

 Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry) St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg The Third Sunday of Easter (18th April, 2010) The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com		
Remember in your prayers the young people who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish today Liturgy Schedule for the Third Week of Easter (19th April, 2010 – 25th April, 2010)		
Monday 19th April Third Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 20th April Third Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 21st April Third Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: John Anthony (4 th Anniversary) and Sara-Ann McCullagh (10 th Anniversary)
Thursday 22nd April Third Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	No Mass
Friday 23rd April Third Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass: Mary Ellen Daly (14 th Anniversary)
Saturday 24th April Third Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	No Mass
Saturday Evening	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: Mary Morris (8 th Anniversary) 9.00am Mass: Misso Pro Populo 10.30pm Confessions 11.00am Mass
Sunday 25th April Fourth Sunday of Easter	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	
Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to £1,070 . 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. Trócaire Lenten Campaign: Your donations to the Trócaire Lenten Campaign are helping to break the cycle of hunger and poverty in the world's poorest countries. Thank you for standing in solidarity with families in the developing world. Your generosity makes a big difference in their lives. During the past week £1,155 was received. Any further contributions will be gratefully accepted		
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Mary Morris, John McAleer and John Anthony and Sara-Ann McCullagh whose anniversaries occur at this time.		
We welcome new parishioners and invite you to register by filling out a parish census form. Please forward it to The Parochial House at the address above.		
First Confession (Reconciliation): Congratulations to the children who made their First Confession (Reconciliation) last Friday evening. May this marker in your lives become the first of many encounters with a loving and forgiving God.		
Election Anniversary: Monday 9 th April (tomorrow) is the anniversary of the 2005 election of Pope Benedict XVI as Supreme Pastor of the Church. Please remember him and his ministry in your prayers		
Prayer Friends for the Confirmation Class of 2010: Thank you for your daily support towards our young people who will receive the Sacrament on Sunday 18 th April (today).		
Ards Monastery Co. Donegal – Legion of Mary Sponsored Weekend Retreat: Beginning Friday 20 th April. Bus will depart from Gortin Donation: £95.00 Telephone (028) 8164 8650.		
'Mary's Meals' Information Night: A Charity dedicated to Feeding the poorest Children in the World. It only costs £6.15 a year to feed a child in Africa for a whole year! If interested, come along to our Information evening in: Christian Brothers Grammar School, Kevlin Road, Omagh on Sunday 18 th April (today) at 8.00pm "Truly I say to you, as you did this to one of the least of these, You did it to Me" <i>Matthew 25:45</i>		
Carmelite Retreat Centre (Termonbacca, Derry) – Mass for the Sick. Tuesday 20 th April at 8.00pm.		
Northern Ireland Hospice – Big Walk Week: Saturday 17 th April to Saturday 24 th April. <i>nihospcie.org</i>		
Next Sunday's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 99; Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17; John 10:27-30 Lectionary I, page 493 (Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 2)		
Lotto Results: C – E – N – W – Y (9 winners with 3 letters – £10 each) Next Jackpot: £2,150 <i>Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the Wednesday evening prior to publication</i>		

Parish Liturgy for 24th / 25th April, 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	Elaine Coyle	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
Offertory Gifts	The family of Conan Maguire	The family of Connor Bradley	
Confirmation 2010. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be imparted by Bishop Hegarty upon 12 young parishioners in Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg (which on 1 st September will celebrate twenty-five years of service to our faith-community). These young people have been learning about their faith in school with the help of Mrs. McCann, their year 7 teacher and the teachers who have taught them in previous years. With the help of their parents, families, godparents and friends they have been taught at home through the practice of prayer, and the character development that comes with a life lived by faith in the domestic household. With their families they have been encouraged to participate in the worshipping life of our faith community at Sunday Mass every week. They have taken it in turn and along with the year 3 pupils preparing for First Eucharist to present the gifts at the Offertory of the Mass each week throughout the year, - not a huge or onerous responsibility but a significant one. From now on there will be many more challenges and opportunities to witness to their faith – today, as a parish community we pray that these young people will meet these with faith, hope and love. Today's confirmation ceremony will be the fourth to be held at Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg. Bishop Edward Daly confirmed 20 boys and 20 girls on Monday 3 rd May, 1986 and he confirmed 22 boys and 17 girls on Saturday 5 th March, 1988 – Greencastle and Badoney Lower parishes came together for the ceremonies. Bishop Seamus Hegarty confirmed 5 boys and 8 girls on Sunday 25 th April, 2004 and he will confirm 5 boys and 7 girls today. The young people being confirmed today are: Connor Patrick Bradley - Caoileann Mary Conway - Megan Conway - Aaron Brendan Donnelly Lauryn Ashley Hollywood - Michaela Susan McBride - Maeve Anna McCullagh - Noel James McKenna Conan Barry Maguire - Shauna Mary Morris - Aileen Teresa Tracey - Jack Francis Touhey This class can look back to those previously confirmed for example and encouragement in Christian living just as they will inspire those coming after them ...			
The class of 2004 Cahir McCullagh - John McCullagh - Christopher McGuigan - Darren McKenna Gerard Morris - Elisha Bradley - Natasha Corrigan - Michaela Fox - Maria McCullagh Carrie-Ann McCusker - Anita McDermott - Claire Maguire - Melissa Meenan			
The class of 1988 Sharon Gormley - Sharon A. Brogan - Siobhan Mary McKenna - Catherine Ann McCullagh Christine Veronica Donnelly - Norah McCullagh - Karen Breige Glass - Philomena Touhey - Emma Kearney Michelle Teresa Keenan - Susanne Carine Clarke - Grainne Brogan - Bronagh McSwiggan - Leona McAleer Eilish McCullagh - Olivia M.J. Maguire - Fiona Mary McCrory - Shane Christopher Ward - Sean Patrick McNamee Terence B. Bradley - Damian Francis McCullagh - Stephen Martin Brogan - Michael Bernard Conway Peter McCullagh - Jonathan Patrick Brogan - Cahir McConnell - Damien William Daly - Peter Ward M. Christopher Meenagh - Adrian Glass - Conor Aiden McCullagh - Michael Ward - Sean Edward Tracey Peter McDermott - Kevin Plunkett McCullagh - Declan Gerard O'Neill - Martin Alphonsus Conway John Joseph Greene - Eoghan Patrick Devlin			
The class of 1986 Deborah McCarron - Ethna McGuigan - Marion Morris - Sinead McCullagh - Clare Brogan Oonagh McCullagh - Sheena Keenan - Helen Mornan - Shauna Daly - Catherine McDermott - Liza Garrity Bernadine Greene - Eamer McSherry - Eilish McSherry - Kathleen Elizabeth O'Neill - Marian Diane Bradley Majella Anne McAleer - Marie Assumpta Tracey - Siobhan Coyle - Geraldine Anne McDermott - Eamonn Kelly Mark McConnell - Cathal Morris - Paul Brogan - Barry McCullagh - Bernard Morris - Sean McSwiggan Colm O'Neill - Patrick Brogan - Seamus McGueran - Michael Thomas McNamee - Barry Coyle Christopher McNamee - Shane Patrick Keenan - Gerard McGuigan - Sean Noel Clarke - Martin Ward Glen John Lennon - Paul Anthony Heagney - Shane David Conway			
No one has come forward with photographs of the confirmations of 2004, 1988, or 1986 but if anyone would like to share what they have on our parish website, your contribution will be welcomed.			
Golden Jubilarians: As a faith community we offer our prayerful congratulations and best wishes to Francis and Regina McLaughlin of Alworries who were married in Saint Patrick's Church, Cranagh on 20 th April, 1960.			
Pioneer Total Abstinence Association – Annual Buffet and Dance: Shepherd's Rest on Friday 30 th April at 8.30pm. Tickets are £12.50. Contact Maria at (028) 8164 8357			
greencastleparish.com: During the month of March, 2010 a total of 1,789 people have visited our website bringing the overall total to 38,071 .			

Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Clothing Bank: We do not have anyone involved with the St. Vincent de Paul locally in the parish of Greencastle, but neighbouring groups have asked for our support, a clothing bank is now available near to St. Patrick's for a period of time. *Please support them in any way you can*

An Goirtin Naomh Padraig: Training for under 8s, under 10s and under 12s will commence on Saturday 10th April from 10.00am to 11:15am and continue every Saturday at this time. Children are advised to bring trainers for indoors and wet gear for outdoors. Any parent who wishes to help out should contact Fergal Daly.

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. Special arrangements are made for the youth who will be lead by the Pilgrimage Youth Team.

Children in Crossfire – 25th Budapest Half Marathon: Children in Crossfire are recruiting 20 enthusiastic individuals to join them for the 25th Budapest Half Marathon on 5th September. A deposit of £150 is requested and minimum sponsorship applies. Contact Sarah on (028) 7126 9898 or e-mail events@childrenincrossfire.org for more information. Children in Crossfire also hold a car boot sale every Saturday and Sunday at Elagh Business Park on the Buncrana Road, Derry. £5 entry for cars.

Foyle Hospice, Derry:

Bark in the Park Sponsored Dog Walk: Sunday 9th May in St Columb's Park, Limavady Road at 2.00pm. The registration fee is £5.00 per dog and includes a certificate and goodie bag for your pooch on the day. For further information and registration packs please contact Foyle Hospice Fundraising Centre on (028) 7135 9888 or e-mail rachelbruce@foylehospice.com.

The BIG Saunter Sponsored Riverside Walk: Wednesday 19th May at 1.00pm, for those aged 55 and over. The walk will commence from Sainsbury's along the path of the River Foyle and finish off at the Guildhall. All monies raised will go to Foyle Hospice. For further information please contact Stephanie English, Old Library Trust, Creggan, (028) 7137 3870.

Dean Maguire College, Carrickmore presents a night of 'MUSICAL MEMORIES' on 13th, 14th and 15th April.

The Priests, with special guest Camilla Kerslake at Millennium Forum, Derry:

Tuesday 15th June at 8.00pm. Tickets £19.50/£24.50/£29.50 Box Office: (028) 7126 4455.

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 between 3 and 8 years 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 www.familycaresociety.net

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. Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work should take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

Request from Brian Quin: "My name is Brian Quin. I live in Opunake in New Zealand. I'm trying to trace my family ancestry. I am led to believe that possibly my GG grandfather could have come from around Broughderg. His name was Stephen and two of his sons Charles and James headed down under in the 1800(s). I would be truly grateful if any Quin(s) in your parish or maybe a nearby parish could help. I am planning a trip to your area in early May and we would love to talk to and share some of the Quin history here in NZ quinnee@xtra.co.nz

Medjugorje Irish Centre: Every week for a year we are giving away one weeks free apartment accommodation for up to 4 people. Text the word PILGRIM followed by your name and county to 60777 or phone us and we can enter you into the draw for free. Special introductory offer E260 package. Website www.med-irishcentre.com Tel: (028) 82241888.

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. Phone 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at www.knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the Bureau.

Pioneering Total Abstinence Association: I write to you to inform you about this year's National Ball and to ask you to spread the word far and wide. The National Ball 2010 takes place on Saturday 8th May in the Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan. This is now the 14th National Ball, and we're pleased to say that a great night is in store for everyone. The evening commences with Mass in St Bridget's Church, Killygarra at 7.30pm, the meal and dancing will follow in the Cavan Crystal to the music of *Time Out* and our DJ *Peter McEnroe*. One highlight of the night will be our guest speaker *Sean Gallagher* from Dragon's Den, whom we all hope to learn something from in these recessionary times. This is the perfect night to put on your gúna deas and new suit or tux, and dance into the wee small hours while catching up with old friends and hopefully making some new ones. So don't be shy! Tickets are €30 each, €20 for students under 16 years. Do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information. Accommodation list is available on request.

The Catholic Chaplaincy QUB Centenary Dinner Dance: Tickets are now available for the Centenary Dinner Dance, which is taking place on 22nd April in the Whitla Hall at Queen's. If you remember the Chaplaincy Discos, Céilidh or Mrs. Mac famous sandwiches, Liam, Noel, Mary or Anne, Lough Derg pilgrimages, packed Ash Wednesday Masses or a wealth of other Chaplaincy memories then come along and celebrate with us. The Dinner is open to past and present students and staff of the University, their families and friends and all who consider themselves friends of the Chaplaincy. Take the opportunity to arrange to meet with classmates and friends. The tickets cost £40 each and can be purchased from the Chaplaincy at 28 Elmwood Ave or from the Welcome Centre at QUB (or if you send a stamped addressed envelope and a chq made payable to "The Catholic Chaplaincy" we'll post your tickets to you.) [Open seating will be norm but tables of 8 can be arranged]. For any further info please contact the Chaplaincy on (028) 9066 9737 or email cc@qubcc.org. Check out qubcc.org. If you have any Chaplaincy related photos we would love copies of them for the Centenary Display!

Broughderg First Responders Scheme: The role of a First Responder is to attend, when possible a patient who has collapsed and administer CPR and / or defibrillation whilst awaiting for an ambulance crew to attend. The Broughderg First Responders are volunteers who live and work in the local area they are fully trained and are fully insured. When an appropriate 999 call is received from the area covered by the First Responder Scheme; the volunteers are notified and try to attend to provide whatever care is reasonable. First Responders will only attend when dispatched by Ambulance Control. They have no role in the diagnosis or management of illness apart from the collapsed patient. There will always be a 999 ambulance in attendance. Volunteers are clearly identifiable as they will have ID with them. They will provide whatever care is reasonable and will endeavour to assist either doctors or members of the Ambulance Service as appropriate. If you require any further information about the scheme please do not hesitate to get in touch. *Janet Shields (Dalriada Urgent Care) (028) 2566 3502*

Lough Derg 2010 Season Guide at www.loughderg.org: For the 2010 season we are once again offering a varied programme. The usual Three Day Pilgrimages, One Day Retreats, Quiet Days and a Day for Families, along with Confirmation and School Retreats and the Life's Journey Series of Workshops will provide opportunities for many to visit. Whether it is for healing or strength, or for reconciliation or renewal, we invite you to join us for a few hours or a day (or three days!). Whatever your reason for wanting to be connected with the Holy Island, know that we are committed to bringing you the *Gift of Hope*.

ACCORD – Annual Recruitment Campaign. ACCORD is looking for people who are currently married in the Catholic Church or currently in a marriage recognised by the Catholic Church for 5 years, have the ability to convey a positive attitude to marriage, have an openness and commitment to working within a Catholic organisation, relate easily to people, are able to be part of a team and are sensitive, warm, caring and accepting. In particular, we are seeking volunteers to deliver our Marriage Preparation Courses in the Omagh centre. Last year we prepared 137 couples for the sacrament of marriage in our centre. We realise that this doesn't fully meet the demands for this service and we would be grateful if you could help us in our attempts to identify suitable people to carry out this important work. We are hosting an informal information evening on Wednesday 21st April at 8.00pm for those interested in working with ACCORD and who want to find out more about what a facilitator's role involves without any commitment being required. Mount Saint Columba Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street, Omagh. Tel (028) 8224 2439..

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

The Sacrament of Confirmation: In the Church's teaching Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ for the conferral of sanctifying grace and the strengthening of the union between individual souls and God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in its paragraphs (1302-1303) teaches:

It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- *it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15);*
- *it unites us more firmly to Christ;*
- *it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;*
- *it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;*
- *it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:*

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

The roots of confirmation are found in Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17, "Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit." See also the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 14 where Christ speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. In the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, the sacrament is customarily conferred only on persons old enough to understand it, and the ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop.

"The practice of the Latin Church more clearly expresses the communion of the new Christian with the bishop as guarantor and servant of the unity, catholicity and apostolicity of his Church, and hence the connection with the apostolic origins of Christ's Church."

Reserving administration of the sacrament to a bishop, who cannot be present at every infant baptism, means that large groups of older children and young adults are confirmed together, making the occasion something of a rite of passage and an opportunity to profess personal commitment to the faith. However, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1308 warns: "Although Confirmation is sometimes called the 'sacrament of Christian maturity,' we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need 'ratification' to become effective."

In the early twentieth century, Pope Pius X encouraged the admission of children to reception of the Eucharist as soon as they reached the age of reason, in contrast to the later age at which they had been admitted for some centuries. Since the age for confirmation remained as before, those being confirmed generally received the Eucharist several years earlier. However, the three sacraments of Christian initiation, baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, are increasingly conferred, within the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, in the traditional order, which is obligatory when an adult is baptised.

The Catholic Church teaches that, like baptism, confirmation marks the recipient permanently, making it impossible to receive the sacrament twice.

One of the effects of the sacrament is that "it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1303). This effect has been described as making the confirmed person "a soldier of Christ".

The same passage of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* also mentions, as an effect of confirmation, that "it renders our bond with the Church more perfect". This mention stresses the importance of participation in the Christian community.

The "soldier of Christ" imagery, which remains valid but is downplayed if seen as part of the once common idea of confirmation as a "sacrament of maturity" was used as far back as 350 by St. Cyril of Jerusalem. In this connection, the touch on the cheek that the bishop gave while saying "Pax tecum" (Peace be with you) to the person he had just confirmed was interpreted as a slap, a reminder to be brave in spreading and defending the faith: "Deinde leviter eum in maxilla caedit, dicens: Pax tecum" (Then he strikes him lightly on the cheek, saying: Peace be with you). When, in application of the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the →

← Sacred Liturgy, the confirmation rite was revised in 1971, mention of this gesture was omitted. However, the French and Italian translations, indicating that the bishop should accompany the words "Peace be with you" with "a friendly gesture" (French text) or "the sign of peace" (Italian text), explicitly allow a gesture such as the touch on the cheek, to which they restore its original meaning.

Information on other effects and broader matters concerning this sacrament can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1285-1321.

Confirmation name. In many English-speaking countries and in German-speaking lands it is customary for a person being confirmed in the Catholic Church to adopt the name of a saint with whom he/she feels a special affinity, thus securing an additional patron saint to be his/her protector and guide. The saint's name is often used in conjunction with the confirmer's middle name, and is without effect in civil law, unless, of course, the confirmer pursues the appropriate legal avenues.

This Week's Calendar of Saints:

Sunday 18th April – St. Laserian (bishop) Not celebrated this year.

Wednesday 21st April – St. Anselm (bishop and doctor of the Church) From Lombardy he joined the monastic school at Bec in Normandy in 1059 under the direction of Lanfranc, whom he succeeded as Archbishop of Canterbury. He was exiled twice and died in 1109.

Friday 23rd April – St. George (martyr) Was venerated as a soldier saint at Lydda in the Holy Land where he was probably martyred around the year 300. His cult may have been popularised in England and Ireland by returning crusaders. He is patron saint of England, Portugal, of soldiers and of the Scout Movement.

St. Adalbert of Prague (bishop and martyr) (956-997) After being bishop of Prague, went as a missionary among the Prussians on the Polish coast where he was martyred in 997.

Saturday 24th April – St. Fidelis of Signmaringen (priest and martyr) (1578-1622) A Capuchin who preached to the Calvinists in Switzerland where he was killed by a group of extremists.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 21:1-9:

1. The disciples spend a fruitless night fishing and catching nothing. Things change dramatically when Jesus appears and invites them to try again. Remember those who came to you and encouraged you to try again when you felt discouraged. Perhaps on some of these occasions the results were beyond your expectations.
2. The story can serve as a reminder that sometimes we are wasting our time if we try to work on our own without the Lord's help. When have you found that your work or life was more fruitful when you acknowledged that you needed God's help and you spoke to God about your need?
3. Peter is given the chance to be fully reconciled with his Master after his denial during the Passion. Remember those who have given you an opportunity for reconciliation after you had hurt them or let them down. What was it like for you to be given this chance? To whom have you offered the possibility of reconciliation?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

The Deep End – Jack-of-all-trades:

Jack has been the most popular name for baby boys in Britain for 13 years running. In Ireland for a number of years it was the second most popular name to ... yes, Seán. No playmate leapfrogging from John to Jack. It was up front, plain and simple, in-your-face-from-the-start, Jack. So what, you may ask. Well, it might indicate that the poetry of life has gone out the door for many parents and that a pedestrian prose has replaced it. If so, what a pity! With due apologies to the Jacks of all shades, the name does have its yawn factor.

The equally soporific *Charles*, on the other hand, can be an intoxicant when followed by the name Dickens for collectors of curios. Proof? Well, a 150-year-old wine bottle of his sold for £1,500. Just the bottle, empty! But then, it did have part of a label on the outside and dried sediment on the inside. But it was the owner's name that counted. Joe Blogg wouldn't have got a look in.

Today's First Reading refers to a name: *As they left the council they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name.* (Acts 5:27-32, 40-41) If a famous name can add so much value to an otherwise worthless object how much more so the name of Jesus when branded by baptism on a human heart! It's important that the 'brand' name 'Christian' be recognised through its bearer becoming 'all things to all men', and not just a Jack-of-all-trades to the few.

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

Questions people ask:

Q. What do you think of people who are officially signing themselves out of the Church?

A. I feel sorry people who would deprive themselves of the privilege of participating with Jesus in the Eucharistic worship of the Father, and turn their backs on the astounding invitation to receive Jesus as the Bread of Life. The Lord's presence in the Eucharist is not conditional on the holiness or sinfulness of the priest at the altar. It is a divine gift, not something of human making. The first person to say count-me-out was Judas as he left the Last Supper. The Gospel says that he went into the dark. Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

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