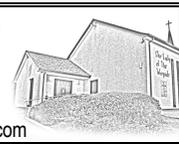


**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
**St. Patrick's, Greencastle**      **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Ascension of the Lord (World Communications Day) [Year B] (17<sup>th</sup> May, 2015)**  
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com   **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474   **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Congratulations to our young parishioners who will receive Holy Communion for the first time this weekend

Colleen Brogan • Trea Clarke • Ryan Coney • Niamh Conway • Shea Conway • Tara Haughey  
 Sorcha Hughes • Lennon Mayton • Matthew Joseph McGlinchey • Michael Joseph McGlinchey  
 Amy McGurk • Caolan McKenna • Gearoid McNamee • Darragh Morris • Patrick Morris  
 Shanice Morris • Sean Og Teague • Daire Tracey • Maebh Warnock.

Our thanks to the parents, families and Year 4 teacher Mrs. McElroy, the *Do This In Memory* liturgy leaders and everyone who supported these young people on their faith journey. May they continue to grow faithfully every day.

**Liturgy Schedule for the Seventh Week of Easter [Year B] (18<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2015)**

<b>Saturday Evening (16<sup>th</sup> May)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions and Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> Ascension of the Lord [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>8.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo) <b>11.00am</b> Mass: First Holy Communion for Year 4 pupils
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b> Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	<b>7.35pm</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>8.00pm</b> Mass
<b>Saturday Morning (23<sup>rd</sup> May)</b> Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Saturday Evening (23<sup>rd</sup> May)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions and Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Martin O'Hagan (10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b> Pentecost Sunday [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>8.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo) <b>10.30am</b> Confessions and Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>11.00am</b> Mass

**During the month of May please make the Rosary your personal, family and community prayer**  
**Join in praying the Rosary 25 minutes before the beginning of Mass each day**

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your kindness in last week's collection of **£725.50** and **£19.50** in loose change.  
**Diocesan Purposes Collection:** This was taken up last weekend and amounted to **£600**.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for **Mary Morris** who died on Friday, we offer our sympathy and prayerful support to her sister Jinney and her nephews and nieces and all who mourn her passing. We also pray for **Dan Bonner** and **Francis Myles McCullagh**, whose anniversaries occur at this time and for the most recently enrolled members of the Derry Diocesan Society **Michael McCullagh, Peter Fox, Mary McBride** and **Philomena Feeney**.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 • Psalm 103 • Galatians 5:16-25 • John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

**Bible Story Week:** We have asked primary schools in the diocese to give a particular focus to the stories of Jesus in the Bible during the week beginning Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May (Feast of Pentecost). At his homily in the Sistine Chapel on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Pope Francis said, "God, like a good father and a good mother, wants to give good things to his children. And what is this nourishing food that God gives us? It is his Word: his Word makes us grow, it enables us to bear good fruit in life, just as the rain and snow imbue the earth, making it fruitful (cf. Is 55:10-11) Schools have received the attached resources to choose some activities from. It would be great if you are visiting your schools during that week you also might focus on Bible stories or that there could be a Bible Story Corner set up in the Church for that week.

**Viatres Christi (VC) – Information and Recruitment Session:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 12.00pm at VC HQ, 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7. For anyone who wants to learn more about the possibility of overseas volunteering and / or training in Overseas Development and Mission. **Tel:** 018 689 986 • **Email:** info@viatreschristi.com • **Web:** viatreschristi.com

**Christian Brothers' and Loreto Grammar Schools, Omagh – Transfer 2016 Information Evening:** For P6 childrens' parents Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in Christian Brothers' Grammar School Sport's Hall (parking in Henderson's car park).

<b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b> Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May The family of <b>Tyler Gumley</b>	<b>Offertory Gifts Rota</b> Feast of the Ascension of the Lord First Holy Communion	<b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b> Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May (11.00am) Members of <b>Our Lady of Lourdes PS</b>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May The family of <b>Colleen Brogan</b>	Pentecost Sunday	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May The family of <b>Joseph Hagan</b>

**Pope Francis Meets with 7,000 Children at Vatican**

*Vatican City State (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May) [ZENIT.org]*

**Family Arguments, War, Youth Imprisonment Among Questions Asked to Pontiff**

*By Junno Arocho Esteves*

Children had the chance of lifetime today: to ask any questions they wanted to Pope Francis. An estimated 7,000 children gathered at the Paul VI Audience Hall, sponsored by the Fabbrica della Pace (The Peace Factory). The organisation promotes peace initiatives and cross-cultural understanding through education.

The Holy Father began by welcoming the children present; thanking them for the questions they sent previously. A young girl named Chiara, who said that she argues a lot with her sister, asked the Pope if he ever argued with members of his family.

The Holy Father said that it was a question that everyone present could relate with. While arguments always arise, he said, what is most important is that there is reconciliation.

"This is possible: do not let that arguments go over the next day. This is ugly! Do not end the day without making peace," he said.

"Even I have argued many times, even now... I get a little hot-headed, but I always look to make peace together. It is human to argue. The important thing is that it does not remain, that peace is done after. Understood?"

Another children asked the Holy Father whether he is tired of being around so many people and if he wanted a "little bit of peace."

"I, many times, want a bit of tranquility, to rest a bit more. This is true. But being with people does not take away my peace."

"What takes away peace is jealousy, envy, avarice, to take things from others: that takes away peace. But being with people is beautiful; it does not take away peace! It is a bit tiring because one can become tired, I am not a young man... But it does not take away peace."

Several questions took a more serious turn, addressing issues such as war, forgiveness, youth imprisonment, and faith. Regarding a question made by a young Egyptian student who asked why people with power don't do more to help schools in areas of conflict, the 78 year old Pontiff said that there is an even greater question: Why do so many powerful people not want peace?

"They live off of war! The arms industry: this is serious! The powerful, some powerful people, earn money by arms manufacturing, and sell arms to a country that is against this one, and then they sell it to those who are against that one... It is the industry of death!" he exclaimed.

An old priest that I knew many years ago said: the devil enters through the wallet. Because of greed."

When asked if someone can be forgiven for doing "horrible things", the Pope replied: "God forgives everything! Understood? It is we who do not know how to forgive."

"It is easier to fill prisons than helping those who have made mistakes in life to go forward," he continued.

"The easiest path? Go to prison. And there is no forgiveness. And what does forgiveness mean? Did you fall? Get up! I will help you to get up, to reinsert yourself in society. There is always forgiveness and we must learn to forgive."

Continuing the discussion on imprisonment, a young detainee from the Casal del Marmo detention center asked if the Pope agreed that prison was the appropriate response to troubled youth like him.

"No, I do not agree. I repeat what I said: it is to help to get up, to reinsert [in society] with education, with love, with closeness. But the solution of prisons is that it is the most comfortable thing to forget those who suffer!" The Pope encouraged the youth to not judge those who are imprisoned but to help those who have made mistakes to re-enter society.

Concluding his address, Pope Francis once again thanked the children for their questions, calling on them to pray for him.

"And work for peace! Understood?" he said, encouraging them to repeat the phrase: "Where there is no justice, there is no peace."

**Foyer of Light, Charity and Love 5 Day Silent Retreat – Theme: If You But Knew the Gift of God:**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June in the La Verna Retreat Centre, Rosstown, Co. Donegal. Preached by Fr. Kilian Byrne.

The retreats address those who search for God, or those who wish to progress in their life of faith, of prayer and their apostolate.

Cost: €395, full board. *For more dates, information and bookings contact Helen on (086) 1678 027 • foyerofcharity.ie*

The Foyers give authentic spiritual teaching, in a climate of silence, charity, devotion to Mary, which opens souls to conversion, deepens their life with God and forms them for the apostolate. *Pope Paul VI (Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1975)*

**Working in Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham, the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre will offer the MA in Catholic School Leadership beginning this Autumn.**

This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to leadership roles within the Catholic School system. An information session will take place in St. Mary's College, Derry on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 4.00pm. If you would like to attend the session or require any further information please contact The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 / tferry@derrydiocese.org

**An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Guest Tea:** Community Centre (028) 8675 2004 • **Post Office** (028) 8675 1633  
 Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Music by *Larry & Co*. Admission is £12.50 and tickets available from all Committee members

**Greencastle Vintage Show:** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Your support will be welcomed.

Julie Hagan asks for your support at the **Candle Stall** to support Parkinson's Disease on this day

*Please honour the special needs parking spaces in the Church car parks*

**Pope Francis' Intentions for May (please remember these in your personal prayer)**

**Universal – Care for the Suffering:** That rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

**Evangelisation – Openness to Mission:** That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularist cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.

Parish Liturgy for May, 2015	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Siobhan McKenna	Helen / Brendan McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of the Faithful	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Brianna Clarke	Francis Michael McKenna
Collectors	Michael McElhatton Margaret Morris	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Brian Gillen Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Eileen McKenna and Ann McAleer		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley
<i>The Altar Society need volunteers for the months of June and July – can you help?</i>			

**Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – Open-Air Mass:** An invitation is extended to all children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the diocese this year to come to Celtic Park in Derry for an open-air Mass on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, beginning at 11.30am and finishing around 1.00pm.

**Looking After Our Parish Cemeteries:** These are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please co-operate 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 or into our neighbour's property. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away.

**Pope's Message for 49<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day:** *Vatican City (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015) [VIS]*

The Pope's message for the 49<sup>th</sup> annual World Communications Day was published today, the vigil of the feast day of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists. The Day will be celebrated on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 and this year's theme is "Communicating the family: a privileged place of encounter with the gift of love". The message was published in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish.

The full text of the message is reproduced below:

"The family is a subject of profound reflection by the Church and of a process involving two Synods: the recent extraordinary assembly and the ordinary assembly scheduled for next October. So I thought it appropriate that the theme for the next World Communications Day should have the family as its point of reference. After all, it is in the context of the family that we first learn how to communicate. Focusing on this context can help to make our communication more authentic and humane, while helping us to view the family in a new perspective.

"We can draw inspiration from the Gospel passage which relates the visit of Mary to Elizabeth. 'When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb". This episode first shows us how communication is a dialogue intertwined with the language of the body. The first response to Mary's greeting is given by the child, who leaps for joy in the womb of Elizabeth. Joy at meeting others, which is something we learn even before being born, is, in one sense, the archetype and symbol of every other form of communication. The womb which hosts us is the first 'school' of communication, a place of listening and physical contact where we begin to familiarise ourselves with the outside world within a protected environment, with the reassuring sound of the mother's heartbeat. This encounter between two persons, so intimately related while still distinct from each other, an encounter so full of promise, is our first experience of communication. It is an experience which we all share, since each of us was born of a mother.

"Even after we have come into the world, in some sense we are still in a 'womb', which is the family. A womb made up of various interrelated persons: the family is 'where we learn to live with others despite our differences'. Notwithstanding the differences of gender and age between them, family members accept one another because there is a bond between them. The wider the range of these relationships and the greater the differences of age, the richer will be our living environment. It is this bond which is at the root of language, which in turn strengthens the bond. We do not create our language; we can use it because we have received it. It is in the family that... →

← ...we learn to speak our 'mother tongue', the language of those who have gone before us. In the family we realise that others have preceded us, they made it possible for us to exist and in our turn to generate life and to do something good and beautiful. We can give because we have received. This virtuous circle is at the heart of the family's ability to communicate among its members and with others. More generally, it is the model for all communication.

"The experience of this relationship which 'precedes' us enables the family to become the setting in which the most basic form of communication, which is prayer, is handed down. When parents put their newborn children to sleep, they frequently entrust them to God, asking that he watch over them. When the children are a little older, parents help them to recite some simple prayers, thinking with affection of other people, such as grandparents, relatives, the sick and suffering, and all those in need of God's help. It was in our families that the majority of us learned the religious dimension of communication, which in the case of Christianity is permeated with love, the love that God bestows upon us and which we then offer to others.

"In the family, we learn to embrace and support one another, to discern the meaning of facial expressions and moments of silence, to laugh and cry together with people who did not choose one other yet are so important to each other. This greatly helps us to understand the meaning of communication as recognising and creating closeness. When we lessen distances by growing closer and accepting one another, we experience gratitude and joy. Mary's greeting and the stirring of her child are a blessing for Elizabeth; they are followed by the beautiful canticle of the Magnificat, in which Mary praises God's loving plan for her and for her people. A 'yes' spoken with faith can have effects that go well beyond ourselves and our place in the world. To 'visit' is to open doors, not remaining closed in our little world, but rather going out to others. So too the family comes alive as it reaches beyond itself; families who do so communicate their message of life and communion, giving comfort and hope to more fragile families, and thus build up the Church herself, which is the family of families.

"More than anywhere else, the family is where we daily experience our own limits and those of others, the problems great and small entailed in living peacefully with others. A perfect family does not exist. We should not be fearful of imperfections, weakness or even conflict, but rather learn how to deal with them constructively. The family, where we keep loving one another despite our limits and sins, thus becomes a school of forgiveness. Forgiveness is itself a process of communication. When contrition is expressed and accepted, it becomes possible to restore and rebuild the communication which broke down. A child who has learned in the family to listen to others, to speak respectfully and to express his or her view without negating that of others, will be a force for dialogue and reconciliation in society.

"When it comes to the challenges of communication, families who have children with one or more disabilities have much to teach us. A motor, sensory or mental limitation can be a reason for closing in on ourselves, but it can also become, thanks to the love of parents, siblings, and friends, an incentive to openness, sharing and ready communication with all. It can also help schools, parishes and associations to become more welcoming and inclusive of everyone.

"In a world where people often curse, use foul language, speak badly of others, sow discord and poison our human environment by gossip, the family can teach us to understand communication as a blessing. In situations apparently dominated by hatred and violence, where families are separated by stone walls or the no less impenetrable walls of prejudice and resentment, where there seem to be good reasons for saying 'enough is enough', it is only by blessing rather than cursing, by visiting rather than repelling, and by accepting rather than fighting, that we can break the spiral of evil, show that goodness is always possible, and educate our children to fellowship.

"Today the modern media, which are an essential part of life for young people in particular, can be both a help and a hindrance to communication in and between families. The media can be a hindrance if they become a way to avoid listening to others, to evade physical contact, to fill up every moment of silence and rest, so that we forget that 'silence is an integral element of communication; in its absence, words rich in content cannot exist'. The media can help communication when they enable people to share their stories, to stay in contact with distant friends, to thank others or to seek their forgiveness, and to open the door to new encounters. By growing daily in our awareness of the vital importance of encountering others, these 'new possibilities', we will employ technology wisely, rather than letting ourselves be dominated by it. Here too, parents are the primary educators, but they cannot be left to their own devices. The Christian community is called to help them in teaching children how to live in a media environment in a way consonant with the dignity of the human person and service of the common good.

"The great challenge facing us today is to learn once again how to talk to one another, not simply how to... →

← ...generate and consume information. The latter is a tendency which our important and influential modern communications media can encourage. Information is important, but it is not enough. All too often things get simplified, different positions and viewpoints are pitted against one another, and people are invited to take sides, rather than to see things as a whole.

“The family, in conclusion, is not a subject of debate or a terrain for ideological skirmishes. Rather, it is an environment in which we learn to communicate in an experience of closeness, a setting where communication takes place, a 'communicating community'. The family is a community which provides help, which celebrates life and is fruitful. Once we realise this, we will once more be able to see how the family continues to be a rich human resource, as opposed to a problem or an institution in crisis. At times the media can tend to present the family as a kind of abstract model which has to be accepted or rejected, defended or attacked, rather than as a living reality. Or else a grounds for ideological clashes rather than as a setting where we can all learn what it means to communicate in a love received and returned. Relating our experiences means realising that our lives are bound together as a single reality, that our voices are many, and that each is unique.

“Families should be seen as a resource rather than as a problem for society. Families at their best actively communicate by their witness the beauty and the richness of the relationship between man and woman, and between parents and children. We are not fighting to defend the past. Rather, with patience and trust, we are working to build a better future for the world in which we live”.

**The Three Key Words of the Family – Please, Thank You and Sorry:** *Vatican City (Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May) [VIS]*

“Please, thank you and sorry” are the three words that Pope Francis “would write on the door of every family home” as they are the key to living well and in peace both inside and outside the home. They are simple words, much easier to say than to put into practice, but “they contain great strength: the strength of protecting the home, even through a thousand difficulties and trials; instead, when they are lacking, cracks gradually open up that can even lead it to collapse”.

The Pope dedicated the catechesis of today's general audience to these three words, normally considered as the words of politeness. “A great bishop, St. Francis of Sales, said that kindness is halfway to holiness. However, beware”, he warned, “as in history we have also known a formalism of good manners that can become a mask to conceal an arid heart and lack of interest in others. ... Not even religion is immune to this risk, in which formal observance may slip into spiritual worldliness. The devil who tempts Jesus shows off his good manners and cites the Sacred Scriptures. His style appears correct, but his intention is to deviate from the truth of God's love”.

The first word is “please. “To enter into the life of another person, even when that person forms part of our life, requires the delicacy of a non-intrusive attitude, that renews trust and respect. Confidence, then, does not authorise us to take everything for granted. Love, the more intimate and profound it is, the more it demands respect for freedom and the capacity to wait for the other to open the door of his or her heart”.

The second phrase is “thank you”. “At times”, observed the Holy Father, “it seems that we are becoming a civilisation of poor manners and unpleasant words. ... Politeness and the capacity to thank are seen as a sign of weakness, and at times even arouse distrust. This tendency should be opposed within the family itself. We must become intransigent in the education of gratitude and recognition: the dignity of the person and social justice both come from this. If this approach is neglected in family life, it will also be lost in social life”.

The third word is “sorry”, as “when it is lacking, small cracks become larger ... to the point of becoming deep trenches. It is not by chance that in the prayer taught by Jesus, the Lord's prayer that summarises all the essential questions for our life, we find the expression 'forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us'. Acknowledging our errors and being willing to restore what has been removed – respect, sincerity, love – makes one worthy of forgiveness. ... If we are not capable of apologising, it means we are not capable of forgiveness either. ... Many hurt feelings, many lesions in the family begin with the loss of those precious words: 'I am sorry'. In married life there are many arguments ... but I advise you never to let the day end without making peace. And for this, a small gesture is enough”.

“These three key words for the family are simple words, and perhaps at first they make us smile. But ... perhaps our education neglects them too much. May the Lord help us to restore them to their rightful place in our heart, in our home, and also in our civil co-existence”.

**Lough Derg – Three Day Pilgrimage Season:** From Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. You can begin on any day between then and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August. *Pre-booking not required* Tel: 00353 71986 1518 • Email: info@loughderg.org

**Pope Francis: Sport is an Educational Path**

*Vatican City (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May) [VIS]*

“Sport is an educational path”, said the Holy Father this morning as he received in audience seven thousand members of the Italian Tennis Federation in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall. “There are three fundamental pillars for children and young people”, he added: “Education – in school and in the family – sport, and work. When we have all three of these, then there exist the conditions for developing a full and authentic life, thus avoiding those dependencies that poison and ruin existence”.

“The Church is interested in sport because she has man, the full man, at heart, and recognises that sporting activity has an impact on the formation of the person, on relationships, and on spirituality. You athletes have a mission to accomplish: to be, for those who admire you, valid role models. And you too, directors, trainers and sports workers, are called upon to give good witness to human values, as masters of a sporting practice that is always fair and clear”.

The Pope commented that tennis is a very competitive sport, but “the pressure to achieve significant results must never drive you to take short cuts such as in the case of doping. How ugly and sterile a victory is if it is obtained by cheating and deceiving others”.

“The apostle Paul uses the example of the athlete to illustrate an important characteristic of human existence”, said the bishop of Rome. “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it'. In a certain sense, this is your daily experience in tennis. But St. Paul refers to the challenge of giving an ultimate meaning to life itself. I would therefore exhort each one of you to play the game not only in sport – as you already do, and with excellent results – but also in life, in the search for goodness, true goodness, without fear, with courage and enthusiasm. Play the game with others and with God, giving the best of yourself, spending your life for what is truly valuable and which stands the test of time. Put your talents to the service of the encounter between people, friendship, and inclusion”.

**Pope to Sports Club: Harmony Makes Small Things Flourish Reminds Roman Sports Club How Important It Is to Not Lose Balance in Life**

*Vatican City (Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May) [ZENIT.org]*

“May your sports club always be an open house, where you are able to experience brotherhood and harmony among people.”

Pope Francis made this statement when speaking this morning to members of the famous sports club, S.S. Lazio. In his remarks, the Pontiff encouraged the players to continue being welcoming and valuing different talents. Reflecting on the club's Latin motto, taken from Sallust "Concordia res parvae crescunt, discordia maximae dilabuntur," Pope Francis joked, “It would be interesting to ask if any of you know the translation... But maybe it's better not!”

“It is not really difficult,” the Jesuit explained, “Harmony will make small things flourish, discord will destroy great things.”

“Your long history has confirmed this ancient judgment: born as a small athletics club, ‘Lazio’ over the years has been enriched by diverse associated activities and has been organised in numerous sports sections.” The Holy Father went on to thank them for giving equal status to all sports.

Founded in 1900, the S.S. Lazio sports club intended to provide access to sports activities to all levels of society, not only for the wealthy, as was common at the time.

The members, athletes, and supporters of all ages, he pointed out, have in common the “Olympic spirit” and the “desire for mutual solidarity.”

“In Italy, - and it is also like this in my country, Argentina – you risk speaking always about football, and overlook other sports,” the Pope said.

“Rather,” he noted, “each sporting discipline has its own value, not only physical or social, but also moral, since it offers the possibility to people - especially to children and young people - to grow in balance, self-control, sacrifice and loyalty to the others.”

The human person exists in unity of “spirit and body,” the Pope reminded them, encouraging them to cultivate both of these as they continue their sporting endeavours.

He also told them not to forget their religious and spiritual dimension. “What sometimes happens,” he said, “is that a boy or a girl, for training or competition, misses Mass, or catechism.” →

← “This is not a good sign,” Francis said, “It means that the person has lost the balance in his life.” The Pope also warned against neglecting studying, friendships, or service to the poor. “Thanks be to God we have some beautiful examples of men and women athletes, even great champions, who never stopped living the faith and serving others,” Pope Francis said. “In fact,” he underscored, “true sport encourages the building of a world with more fraternity and solidarity, contributing to the alleviation of injustice and of human and social distress.” (DCL)

**IOSAS Centre and Celtic Garden, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal – Summer Serenity:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July. Join us for an afternoon of food, faith and fun. Hot lunch at 12.30pm followed by a tour of the Celtic Garden and a short healing service and blessing. Music and storytelling until 4.00pm.  
 €10 / £8 per person • Individuals and groups welcome • Booking Essential (00353) 74938 4866

**TinyLife – Dedicated to Supporting Families with Premature and Sick Babies:** Our family support volunteers provide practical and emotional support to parents who have had a premature, sick or disabled baby. As an organisation, we rely on our volunteers to help us provide services to families across Northern Ireland.

**Our Volunteers:** All TinyLife volunteers are people with a love for babies and young children who are keen to help families coping with young families. They may have children of their own or not. Some volunteers will have experience of premature or sick babies in their own family or extended family circle. Some volunteers may have worked in a paid or voluntary capacity with children. Others may be about to embark on a professional career and feel that volunteering with TinyLife will give them valuable experience in their chosen field. Volunteers are reimbursed fully for travel expenses. Volunteers should be over the age of 22 years when applying.

**How do I become a TinyLife Volunteer?** Complete the Family Support Volunteer Application Form, found on our website or Contact the Family Support Officer in your area, Lynn Patterson on 07889 534855, who will arrange to meet with you for an informal discussion on volunteering with us. *Next Training Date: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May*

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

**World Youth Day:** This will be held in Kraków, Poland from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2016. If you are aged between 18 and 35 and would like to be part of this Derry Diocesan pilgrimage, then please register your interest at [wyd@derrydiocese.org](mailto:wyd@derrydiocese.org) or alternatively, call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087. World Youth Day, founded by St. John Paul II is the largest gathering of its kind in the world. It is celebrated every 3 years, each year moving to a different country, with the Pope presiding over the event. WYD is an excellent opportunity for young people from across our diocese to come together, in fellowship, with other young Catholics from around the world, to share and engage in their faith.

**Registration of the Religious of the Diocese:** Is there a religious sister, brother or priest in your family? If so, in this Year of Consecrated Life, the Diocese needs your help to create a register of those men and women who joined religious communities and were either native of the Diocese of Derry or have worked in the Diocese. Registration cards are available. Since these cards will be on display in St. Eugene’s Cathedral after Easter, details of submission date etc. are on the back of the card. *Thank you!*

<b>During the month of May members of the Legion of Mary will lead us praying the Rosary 25 minutes before the beginning of Mass each day. Please join them or make the Rosary your special family prayer during this month</b>			
<b>The Glorious Mysteries (Sunday and Wednesday)</b>	<b>The Joyful Mysteries (Monday and Saturday)</b>	<b>The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday and Friday)</b>	<b>The Mysteries of Light (Thursday)</b>
The Resurrection	The Annunciation	The Agony in the Garden	Jesus is baptised in the Jordan
The Ascension	The Visitation	The Scourging at the Pillar	Jesus at the wedding feast of Cana
The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles	The Birth of the Lord	The Crowning with Thorns	Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God and calls to conversion
The Assumption of our Lady into Heaven	The Presentation in the Temple	The Carrying of the Cross	The Transfiguration
The Crowning of our Lady as Queen of Heaven	The Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple	The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord	The Last Supper and Institution of the Eucharist

**Child Safeguarding:** If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI/or local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities.  
*See poster at Church entrances*

**Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland – Special Evening of Music and Song with The Priests:** The classical music trio The Priests will present a special fundraising concert in St Patrick’s RC Cathedral, Armagh on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. The evening will celebrate the hope that local people have helped Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland build over the last 21 years. *Tickets cost £20 and can be purchased at [habitatni.co.uk](http://habitatni.co.uk) or from Armagh Parish Office (028 3752 2813)*

**Musings** *Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth)*  
 In a homily for this feast day, St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) explains the significance of Christ’s ascension for his body, the Church – essentially, for each one of us: ‘Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head.’

<b>IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2015</b>			
<b>Sacramental Celebrations</b>	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick’s	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion
<b>Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>		<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside
<b>Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish</b>	<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May • Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>		St. Patrick’s
	<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September • Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>		Our Lady of the Wayside
<i>Morning Masses will be celebrated as above unless a Requiem is needed on the dates</i>			
<b>Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July)</b>	<b>Saturday Evening (4<sup>th</sup> July)</b>	St. Patrick’s	Directly after <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday Morning (5<sup>th</sup> July)</b>	Our Lady of Wayside St. Mary’s, Broughderg	Directly after <b>11.00am</b> Mass
	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick’s	<b>6.00pm</b> Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2015)
<b>‘Do This In Memory’</b> liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion			
	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion
	<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Feast of Corpus Christi	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Mark 15-20:**

*John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this he commissioned them to bring the Good News to the whole world. Witnesses to the Good News do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement to us in this. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?
2. Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bring them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in ourselves and in God. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?
3. The ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he was with them in other ways. 'The Lord worked with them.'  
Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend or an inspiring leader, after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

**The Deep End – *And The Lord Worked With Them...***

*Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

The fear experienced by the women and the disciples at the end of the Gospel of Mark shows us that even when we have profound spiritual experiences, fear can often force us into silence. The account of the ascension in Mark which we read today urges us not to be afraid but to go out. The Gospel of Mark is a Gospel for hard times, for those who are struggling. This ending aims to empower us and give us courage even when the world around us tells us otherwise. It urges us to 'Go' and tell.

The disciples 'went out'; bringing 'good news' everywhere. We too are called to be Easter People because we live with an assurance that pain, death and grief will not have the last word and we dare to shine the light of hope and wholeness into the empty tomb. Where have you encountered Easter People in your own life? How do you communicate this risen Jesus to others? How can we be Easter People to others? This is the challenge of the Gospel today. To bring Christ's love and assurance to all we meet.

God has given us the power to create beauty, to make another smile, to be a healing presence in someone's sorrow, to bring justice to the oppressed, to console those in difficulty, to bring peace and joy to others, to help those in need, to laugh and enjoy life, to do good and turn from evil, to forgive those who have hurt us, and, most of all, to love.

*Iris Perez*