

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

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

The Third Sunday of Advent. 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2007

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

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### Mass and Confession Schedule for the Second Week of Advent

17<sup>th</sup> December – 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2007

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December Third Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December Third Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December Third Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December Third Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December Third Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg	9:00am Mass 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December Fourth Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10:00am Mass

### Season of Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	Saint Patrick's	8:00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg Saint Patrick's	9:30am Mass 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

### Confession Schedule

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Sacred Heart Church, Omagh	8:00pm Penitential Service Several Priests will be available for individual confession
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December Penitential Services with several priests available for individual confession	Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg Saint Patrick's, Greencastle Saint Patrick's, Gortin Sacred Heart, Plumbridge	10:30am (before Mass) 3:30pm 5:00pm 7:30pm

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to this week's collection which amounted to **£1,175**.

**Advent Reflection:** Immediately after Mass on Tuesday morning; led by 'Guided Prayer Leaders' from Omagh. Duration: about 20 minutes, but enough to make Advent special for us in our parish.

**Remembering Our Dead:** Please remember in your prayers **Dermot Downey, 39 Cashel Road**, who entered eternal life last week. As a parish community we extend our sympathy and support to his family. We also pray this week for the following whose anniversaries occur at this time **Patrick Joseph Devlin, Gerard, Mary & Gerry McCrory, Anna Rose McCullagh, David Lyons** and **Stephen Ward**.

**'Do This In Memory of Me'** Our First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in Saint Patrick's this weekend (Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December). Our next Sunday gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (26<sup>th</sup> January, 2008).

**Pope's New Encyclical, 'Spe Salvi' Addresses Modern Crisis of Hope:** In an encyclical on Christian hope, Pope Benedict XVI said that without faith in God, humanity lies at the mercy of ideologies that can lead to "the greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice." The pope warned that the modern age has replaced belief in eternal salvation with faith in progress and technology, which offer opportunities for good but also open up "appalling possibilities for evil." "Let us put it very simply: Man needs God, otherwise he remains without hope," he said in the encyclical, *Spe Salvi* ("On Christian Hope"), released Nov. 30. The 76-page text explores the essential connection between faith and hope in early Christianity and addresses what it calls a "crisis of Christian hope" in modern times. It critiques philosophical rationalism and Marxism and offers brief but powerful profiles of Christian saints—ancient and modern—who embodied hope, even in the face of suffering.

*Today is **Gaudate** Sunday, which, taken from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, means "rejoice." Penitential violet is replaced with rose, a colour of joy. The priest may wear rose vestments; rose may be woven into the liturgical decorations; and the third candle on the Advent wreath (traditionally rose) is lit even in the liturgical colours we sense a shift in the liturgies of the season. This shift will be especially noticeable beginning tomorrow, 17<sup>th</sup> December but even today's liturgy gives a hint that something is on the horizon. Possibly dating back to the Middle Ages, when the season of Advent bore an overly penitential character, the rose colours signalled joyfully that the church was closer to Christmas. Although today the rose colour is still a sign of the anticipatory Christmas joy, we understand the continuity of Advent as a season of 'devout joyful expectation'. Today's liturgy helps to heighten the expectation, which will carry through to the celebration of Christmas.*

**Green Elves Playgroup** are collecting old yellow pages for recycling. Please leave your old books at the post office, shop or Old School House before 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Moldovan Appeal.** Breige McCrystal of Carrickmore writes to tell us that the organisers of the annual Moldovan Appeal wish to embark on a similar appeal in February, 2008 and ask all parishioners to keep unwanted clothing etc. for this worthy cause.

**Choir Practice for Christmas Masses:** In Saint Patrick's Church, Greencastle on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Lotto Numbers:** 2, 5, 10, 11 (3 winners with 3 numbers) **Next Jackpot:** £6,000

**Parish News Sheet:** Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the **Wednesday evening** prior to publication.

**Please take news sheet home with you after Mass**