



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

**St. Patrick's, Greencastle**      **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (18<sup>th</sup> November, 2012)**  
The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com   **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474   **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Liturgy Schedule for the Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (19 <sup>th</sup> November, 2012 – 25 <sup>th</sup> November, 2012)			
<b>Saturday Evening (17<sup>th</sup> November)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions	
		<b>6.00pm</b> Mass: Katie Fox (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)	
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)	
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>10.30am</b> Confessions	
		<b>11.00am</b> Mass	
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass	
St. Josephat (bishop and martyr)			
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass	
Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time			
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass: Brian O'Neill (13 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass: Fr. Joe Morris (Anniversary)	
St. Cecilia (virgin and martyr)			
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass	
St. Columban (abbot and missionary)			
<b>Saturday Morning (24<sup>th</sup> November)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass	
St. Andrew Dung-Lace and Companions			
<b>Saturday Evening (24<sup>th</sup> November)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions	
<i>Do This In Memory</i>		<b>6.00pm</b> Mass: Gerry Daly (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)	
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)	
Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King [Year B]	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>10.30am</b> Confessions	
		<b>11.00am</b> Mass	
<b>Weekly Offerings:</b> Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to <b>£870</b> . <b>Retired Priests' Pension Fund Collection:</b> Thank you for your contribution of <b>£675</b> . <i>Please support your community by using your envelope, even if you must attend Mass outside your parish.</i> <i>Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.</i> 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.			
<b>Remembering Our Dead:</b> We pray for <b>Katie Fox, Fr. Joe Morris</b> and <b>Brian O'Neill</b> , whose anniversaries occur at this time. We also pray for <b>Michael Daly (Dunamore)</b> and <b>Rose McGurk (Formil)</b> , enrolled members of the Derry Diocesan Society.			
<b>Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July):</b> 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). <i>Forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available</i>			
<b>Mass for Deceased Teachers of the Diocese:</b> Nazareth House Chapel, Bishop Street, Derry. Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov. 7.30pm. <b>Mass for Deceased Young People of the Diocese:</b> St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry. Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> November, 3.00pm.			
<b>Scor na Og:</b> Congratulations to the children from the parish who have qualified for the county final on Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> November.			
<b>Ceili Dancing:</b> Caoileann Conway · Seoirse Conway · Tegan Mc Dermott · Eadaoin Fox · Aileen Touhey · Claire Touhey <b>Solo Singing:</b> Ciara Fox <b>Music Group:</b> Carla Mc Cann · Caria Fox · Seoirse Conway · Caoileann Conway · Eimear Bradley <b>Ballet Group:</b> Aileen Touhey · Bronagh Connelly · Carla Mc Cann · Ciara Fox · Eimear Bradley <b>Quiz Team:</b> Seamus Warnock · Carla Mc Cann · Patrick Clarke			
<i>Please come out and support them in the final</i>			
<b>Greencastle Youth Club Rota</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P6 and P7 (Anne Morris)
		8.00pm – 9.30pm	Years 8, 9 and 10 (Fergal Lucas)
	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P4 and P5 (Barry Maguire)
<b>Special Enriching Weekend for Married Couples in a Stable Relationship:</b> Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, 30 <sup>th</sup> November to 2 <sup>nd</sup> December. Designed to help deepen your commitment to one another and enrich the joys you share together, whether you're recently or many years married. <a href="http://marriageencounter.ie/(00353)646644319/(00353)876670418/(028)90626503">marriageencounter.ie/(00353)646644319/(00353)876670418/(028)90626503</a>			
<b>Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013:</b> For information please contact (0044) 28822 41888			
<b>Next Sundays Readings:</b> Daniel 7: 13-14; Psalm 92 : 1-2, 5, r/v 1; Apocalypse 1: 5-8; John 18: 33-37; (Lectionary I, page 829) <b>(Sunday: Year B) (Weekday: Year 2)</b>			

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> November
The family of <b>Alana McGuigan</b>		The family of <b>Sean and Tara Conneely</b>
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> November*	Solemnity of Christ the King [Year B]	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> November
The family of <b>Chloe McGurk</b>		The family of <b>Matthew Conway</b>
** <i>Do This In Memory Week 4</i>		
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.		
<b>The Year of Faith 2012 – 2013:</b> The Year of Faith is a time for us to renew our commitment to our faith, God's gift to us at our Baptism. Our faith grows through our relationship with Jesus Christ, sent by God to embody for us God's presence in our world. Jesus showed us how to live a life of faith and called us to do the same. On the night before he died, he said, 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another'. On the same night he also promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live and love as he asked us to: 'The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said.' As part of the Year of Faith, Veritas is proud to present Profiles in Faith, a series of essays on the life and work of twelve Christian men and women who lived their lives as 'faith in action'. We encourage you to read the accounts, and to reflect on them over the course of the month. Additional biographical sources are also suggested, should you wish to find out more.		
<b>Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta:</b> The Christ-like love that drove the early Church was both practical and authentic. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Christians today continue to demonstrate this practical and authentic love. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta is one such example. Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born in Macedonia, a small country in Eastern Europe, in 1910. As a young girl Agnes became interested in the work of missionaries and, when she was eighteen, she responded to the call of the Holy Spirit to become a missionary nun. She joined the Sisters of Loreto, an Irish community of nuns with missions in India. After a few months' training in Dublin, Ireland, she was sent to India, where on May 24, 1931 she took her initial vows as a nun. From 1931 to 1948 Mother Teresa—as she came to be known—taught geography and theology at St. Mary's High School, Calcutta, India, but she soon realized that the Holy Spirit was calling her to serve the Church in a different way. She obtained permission from her superiors to leave the convent school and devote herself to working among the poorest of the poor. So, together with a group of her former pupils, she started an open-air school in the slums of Calcutta. There she found people living in absolute destitution, with no healthcare facilities, and many were often left to die on the street. Mother Teresa and her companions were compelled to action by the grace for making good and wise judgments and the grace for implementing good and wise decisions. They began 'Homes for the Dying' and committed themselves to caring for people whom nobody else was prepared to look after.		
More and more women came to join them in their efforts and, in 1950, the Church officially established them as a religious congregation, to be known as the Missionaries of Charity. By the time of Mother Teresa's death in 1997, there were over four thousand sisters in the Missionaries of Charity. Today, the Missionaries of Charity comprises Active and Contemplative branches of Sisters and Brothers in more than one hundred countries, caring for the poor, people with hiv/aids and other illnesses, and running schools, orphanages and soup kitchens. During her lifetime, Mother Teresa was awarded numerous accolades for her work, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003, and is now known as Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.		
<b>Consider:</b> What do you find most inspiring for your own life from the story of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta? Do you ever see situations of injustice around you? Do you ever feel moved by the Spirit to act on these issues? Explain. What Gifts of the Holy Spirit might help you in such situations?		
<b>Prayers for the Year of Faith:</b> When Pope Benedict XVI declared a Year of Faith to commence on 11 <sup>th</sup> October, he was conscious that it was the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Below is a prayer that was said before every session of the Council.		
We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name.	Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.	Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true. As we gather in your name, may we temper justice with love, so that all our discussions and reflections may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants.
Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.	Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.	We ask this of You who live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.	You desire justice for all; enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favour.	<b>NOTE: You can read more on the Year of Faith below</b>
BADA An Bruach Derg Community Centre – <i>Upcoming Events:</i>		
<b>Every Friday Night at 8.30pm</b> Card playing with light supper served		

**Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for November (please remember these in your personal prayer)**  
**General – Ministers of the Gospel:** That Bishops, priests, and all ministers of the Gospel may bear the courageous witness of fidelity to the crucified and risen Lord.  
**Missionary – Pilgrim Church:** That the pilgrim Church on earth may shine as a light to the nations.

**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)*

**Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID):** Concerned about your hearing or tinnitus problems? If you would like a hearing check, get advice or get information on services available, come to an Action on Hearing Loss FREE Drop-in Hearing Aid Clinic.  
**Strule Medical Practice, Health Centre, Omagh:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November between 2.00pm and 3.30pm. For further details contact Lisa Bullick, Outreach Development Officer  
 Tel: (028) 6632 4400, Textphone: (028) 6632 4400, Mobile: 07553 353 980 Website [actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://actiononhearingloss.org.uk)

**Do This In Memory of Me:** Our parish programme in preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion continues at the Vigil Mass in Greencastle next weekend (Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November, vigil Mass for Feast of Christ the King).

**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*

**Special Enriching Weekend for Married Couples in a Stable Relationship:** Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, 30<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Designed to help deepen your commitment to one another and enrich the joys you share together, whether you are recently or many years married.  
[marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie) / (00353) 64664 4319 / (00353) 87667 0418 / (028) 9062 6503

**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](mailto:email@familycaresociety.org) [familycaresociety.net](http://familycaresociety.net)

**Follow the Star IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail (Facilitated by The YARD Project):** This year the Celtic Prayer Garden at the IOSAS Centre, Derryvane, Muff will be transformed to provide a truly memorable Christmas experience for all the family. A guided trail under starlight around the Christmas themed houses tells the greatest story ever told – the birth of Jesus. This interactive event will also include crafts for kids and storytelling on some of our favourite Christian traditions.  
 For more info call 00353 7493 84866 or Facebook 'IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail'

**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](http://logosinstitute.org)

Parish Liturgy for November, 2012	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Siobhan McKenna	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of the Faithful	James McCullagh	Ciaran Tuohy	Peter McKenna
Collectors	Raymond Bradley Lawrence McBride	Emmett Clarke Eoghan Clarke	Colm Beggs Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Rosemary, Shauna and Ciara McNally		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke
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, do so ASAP.			

**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.

**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***

**London Marathon (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:noel@foylehospice.com), (028) 7135 9888.

**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.

**ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013** (028)8224 2439 [accordomagh@btopenworld.com](mailto:accordomagh@btopenworld.com)  
 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March  
 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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

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

Films are an important feature of popular culture, but can they also be a vehicle for theological enquiry? Veritas thinks they can! Every month during the Year of Faith, we offer a Film of the Month, which we invite you to watch, reflect on and discuss. As an initiative for the Year of Faith, you might like to start a Year of Faith Film Club in your work, school or parish community where these films can be discussed and shared. Film reviews are kindly written by Rev. Dr John-Paul Sheridan, PhD.

Film of the Month for November – Shadowlands

Background

This film tells the story of the growing relationship between the novelist and Oxford don, C. S. Lewis and the American writer Joy Davidman, and her subsequent illness and death from cancer. It began life as a television play in 1985, starring Joss Ackland and Clare Bloom as the couple. It was written by William Nicholson, whose writing credits include Gladiator (2000), Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) and the new film version of Les Misérables (2012). It was later turned into a stage play and was subsequently made for the big screen and released in 1993, starring Anthony Hopkins as Lewis, Debra Winger as Joy, Edward Hardwicke as Lewis' brother Wamie, and Joseph Mazzello as Joy's son Douglas. The film was directed by Richard Attenborough, whose film credits are too numerous to mention! Julian Fellowes (of Downton Abbey fame) also appears. It went on to be nominated for two Oscars, six BAFTAs and ten other awards, and it won BAFTAs for Best British Film and Best Actor for Anthony Hopkins.

Biography

Clive Staples Lewis (better known as C. S. or Jack) was born in Belfast in 1898. He was educated at boarding school in England, sent there after the death of his mother in 1908. He went to Oxford in 1916, attending University College. Apart from mobilisation during World War I, he was to remain at Oxford until 1954. He then accepted the position of Professor of Medieval and Renaissance at the University of Cambridge. In the early 1950's Lewis began a friendship and correspondence with the American writer Joy Davidman. This friendship grew when she left her husband, the novelist William Gresham, and moved to England with her two sons, Douglas and David. The friendship eventually led Lewis and Davidman to enter a civil marriage in 1956, so that Davidman could stay in England. She was then diagnosed with terminal bone cancer and the couple were married according to the Church of England in 1957. The cancer went into remission for a short time, but she died in 1960. Her sons continued to live with Lewis after their mother's death. Lewis died in 1963, the same day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. He is buried in Oxford.

Lewis and His Writing

Lewis is perhaps best known as the author of The Chronicles of Narnia, although the bulk of his writing was philosophical, apologist and spiritual in nature. Three of his books have particular significance to this film. In 1940, against the backdrop of the Second World War, Lewis published The Problem of Pain, which was an attempt to explain and reconcile the Christian belief in a just and loving God and the existence of pain and suffering in the world. In 1955 he published Surprised by Joy, an account of his conversion to Christianity in the early 1930's; and while it had nothing to do with his future wife, the parallels were often noted by his contemporaries. Thirdly, he published A Grief Observed in 1961 under the pseudonym N. W.Clerk, in which he explored his grief at the death of his wife and how he recovered his belief in God. With regard to the Chronicles of Narnia, Lewis dedicated The Horse and His Boy to David and Douglas Gresham. The Last Battle (1956) has a final chapter entitled 'Farewell to Shadowlands', which is what Aslan calls human existence. The Magician's Nephew (1955) tells the story of the creation of Narnia (in parallel to the Genesis story). At the heart of the story is a boy and his sick mother and the quest for a magic apple to heal her. Lewis's mother had died when he was younger and he had been sent away to boarding school. The story might also have been significant to the Gresham sons.

Context

The film explores relationships on a number of different levels. The first is the relationship between the two main characters, but there are also the relationships between Lewis and his brother, Joy and her son, and Lewis and the young Douglas. For whatever reason, Douglas is the only Gresham son portrayed in the film.

Themes      Suffering      Death and Loss      Relationships

Faith Practice of the Month – Praying for Those Who Have Died:

The month of November has been set aside by the Church as a month in which we particularly remember those who have died. The Church assures us that we can help our departed brothers and sisters by prayer, by doing penance for them and by gaining indulgences for them. During November we place a particular emphasis on visiting the graves of those in our families who have died and on praying for them. We can also ask them to help us. Most particularly we can remember them at Mass and have Mass offered for them. The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church reminds us that 'The union of the wayfarers with the brothers and sisters who sleep in the peace of Christ is in no way interrupted but on the contrary, according to the constant faith of the Church, this union is reinforced by an exchange of spiritual goods' (Lumen Gentium, 49). Especially on 2 November, but right through the month, we remember the dead. We remember especially our departed brothers and sisters who are being prepared in purgatory for the eternal banquet with God in Heaven. Many people, when they die, are in a state of friendship with God but are not yet quite ready to enter heaven. They may still have traces of sin from the small daily sins which we all commit and which require God's forgiveness. There is also the temporal punishment due to sins which have been forgiven and for which people may not have done sufficient penance during their lives on earth. The Church uses the term 'purgatory' to describe this purification after death. Purgatory is a sign of God's constant reaching out in forgiveness to all people and of his desire that we will all, one day, be with him in heaven.

Pray the following prayers silently or with others:

Prayers for the faithful departed

May the divine assistance remain always with us, And may the souls of the faithful departed, Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.	Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.
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Prayer of Cardinal John Henry Newman

May he support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at last.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November – *Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*** Originated in the East and was included on the General Calendar in the 16th century. With the feasts of Immaculate Conception and the Nativity of Mary, this feast reminds us that Mary was the chosen vessel of God from the very first moment of her life.
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – *St. Cecilia (virgin and martyr)*** The patroness of music and musicians, was a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman Christian martyr. According to tradition, she refused to worship the Roman gods and was beheaded. Her association with music and the representations of her playing the organ probably grew from a misunderstanding of a 5<sup>th</sup> century account of her life.
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – *St. Columban (abbot and missionary) [543-615]*** Also known as Columbanus. Became a monk of Bangor and later principal teacher there. In 591, desiring to 'go on a pilgrimage for Christ' he set out with 12 companions and came to Burgundy. He established monasteries at Annegray, Luxeuil and Fontaine according to the severe Irish rule. Later he founded Bregenz in Austria and his greatest foundation at Bobbio, near Genoa, where he died. Remembered as one of the greatest of the Irish Missionary monks.
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November – *St. Andrew Dung-Lac (priest) and Companions (martyrs)*** In the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in Vietnam many Christians suffered martyrdom. On 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1988 Pope John Paul II canonised 117 of these, 96 native Vietnamese men and women, 11 Dominican missionaries from Spain and 10 French missionaries.
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November – *St. Catherine [335-397]*** Martyred in 310 at Alexandria. Her body is venerated at the monastery on Mount Sinai.  
***St. Colman*** Born around 530, probably in West Cork. A bard by profession, he is reputed to have been influenced by Satin Brendan to become a priest. His apostolate was to East Cork and his main foundation was at Cloyne. [Not celebrated this year]

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 13:24-32:***John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. Jesus speaks of the established order falling apart, but the collapse of the old order opened the way for new possibilities. When have you seen something new and hopeful emerge after the collapse of something that you had expected to endure much longer, perhaps even for ever?
2. The parable of the fig tree. Even in winter it begins to put forth leaves which give a hint of the fruit to come. Where have you found signs of hope in a wintry situation – in your own life, in the life of some group, in the life of the Church?
3. Jesus proposes no clear time-scale for the events being foretold, so the final sentence (v. 32) is a call to alertness, to live the present to the full. What difference does it make to you when you are able to live the present moment to the full?

**Questions people ask:***Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesterofflynn@gmail.com)*

- Q. Are we to take literally the words of Jesus about the sun and moon losing light and stars falling from heaven? I find these bits scary.
- A. The physical universe that we can observe will probably burn out at some stage, maybe millions of years hence. Only God knows when. The teaching of Jesus is not meant to scare us but to reassure us that his words will last forever and that all life will culminate with the victory of God in power and glory. When the evangelist Mark recalled these words of Jesus it must have greatly strengthened the Christians of his time as they were being savagely persecuted.

**The Deep End – A Race Against Time:***Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

Can you remember a time before everyone had mobile phones? It's only twelve years since I got my first one. Back then, in the pre-mobile world, we had to stick to plans we had made. There was no such thing as 'Text me when you're on the way' or 'I'll call you if I'm running late'. If someone didn't show up for a meeting or appointment, we had no way of checking where they were or what the hold-up was.

Nowadays there is less waiting around. We are instantly able to find out where other people are; if someone is late for a meeting our first reaction is to call them. We are not used to waiting anymore, and we don't handle uncertainty very well.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples about time. The world as they know it is passing away, he says. But here's the uncomfortable truth: nobody knows when. The disciples thought it would be in their own lifetime, that they would see the Son of Man coming in the clouds 'with great power and glory'.

Yet countless generations later, here we are with the same uncertainty. We do not know God's plan for the world, or for our lives. But we must be ready for whatever that is.

We can be behind time, running out of time, keeping an eye on the time. We can manage our time as best we can. But we have no control over God's plan for us. We must have faith, and stand ready for whatever is to come.