

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry

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

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (17th January, 2010)

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

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

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Week of Prayer For Christian Unity: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, traditionally held every year from 18th to 25th January, begins on Monday. The theme chosen for 2010 is: "You are witnesses of all these things" (Luke 24:48) from Christ's final discourse before his ascension. During the 2010 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we will reflect each day on Chapter 24 of Luke's Gospel, stopping at the questions that it asks; Jesus' questions to his disciples; the questions the apostles ask of Christ. Each of these questions allows us to highlight a particular way of witnessing to the Risen One. Each of them invites us to think about our situation of church division and about how, concretely, we can remedy that. We are already witnesses and we need to become better witnesses. How? *(see the Theme for each day)*

Liturgy Schedule for the Second Week in Ordinary Time (18th January, 2010 – 24th January, 2010)

Monday 18th January Second Week in Ordinary Time <i>Theme: By praising the one who gives us the gift of life and resurrection</i>	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 19th January Second Week in Ordinary Time <i>Theme: By knowing how to share the story of our faith with others</i>	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 20th January St. Agnes (virgin and martyr) <i>Theme: By recognising that God is at work in our lives</i>	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 21st January St. Vincent (deacon and martyr) <i>Theme: By giving thanks for the faith we have received</i>	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 22nd January Second Week in Ordinary Time <i>Theme: By confessing Christ's victory over all suffering</i>	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass
Saturday 23rd January St. Francis de Sales (bishop and doctor of the Church) <i>Theme: By seeking to always be more faithful to the Word of God</i>	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 24th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Theme: By growing in faith, hope and love</i>	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 25th January Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (apostle) <i>Theme: By offering hospitality and knowing how to receive it when it is offered to us</i>	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£970. 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. Bishop Hegarty's annual stewardship trust fund will be taken on the weekend of 23rd and 24th January.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Ann McAleer & Jimmy Kenny** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Do This in Memory of Me: Our First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in Greencastle on Saturday 23rd January.

Next Sunday's Readings: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; Psalm 18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21
Lectionary I, page 841

Lotto Numbers: 6, 9, 15, 19 (3 winners with 3 numbers – £20 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,450

Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the Wednesday evening prior to publication

Today is Refugee and Migrant Sunday, a time when we are reminded to celebrate with thanks the diversity of people in Ireland. The Church, like the nation, is made up of peoples from many different countries with different languages and customs. We are also invited today to pray for migrants and refugees that they may be welcomed warmly into our midst. This year's World Day for Migrants theme – "Minor migrants and refugees" – touches an aspect that Christians view with great attention, remembering the most vulnerable people in our midst, children. Children are dependant on others for food, shelter and guidance. Children often suffer the most in times of trial and difficulty. Guide and bring those children who are strangers in our land to a place of peace and safety and help us comfort them and bring help in their time of need.

Serving Our Faith-Community in Greencastle Parish

Parish Liturgy for 23 rd / 24 th January, 2010	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Prayers of Intercession	Rosemary McCullagh	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed
Offertory Gifts	The family of Shea McElhatton	The family of Eunan Morris	

Parish Buildings and Maintenance Committee Meeting: Monday 18th January at 9.00pm

Pilgrimages and Retreats

Iona Carmelite Retreat Centre (Termonbacca, Derry) – Monthly Devotions in Honour of Our Lady: Tuesday 19th January with Confessions at 7.30pm followed by Rosary and Mass, and finishing at 10.00pm.

Ard Retreat Centre, Donegal – "Step Into the Promise of a New Spring": 5th, 6th and 7th February. An invitation to a weekend of peace, reflection, and appreciation of the gifts of life through music, readings, meditative movement and spiritual awareness. Call (074) 9384 015 or e-mail info@ardsfriary.ie

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, Derry. Telephone: (028) 7126 0293.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Closing date for admission in September, 2010: All forms must be completed and returned to the school by Wednesday 20th January.

Holy Trinity College, Cookstown – Open night for pupils of transfer age and their parents: Tuesday 26th January, the Principal's address will be at 7.30pm.

Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Irish Classes: kathleen@instituteofirishleadership.ie Tel: (028) 8775 7800

Beginner classes	Monday 18 th January (7.00pm – 8.30pm)	£3 per class
Intermediate classes	Wednesday 20 th January (7.00pm – 8.30pm)	£3 per class

A Special Valentine's Gift: Give your husband or wife a special Valentine's gift of a weekend away with you on 12th -14th February. A weekend with a difference that will help deepen your commitment to one another and enrich the joys you share together, whether you are recently or many years married. For details call (028) 9062 6503 or (028) 7135 0612. www.marriageencounter.ie. **Marriage Encounter** is a worldwide Catholic voluntary organisation that runs the Marriage Encounter weekend. Presented by three married couples and a priest, the weekend is a residential workshop that offers married couples with a good stable relationship the opportunity to explore, renew and enrich what they already have going for them in a way that completely respects their privacy. It is very much about the spouses being in a unique sacramental relationship that involves not only them but God, their family and the wider community of the Church to which they belong.

Greencastle Youth Club – Parent Rota:

Monday 18 th January	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Rosie Morris
Monday 18 th January	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Cheryl McCullagh
Tuesday 19 th January	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Siobhan McKenna

Pomeroy Development Projects (PDP) would like to invite you to their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21st January at 7.30pm in The Rowan Tree Centre, Pomeroy Business Park, BT70 3DS. It is open for anyone to attend. Why not come along and hear what has been achieved in the past year and contribute to ideas for future activities. For more information, please contact Kieran Ruddy on (028) 8775 9318 or any group member or call in to the Centre, or e-mail pomeroydev@hotmail.com For enquiries re: the business units or meeting room bookings, please contact Ciaran or Mary at Cookstown Enterprise Centre on (028) 8676 3660 or info@cookstownenterprise.com.

We wish you a very happy and successful new year

Study Theology From Home: The Dominicans are offering a theology programme specifically for lay people, offered by distance learning. This means that one can study for a certificate, diploma or degree in theology, and even more importantly, become more educated in the Faith, all from the comfort of home. For more information contact The Priory Institute, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24, Tel: 00353 1404 8124/7 or email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com Visit our website www.prioryinstitute.com

Foundations in Liturgy: A 12 week Liturgy course led by the Thornhill Centre team will be held in Sion Mills Parish Centre beginning Tuesday 19th January, 2010 from 7:30pm to 9:30 pm. This course is designed to foster an understanding of the richness of the Liturgy of the Church, examining core elements and symbols of our ritual and worship. Course cost: £100. For further details, please contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233.

Camara – Reuse not Recycle: Camara is an Irish Charity which takes in used computers, refurbishes them and then sends them to schools in Africa. Camara will be collecting used computers from a centre near you in January. Did you get a new computer for Christmas? What are you doing with your old one? We are constantly looking for computers and need members of the public, companies and government bodies to donate used computers to us. There is a minimum spec but a good rule of thumb is if the computer is under 10 years old and switches on we should be able to reuse it or some part of it.
Minimum specification is Pentium 3, 256 MB RAM, 600Mhz processor, 10GB hard drive.
Camara will be collecting used computers from the following locations in January.
Please spread the word among family friends and work colleagues.
Wednesday 30th January 9.00am – 6.00pm Crescent Retail Park, Derry
It costs £50 to refurbish and send a computer to Africa, Any contribution that you give will help.
Contact us on (028) 9033 2470 or email belfast@camara.ie.
Camara Belfast, Unit 23-24, Townsend Enterprise Park, Belfast BT13 2ES

This Week's Calendar of Saints:

Wednesday 20th January – St. Fabian (Pope and martyr) Had been pope for fourteen years when martyred under Decius in the year 250.

St. Sebastian May have been a soldier and was martyred in the persecution of Diocletian. He sustained many others in their trials.

Thursday 21st January – St. Agnes Wealthy and beautiful, was martyred for her virginity in the last persecution in Rome, in the early 4th century. Patron of betrothed couples, gardeners and young girls.

Friday 22nd January – St. Vincent Died in 304, deacon of the church of Saragosso Spain, martyred in Valencia after prolonged torture.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 2:1-11:

1. The story is a story of abundance, the abundance of the blessings God gives us. How have you been aware of the abundance of God's blessings? Let the memories lead you to prayer of thanks and praise for the times in your life when that joy and fulfilment have been very real to you.
2. John uses a number of images (marriage, wine, feast, etc.) to symbolise the abundance of God's love. What are your favourite images of the abundance of God's love and blessings?
3. The hour of Jesus had not yet come when the glory of God would be fully revealed, yet even so something of the glory of God was revealed in the sign that took place. For us also the revelation of the full glory of God lies in the future, but we do get glimpses along the way. Recall some of the signs that have revealed to you something of the glory of God, e.g. nature, art, friendship, etc.
4. Mary/Jesus. It is interesting to note that despite the apparent rebuff, Mary is the first person in the narrative to show (at the level of the action of the story) that the correct response to the presence of Jesus is to trust in him. When have you trusted in the word of Jesus like that? What relationships do you have that you can trust like that? Do you recall times when your trust was rewarded even when you had been initially disappointed?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. At the wedding in Cana there were 6 jars, each holding 20 or 30 gallons, about the equivalent of 800 bottles today. Are we to take these figures literally?
- A. The Gospel of John shows Jesus bringing several Jewish institutions such as the temple and the Sabbath to fulfilment. The miracle at Cana involved water, not any water, but water set aside for ritual purification before a meal. This water represents the Jewish religion with its many ritual washings as preparing for the wedding of heaven and earth which occurred in Jesus, true God and true man. Six jars are one short of the perfect number, seven. The huge amount of new wine expresses the lavish generosity of God inviting all people to union with Christ.

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

The Deep End – Seeing Red:

I wonder if the UK-chart topping 1986 hit *Lady in Red* by Chris de Burgh would have soared so high had she been in green. Wearing red not only gets you noticed, it can get you ahead even in the Olympic Games according to one lecturer at Durham University, England. Wearing red marks you as aggressive and dominant.

Today's First Reading (1 Cor. 12:4-11) lists distinguishing marks for members of the Christian community. The colour red doesn't get a look in. Neither do designer labels, gym workouts, health-food diets or high-tech gizmos (even had they existed). But then they wouldn't; all the qualities listed are for service not dominance or ego-gratification. Also, everything on the list is internal to the individual not external. I don't need to enhance my appearance for service, but I do need to enhance myself. And the gifts listed in this reading do just that: wise utterance, knowledgeable speech, faith witness, power to heal, working miracles, prophesying and the ability to discern spirits, talking in tongues and interpreting them.

To put these gifts in more contemporary wrapping we might list them as: having cop on, being informed, practising what I preach, comforting those in difficulty, helping without counting the cost, being my brother's keeper, being in touch with life's basics, being open to God's Spirit and open to those open to God's Spirit.

It's surprising at times that if you should go public, so to speak, and say that these are the qualities that distinguish true Christians some of that public, even those not Christian, will probably see red!

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