

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Third Sunday of Advent [Year C] (16th December, 2012)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
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Today is **Gaudete 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 Monday 17th 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.

Liturgical Schedule for the Third Week of Advent [Year C] (17th December, 2012 – 23rd December, 2012)

Saturday Evening (15th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass: Do This In Memory Programme
Sunday 16th December Third Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 17th December Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's Sacred Heart, Omagh	10.00am Mass 8.00pm Penitential Service with Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday 18th December Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 19th December Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's Christ the King, Strathroy, Omagh	10.00am Mass 8.00pm Penitential Service with Sacrament of Reconciliation
Thursday 20th December St. Fachanan (bishop)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Derry Diocesan Society (members and benefactors)
Friday 21st December St. Peter Canisius (priest and doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass 8.25pm – 9.00pm Prayer Guides Preparation Evening
Saturday Morning (22nd December) Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (22nd December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass: Kitty Teague (Month's Mind) 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Sunday 23rd December Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£900**. Please remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more to your parish.

Baptisms: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family **Tomas Seamus Loughran, John-Anthony Francis McCullagh, Anna Mae McElduff** and **Erin Louise Warnock** who were baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptised and their parents and godparents prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Prayer Guides from Omagh: Will host a reflection on the Gospels to be used at Sunday masses, in preparation for Christmas after 8.00pm mass in Greencastle on Friday 21st December. Please join us and together we will enhance our personal awareness of the coming of Jesus. *This is one way to can mark the 'Year of Faith'*

Greencastle Youth Club Rota	Monday 17 th December	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Siobhan McKenna
	Tuesday 18 th December	6.30pm – 8.00pm 8.00pm – 9.00pm	Louise Coyle Barry Maguire

Next Sundays Readings: Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44; (Lectionary I, page 73) **(Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 1)**

Lotto Results: D – I – P – R – T (10 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £2,450

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 15 th December* The family of Kerrie McLaughlin	Offertory Gifts Rota Third Sunday of Advent	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 16 th December The family of Sorch-Rose Meenan
Saturday 22 nd December The family of Claire O'Brien	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 23 rd December The family of Eunan Morris
Saturday 24 nd December (8.00pm) The family of Laoise O'Brien	Feast of the Nativity of the Lord	Sunday 25 th December The family of Serene Morris
Saturday 29 th December (6.00pm) The family of Eimear Tracey	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Sunday 30 th December The family of Luke O'Connor
Saturday 5 th January The family of Ciaran Warnock	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	Sunday 6 th January The family of Lauren O'Neill
* Do This In Memory Week 4		
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.		

The Pope Joins Twitter with a Blessing Vatican City (Wednesday 12th December) [VIS]
 "Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart".
 This was Benedict XVI's first tweet, published after the blessing that concluded today's general audience. The Pope used a tablet to send his first tweet, which was transmitted into eight languages (English, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Polish and Arabic), and displayed on a screen installed in the Paul VI Hall. Throughout the day the Pope will respond to three questions - submitted from three different continents - selected from those sent during recent days. The Holy Father already has over one million followers on Twitter.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013: With Monsignor Danny Monaghan and Maria Bradley.
For info contact (028) 8164 8357. Dates TBA

Viatres Christi Overseas Volunteering: Seeking skilled people in good health who are interested in working as lay missionaries with Irish missionary priests, brothers and sisters in their work in areas of need overseas
 Information and Recruitment Sessions on Sunday 16th December at 2.00pm in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164, Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.
For more details contact colette@viatoreschristi.com Tel. 00353 1868 9986. viatoreschristi.com

Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests:
1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying at least £20. **2.** Likewise, any person whomsoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. These Masses go on all the time. **Privileges of members: Deceased: 1.** A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (**this will take in Greencastle on Thursday 20th December at 10.00am**). **2.** The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. **Living: 1.** Mass will be offered each month, as listed on the Church notice board. **2.** When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca – Advent Weekend Residential Retreat: In preparation for Christmas, beginning at 7.30pm on Friday 14th December and ending after lunch on Sunday 16th December.
Cost for the weekend is £65 – For bookings, contact the Carmelite Fathers Office on (028) 7126 2512

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July): The cost is £585. An application form is available from Rosemary at The Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ – (028) 7136 2475 (Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1.30pm). *Special forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available*

Trócaire Global Gifts: Last Christmas Trócaire Global Gifts helped change lives, please be generous again this year and pick up a leaflet from the church porch.

Youth 2000 – National Christmas Youth Retreat: Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December. *Check out youth2000.ie and see us on Facebook*

BADA An Bruach Derg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:
Every Friday Night at 8.30pm Card playing with light supper served

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)
General – Migrants: That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities.
Missionary – Christ, the Light for all Humanity: That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church.

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 December, the second which, is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts runs from 17th December until 24th 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).

Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Free Computer Classes: Commencing January.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Gratitude has been expressed for your support of the clothes bank located in the car park at St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. *Their clothes shop is in Castle Street, Omagh. Their ministry is important approaching Christmas*

Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time
 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.
Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)

Barnardo's Main Office Line for the Child Bereavement Service in Belfast Number Change:
 Please note that this number is no longer (028) 9069 4000 anymore and is now (028) 9066 8333.

Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half-Marathon: Sunday 17th February, £100 deposit secures your place.
For more information please contact events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898 Thank you for your time on this it is greatly appreciated

London Marathon (Sunday 21st April): Why not join team Foyle Hospice for a thrill of a lifetime running/walking one of the world's most exciting marathons, the Virgin London Marathon which takes place Sunday 21st April? This run takes in all the major sites and attractions in London with thousands of spectators all along the course. Places in this event will be difficult to get, but Foyle Hospice has some guaranteed entries for the marathon.
For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager noel@foylehospice.com, (028) 7135 9888

Parish Liturgy for December, 2012	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Mary Clarke	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Caoileann Conway	Emma Clarke	Elaine Coyle
Collectors	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Peter Tracey Colum Keenan	Jimmy Donnelly
Altar Society	Mary Bradley Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory

New choir members will always be welcome, contact Sinead

Altar Servers Needed: Please notice the important role of altar servers in the prayer life of our faithful community, we currently need new volunteers to strengthen the teams already serving so if you will commit, please do so as soon as possible.

Family Care Society – Adoption: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged under 8 and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?
For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry) email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net

Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider The Mystery of Work: This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux) Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon. For 5 or more copies at discounted prices, see our website. logosinstitute.org

Our Parish cemeteries are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btpopenworld.com
 11th and 12th January 8th and 9th February 8th and 9th March
 12th and 13th April 10th and 11th May 7th and 8th 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

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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Thursday 20th 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 6th century. He is venerated as the patron of the diocese of Kilfenora, now part of Galway.

Friday 21st 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.

Sunday 23rd December – St. John of Kanty (priest) [1390-1473] Taught Theology and Scripture in the university of Cracow, Poland. He is also remembered for his austerity of life and generosity.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 3:10-18:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. 'What should we do?' The common thread in John's answers was to encourage his questioners to be other-centred rather than self-centred, each in the context of their own circumstances. In your experience what difference has it made for you when you changed your attitude in this way?
2. John told the people in a direct and honest way what they should do. Perhaps you have had friends who did not beat about the bush but have told you honestly what they thought about your behaviour when you asked them? In gratitude recall such friends.
3. The humility of John comes out in this passage, happy to acknowledge that he only had a minor role to play in relation to the Messiah. At the same time he was enthused by his mission to 'proclaim the good news to the people'. What difference has it made for you when you were able to see the good in yourself, and use your gifts without having to score by portraying yourself as greater than someone else?

Questions people ask:

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

- Q. How might one understand the difference between the merciful approach of Jesus and the drastic preaching of John the Baptist predicting doom and condemnation?
- A. There are two ways of correcting people: the threat of punishment or the promise of reward. John the Baptist came from a people who expected a Messiah who would inaugurate a perfect society in which there would be no room for the sinner. Hence, he preached the urgency of total conversion before an impending judgement. The approach of Jesus was to give hope to the sinner. Instead of John's winnowing fan blowing away the empty chaff, he preferred to fan into flame some spark of goodness in a struggling sinner.

The Deep End – Happy and Tolerant:

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

Today's readings supply us with a blueprint for the Christian life.

First we have Paul telling us to be happy in the Lord and to let our tolerance be evident to everyone. He goes on to tell us not to worry, but to ask God with thanksgiving for anything we need, and assures us that if we do, the peace of God will guard our hearts and our thoughts.

To be happy, tolerant, thankful, peaceful, and not to worry – are these attributes that people would see in you? Are happiness and tolerance generally thought of as the hallmarks of a Christian life?

When boxer Katie Taylor won an Olympic gold medal for Ireland in August, there was great interest in the role her Christian faith plays in her life and her career. While of course being widely admired as tough and inspirational, there is also a peacefulness and humility to her manner. She is always thankful to God, comes across as secure and happy in her faith, and maintains a great openness to people – a fitting model of the Christian life spoken of by St Paul.

Today's Gospel goes even further to offer some practical advice from John as he preaches the Good News in preparation for Jesus' appearance; we must share what we have with the person who has none, and we must be honest in our dealings with others. That is quite a lot to mull over in two short readings.