday 4th February) [VIS]

A press conference was held in the Holy See Press Office this morning to present the Holy Father's Message for Lent 2014. The speakers were Cardinal Robert Sarah, president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum", Msgr. Giampietro Dal Toso and Msgr. Segundo Tejado Munoz, respectively secretary and under-secretary of the same dicastery, and the couple Davide Dotta and Anna Zumbo, missionaries in Haiti.

Before the presentation, the president of Cor Unum announced that he will visit Haiti again in March, in order to open a school financed on behalf of the Pope as a sign of his closeness to the Haitian population, afflicted in 2010 by an earthquake which claimed more than 220,000 victims and affected a total of more than 3 million people. Cardinal Sarah then went on to explain that the text of this year's Message from the Pope for Lent focuses on poverty, and Christ's poverty in particular; a concept very dear to Pope Francis, who since the beginning of his pontificate has attempted to emphasise this dimension of Christian life. "Certainly, the Christian vision of poverty is not the same as that which is commonly held. Too often we consider poverty from a sociological perspective, and it is understood as a lack of material goods. Furthermore, the concept of a "poor Church for the poor" is often evoked as a sort of challenge to the Church, unfortunately also setting a Church of the poor, a good Church ... against a Church of preaching and truth, a Church dedicated to prayer and to the defence of doctrine and morals".

"The first point of reference for a Christian to understand poverty is indeed Christ, who made himself poor so that he could enrich us through his poverty. ... The choice of poverty by Christ suggests to us that there exists a positive dimension of poverty; this resonates throughout the Gospel, which proclaims that the poor are blessed. It is clear that in this dimension of poverty there is an aspect of despoliation and sacrifice. But this is possible because 'Jesus' wealth lies in his being the Son'. We cannot set our bourgeois consciences at rest, the Pope means, by denouncing material lack on the part of others or denouncing poverty as a system. ... The Lenten Message we are presenting here today makes an important distinction between poverty and destitution. It is not poverty, which is an evangelical attitude, but rather destitution that we wish to combat. The Holy Father, in his Message, lists three forms of destitution: material, moral and spiritual. The first 'affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity'. Faced with this form of destitution, the Church offers her service, 'her diakonia, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity'. Moral destitution consists in slavery to vice and sin. This form of destitution is also the cause of economic ruin, and is always linked to spiritual destitution, which occurs when we drift away from God and refuse His love".

"I believe that this broad view of poverty, of destitution, and as a consequence the help that the Church may offer humanity, help us also to arrive at a more complete vision of man and his needs, without falling in the trap of anthropological reductionism which claims to resolve all the problems of the human person simply by resolving the problems of physical and material well-being".

The president of Cor Unum recalled that in the Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium", Pope Francis writes that "Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care". He affirmed that this concept is fundamental "so as not to transform the Church into that non-governmental organisation that Pope Francis spoke about in his first Holy Mass as Pontiff with the Cardinal Fathers. It would be a great pity if our gaze upon those in need failed to acknowledge the spiritual poverty that often lurks in the heart of man and pains him deeply, even though he may be in a condition of material comfort. ... But if we wish to fully grasp Pope Francis' Message, we must not consider it only in terms of its anthropological value. Man is by nature the son of God. This is his wealth! The great flaw of modern culture is that it has imagined mankind capable of being happy without God, thus denying that which is most profound in the human person: that is, his existential bond with the Father Who grants him life. ... Thus, it is a crime to deprive the poor of the presence of God, just as it is a crime to consider man and allow man to live as if God did not exist, to negate his being as a creation and therefore his fundamental belonging and affiliation with God. ... Therefore, work in development cannot be simply that of creating new needs, but rather taking a serious look at what the person truly is".

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 • **Web:** familycaresociety.co.uk

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

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2014			
Sacramental Celebrations	Sunday 2nd March	St. Patrick's	2.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation
	Temperance Sunday		
	Friday 28th March	St. Patrick's	6.30pm First Confession
	Sunday 1st June	St. Patrick's	11.00am First Holy Communion
	Feast of the Ascension		
Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Sunday 11th May	St. Patrick's
		Sunday 24th August	Our Lady of the Wayside
Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish		Tuesday 8th April • Thursday 29th May Saturday 19th July • Monday 8th September • Wednesday 29th October	
Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (5 th and 6 th July)	Saturday 5th July	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
	Sunday 6th July	Our Lady of Wayside St. Mary's, Broughderg	Directly after 11.00am Mass
	Saturday 1st November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2013)
'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion			
	Saturday 22nd March	Third Sunday of Lent	6.00pm Vigil Mass
	Friday 28th March	Third Week of Lent	6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation)
	Saturday 12th April	Palm Sunday	6.00pm Vigil Mass
	Saturday 3rd May	Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Vigil Mass
	Sunday 1st June	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am First Holy Communion
	Saturday 22nd June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass