



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg

Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year A] (18th December, 2016)

Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshkinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474



Thought for Advent: The message of conversion and repentance proclaimed by St. John the Baptist speaks to us today as we examine our conscience and prepare for the Sacrament of Confession.

Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Advent [Year A] (18th December – 25th December, 2016)

Saturday 17th December Third Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Charles Tuohey (Month's Mind)
Sunday 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am – 10.45am Confession 11.00am Mass: Peter Daly (4 th Anniversary)
Monday 19th December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 20th December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 21st December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass
Thursday 22nd December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 23rd December St. John of Kanty (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass <i>Sick and housebound visits</i>
Saturday 24th December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	8.30pm Carol Service 9.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass <i>Please note that there is no Mass at 6.00pm</i>
Sunday 25th December Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ [Year A]	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Christmas Morning Mass 11.00am Christmas Morning Mass

Penitential Services and Confession Schedule for the parishes in this area will take place as follows			
<i>Please take this opportunity as part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas</i>			
Sunday 18th December	3.00pm Greencastle	5.00pm Gortin	7.30pm Plumbridge
Monday 19th December	8.00pm Sacred Heart, Omagh		
Wednesday 21st December	8.00pm Christ the King, Strathroy		
Thursday 22nd December	8.15pm Oratory of Mary, the Mother of God, Newtownstewart		
Friday 23rd December	10.30am - 11.00am and 7.00pm - 8.00pm St. Patrick's, Greencastle		
Saturday 24th December	11.30am - 12.30pm St. Patrick's, Greencastle		

Weekly Collection Amount: £1,070

If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the repose of the soul of **Declan Morris (Dublin)** who died last week. We also pray for the repose of the souls of **James McDermott** and **Collette Heagney** whose anniversaries occur.

Sick and Housebound Visits: Fr. Gallagher will visit for Christmas on Friday 23rd December at the usual times.

Special Charity Concert in Memory of the Late Bishop Daly: Saturday 4th February in St. Columb's Hall. All proceeds from the concert will go to Bishop Daly's chosen charities of Children in Crossfire, Foyle Hospice and Foyle Search and Rescue. Hosted by renowned comedian Jean Fitzpatrick, the evening will include entertainment from a variety of well-known local artists.

Tickets can be purchased through the Millennium Forum box office by calling (028) 7126 4455

Next Week's Readings: **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Christmas Vigil Mass: Isaiah 62:1-5 • Psalm 88:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29, R/ cf v 2
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 • Matthew 1:1-25 • Lectionary 1:99

Day Mass: Isaiah 52:7-10 • Psalm 97:1-6, R/ v 3 • Hebrews 1:1-6 • John 1:1-18 • Lectionary 1:109

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 17 th December The family of Tadhg Clarke	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 18 th December The family of Caelum Tracey
Saturday 24 th December The family of Charles Conway	Feast of the Christmas Nativity	Sunday 25 th December (11.00am) The family of Eoin Bradley
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented		

Pilgrimage to Medugorje: Wednesday 6th to Wednesday 13th September
£619 for half-board • *Price increase due to falling rate of sterling*
Contact Maria ASAP on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Parish Graveyards – Ice Warning: During these winter months in particular it is important we take particular care in the parish graveyards, especially on these frosty mornings. While there have been major improvements in some of these graveyards it is impossible to salt them every time there is a major frost.
So please be careful at all times, thank you *Fr. E. Gallagher PP*

New Indoor Cycle (Spin) Classes: Begin Monday 2nd January in Greencastle Community Centre • **Cost:** £25
Over 50s at 6.00pm [2 places remain] • Advanced at 9.00pm [3 places remain]
For more info call Darryl McCullagh on 07979 378 732

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Application Forms: Now available for pupils born between Monday 2nd July, 2012 and Monday 1st July, 2013 (inclusive) who are due to start in September.
Please call the school for a form on (028) 8164 8732 if you haven't received one from the Green Elves Playgroup

Irish language in Omagh: Pobal ar a'n lúil, Omagh's branch of the Gaelic League invite you to join them in Dún Uladh for their AGM at 7.30pm followed by their Birthday Celebrations with traditional music and Irish singing at 8.30pm - Fáilte roimh na Gaeil. *Tuilleadh eolais - Michaeline (028) 8224 2777 • michaelinepai@gmail.com*

Ancient Order of Hibernians in County Tyrone: For anyone interested in joining please email tyronecountyboardaoh1@yahoo.com or send us a message via our Tyrone AOH Facebook page

Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Classes:

Computers Level 1: Begins in January. Must have a basic knowledge of computers. *Classes are free*

Low impact Dance Exercise: Begins Friday 13th January at 10.30am. Rebecca instructor from Hollywood Fitness will be taking the class. Dance fit is a dance and fitness programme put to a variety of music. Rebecca will adjust for all different abilities in the class and it's a fun way to keep fit. *£20 for 4 weeks*

Bridie: 07591 047 556 / 07847459428 / (028) 8164 8706 • **Clare Ann:** 07798 941 452
Email: rouskeycommunity@yahoo.com

Cruse Bereavement Care: Applications to the Awareness in Childhood Bereavement
Care volunteer training course running over 4 weekends in Spring 2017
Email: maria.mcentee@cruse.org.uk • **Tel:** (028) 9079 2419 • **Deadline:** Tuesday 10th January

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE: Website: childrenincrossfire.org • Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org • Tel: (028) 7126 9898

Advent Appeal: Boxes for this appeal are available at the church porch over the next few weekends. Please consider taking one for this very worthy charity and during this season of excess please remember in the run up to Christmas the children and communities supported by this charity in countries across the world.

Camino De Santiago Walking Challenge: Thursday 30th March to Tuesday 4th April. Walk the way of St. James.
Places are limited

Hearing Aid Support Sessions: Do you wear NHS hearing aids? Offering advice on how to use and maintain your hearing aids and information on hearing loss / tinnitus. NO appointment required.
Call Sheena on (028) 8225 1446 / 07553 353 980
If you have a concern we offer a free hearing check. NHS batteries distributed

Derg Valley Health Living, Castlederg Tuesday 20th December from 10.30am to 12 noon
Strule Family Practice, Omagh Health Centre Wednesday 21st December from 2.00 to 3.00pm

31st Annual Greencastle 5 Mile Road Run: Online registration is especially encouraged but there will also be registration on Tuesday 20th December in Greencastle Community Centre from 8.00pm to 9.30pm.

Check out greencastleparish.com/newsheetarchive.htm for extra notices not printed here

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayers)
Universal – End to Child-Soldiers: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.
Evangelisation – Europe: That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership: In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. 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, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.
For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme of emigration.
If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office
Email: t.mcmenamin@derrydiocese.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

ACCORD – Relationship Counseling: A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.
An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows.
St. Patrick's: Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass
 First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding
 Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass

Drink Wise Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?
For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240

Family Care Society: We are presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children.
 For more information contact us via the following details (offices open weekdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm)
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The Apostolate prayer card offers us a special opportunity to spend ten minutes each day in pray for a priest.
 The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are: *prayerforpriests.com*
Rosemary Johnson 07810 387 825 - brendan_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk • **Ethna Hill** 07528 249 838 - ethna776@yahoo.com
Siobhan Sweeney 07880 588 041 - siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk • **Eamon Cassidy** 077435 02165 - e_cassidy@hotmail.com

Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm: If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.
Address: IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal
Tel: (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • **Website:** celticprayergarden.com • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas): Find out if you're missing out on benefits, services or grants by booking your FREE home visit. Referrals can be made for benefits checks, home safety visits, occupational therapy assessments as well as others. You'll also receive a FREE bag containing £25 worth of items to help keep you warm this winter.
Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book

Parish Liturgy for December, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Kevin / Ryan Clarke	Catriona McCullagh	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Aileen Tracey	Grace Coneely
Collectors	Noel McElhatton Francis McLaughlin	Patrick Tuohey Peter Tracey	Brendan Daly Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:
Tel: (028) 90941690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

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

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 / 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 entrances*

Towards Peace: A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free.
Website: towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@iecon.ie

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2015 Parish Statistics			
Baptisms 6 Boys 8 Girls	Confirmations 8 Boys 8 Girls	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation 10 Boys 9 Girls	Marriages 10 within parish 5 outside parish
Station Masses in October 7	Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13th Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE Celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry on Thursday 17 th September in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle		
Funerals 13	Farewell Concert and Presentation Night for Fr. Eugene Hasson Former Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE and now Parish Priest of the Parishes of Lavey and Greenlough took place on Friday 13 th November in GREENCASTLE Community Centre		

Family Care Society – Interested in Adoption? We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.

Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • **Julie or Brian (Derry Office):** (028) 7136 8592

Email: email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Matthew 1:18-24: John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. As we move into prayer on the passage, we move from consideration of the mystery of how 'God with us' was revealed to the world in the person of Jesus 2000 years ago, to a reflection on how we become aware of 'God with us' now in our daily lives.
2. It took some time for Joseph to accept the fact that, in Mary, there truly was Emmanuel – God with us. God is with us now, but at times we struggle to perceive God's presence. Where have you unexpectedly discovered the presence of 'God with you'? Recall those experiences and give thanks.
3. Joseph was confused and uncertain about what he should do. It took time, and outside help, for him to discern what his next step should be. Perhaps you have also had difficulties along the way to some decisions or commitments. Recall that journey and the moments when it became clear to you what was being asked of you. Give thanks for the angels who helped you along the way.
4. Mary bore Jesus within her, unseen to all and unacknowledged by most. In Joseph she found one who believed in the treasure that she bore. We can be bearers of Jesus to others, and they to us. When have you been that kind of a bearer of Jesus to another? Who has been that to you?

Musings – When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commended him... (Mt 1:24):

Fr. Iomar Daniels (Loughrea, Co. Galway)

Joseph is the central character in today's Gospel. Through his quiet heroics, unselfish spirit and generous and fearless action, Jesus came to be born. Joseph's action means Emmanuel;

God-is-with-us. Throughout Advent we've sung 'Come, O Christ, our Lord.' We've exclaimed: 'Stir up your power O Lord and come to save us. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.' But if Christ is to be born for us we must look beyond the melting candles of the Advent wreath and see deeper than the clay moulded figures of the crib. We have to seek the face of our new-born Saviour in the melting hearts of troubled and discontented people, in the brittle bodies of the sick and the poor and fickle light of innocent children needing our guidance and care. We must become the central actors in the Christian drama of life. The name Joseph in Hebrew means 'let him add'. We too can add to the saving plan of God. As Pope Benedict put it: 'Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return.'

The Net – December Edition: Now on sale, with coverage including:

Aghyaran Day of Renewal • Novena blessings for Cappagh and Christ the King Youth Choir
St. Joseph's PS, Drumquin Golden Jubilee • Drung harvest time thanksgiving • Dungiven Choir launches CD
Fahan Nazareth House thanks for garden funds • Galliagh marks St. Joseph's Church's 60th anniversary
Life of Virginity ceremony in Galliagh • Great response to Granaghan prayer vigil
Omagh Churches Forum explores role of religion • St. Eugene's Holy Door closing ceremony
Waterside celebration for Syro Malabar community • Another amazing COR weekend
Successful Search fundraiser • St. Joseph's Young Priest Society welcomes Claudy branch
Cappagh faith story • Holy Land pilgrim reflects • Derry Knights of Columbanus Centenary
Children's Catechism Club • Parish Post-its

For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call/text 07809 292 852

The Deep End:

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

While Luke focuses on the birth of Jesus from Mary's point of view, Matthew's Gospel tells the story from Joseph's. Joseph must have been extremely confused when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He plans to quietly 'dismiss' her so as not to put her in danger. Mary's options were bleak without Joseph; her fate is very much in his hands. He is immediately obedient and says yes to his call. Joseph welcomes Mary and gives this child the name he is instructed: Jesus.

We hear very little about Joseph in the Gospels and he is sometimes a forgotten figure in the Jesus story, yet his decision to follow God's call is hugely important as he fulfils his promise to protect Mary from danger. Joseph's 'yes' to God sets him on a dangerous path. He must protect his family and this will mean later leaving their homeland, becoming refugees fleeing the terror of Herod.

Each time God speaks to Joseph, it is through his dreams. The Word of God which comes to Joseph gives him a new meaning and a new mission in life. Today, can you reflect on how God speaks to you? In what ways do you hear God's word? And when you hear God's word, what is your response? When you have said 'yes', where has that led you? Today we can pray for those who are faced with tough decisions and who must choose the more difficult path. It requires strength and bravery.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

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

Sunday 25th December – The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS

Today the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,

when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

the whole world being at peace,

Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,

desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,

being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception,

was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary,

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.