



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Fifth Sunday of Easter [Year C] (19th May, 2019)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for Week: "If one does away with the fact of the Resurrection, one also does away with the Cross, for both stand and fall together, and one would then have to find a new centre for the whole message of the gospel. What would come to occupy this centre is at best a mild father-god who is not affected by the terrible injustice in the world, or man in his morality and hope who must take care of his own redemption." *Hans Urs Von Balthasar*

Liturgy Schedule for Fifth Week of Easter [Year C] (19th May, 2019 – 26th May, 2019)

Saturday 18th May	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 19th May		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Fifth Sunday of Easter [C]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass
	St. Patrick's	9.45am – 4.30pm Solemn Annual Exposition
		4.30pm Concluding Prayers and Benediction until 5.00pm
Monday 20th May	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 21st May	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 22nd May	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.15pm Adoration
		7.30pm Mass
Thursday 23rd May	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 24th May	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: John James Donnelly (22 nd Ann.)
Saturday 25th May	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 26th May		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sixth Sunday of Easter [C]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass: Deceased Members of the Derry Diocesan Society

COLLECTIONS **Weekly:** £850 • **Diocesan Purposes:** £500 • **Trócaire:** £3,405 so far

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Tessie McElhatton**, recently deceased and enrolled in the Derry Diocesan Society. We also pray for the soul of **John James Donnelly (22nd)** whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Young Person's Prayer: Here I am Lord, standing at the crossroads of my life, The time has come for me to choose the road which leads to you. I hesitate for fear of what lies ahead of me, for I am much afraid of the unknown. Take my hand in yours and walk with me for the road is long and there are no shortcuts. I place myself into your hands. You know the way. You are the Way. *Amen*

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: This takes place in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle Sunday 19th May. The main intention for the Adoration period will be to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood of the Derry Diocese. Please feel free to attend at any time throughout the day to pray for your personal needs or blessings and those of our wider parish community and world. To ensure a continuity of worshippers I invite people from the named areas to take responsibility to ensure a presence at specific times.
Teach us the lesson of silence, of prayer, of quiet – Lord hear us

10.00am Glenhull • Aughminacroy	1.30pm Cashel • Brackagh • Leaghan
10.30am Muninamale • Alworries	2.00pm Teebane • Camanrancy
11.00am Crouck • Coneyglen	2.30pm Crockanboy
11.30am Aughascribba	3.00pm Broughderg • Evishession
12.00pm Formil East	3.30pm Maryville • Sheskinshule View
12.30pm Formil West	4.00pm Sheskinshule
1.00pm Bennefreaghan	4.30pm Concluding Prayers and Benediction until 5.00pm

Next Week's Readings: Acts 15:1-2,22-29 • Psalm 66:2-3,5-6,8 R/ v4 • Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23
 John 14:23-29 • Lectionary 1 page 574 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil

Saturday 18 th May	The family of Phelim Tracey
Saturday 25 th May	The family of Aimee Fox
Saturday 1 st June	The family of Chloe Conway

Offertory Gift Rota

Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Ascension of the Lord
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9.00am Sunday Morning

Sunday 19 th May	Sunday 26 th May	Sunday 2 nd June
The family of Caolan Tracey	The family of Eoghan Conway	The family of Caoileann Maguire

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented

PTAA Mass for Intentions of All Pioneers and Total Abstainers

Tuesday 21st May at 8.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Ardmore. *All are welcome • Light refreshments served*

Celebrate Mary as the Month of May Comes to a Close: Thornhill Ministries invites you to honour Our Lady by visiting Thornhill House, 121 Culmore Road, Derry on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th May (11.00am to 5.00pm), where there will be a number of May altars on display. An opportunity to bring your intentions to Mary in prayer.
All welcome!

Teaching Opportunity in Scotland (with Masters Degree): The University of Glasgow, in partnership with the Scottish Government have a teaching opportunity aimed at Primary teachers who have a Catholic Education Teaching Certificate OR Secondary teachers in STEM-related areas. Successful applicants will be offered a two-year teaching position in Scotland and at the same time the opportunity to complete an MEd in Inclusive Practice, Policy and Enquiry at the University of Glasgow. The cost of the Masters is covered for successful applicants. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, Clare Fodey from the University of Glasgow will be in Da Vinci's Hotel, 15 Culmore Rd, Derry BT48 8JB on Wednesday 22nd May from 4.00pm to 6.00pm to provide more info.
Email clare.fodey@glasgow.ac.uk to indicate your attendance

Annual Blessing of the Graves: The ceremonies this year will take place as follows

Saturday 29th June, 6.00pm – St Patrick's Church Cemetery, Greencastle
 Sunday 30th June, 11.00am – Our Lady of the Wayside Cemetery, followed by St. Mary's Cemetery Broughderg

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock: Sunday 2nd June. Bus leaving Gortin at 8.00am.

To book call Pat McSwiggan on (028) 8164 7099

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg: Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd June. Spiritual Director: Bishop Donal McKeown. Please consider participating in the diocesan pilgrimage this year. A bus is being arranged from Derry for those who wish to avail of it. £80 per person (including bus) or £65 for students (ages 16 – 18) including bus. For those making their own way to Lough Derg the cost is £65 / €75.

To book a place on the bus call (028) 7126 4087 or email padraig.delargy@derrydiocese.org

Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Tuesday 3rd to Tuesday 10th September.

£579 (includes half board in Leone Hotel, tax and insurance). Spiritual Director Fr. John Forbes.
Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or Whatsapp on 07768 395 038 for more info

May Rosary: During the month of May, a daily rosary will be said at 7.30pm at the Crockanboy Hill Mass Rock.

All are welcome

SMA Retreat Centre, Dromantine, Newry – Short Retreat on Forgiveness: Saturday 22nd June from 9.30am to

5.00pm. the journey from hurt to healing, freedom and peace. Conducted by Fr. Des Corrigan SMA.
Call the Retreat Centre, Dromantine on (028) 3082 1964 or email admin@dromantineconference.com

Lough Derg One Day Retreats: 19th, 21st, 25th, 26th and 27th May.

Why not take some time and space on Lough Derg personally or as a parish group this May?

Parish Ministry Day: Saturday 18th May. A new event for those who serve in lay parish ministry.
 Booking essential • Tel: 0(0353) 71 986 1518 • Email: info@loughderg.org • Website: loughderg.org

Come and See: If you are interested in exploring the possibility of diocesan priesthood you are invited to attend a Come and See Weekend in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May.

To register or for more info contact Fr. Chris Ferguson on chris_j_ferguson@hotmail.com or 07973 423 152

Pope Francis' Intention for May (please remember this in your personal prayers)
The Church in Africa, a Seed of Unity: That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

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

ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training
 To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.
Omagh Office: (028) 8224 6535 • **Enniskillen Office:** (028) 6632 6478 • **Facebook:** Aspire Employability Programme
The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy

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 on request after Mass
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass on request after Mass

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages: 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person
 Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service
To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

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

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):
 Prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies
Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply) • Join our faith family!

Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.
If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure: If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.
If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting derryyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

The Big Knit for Age NI Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p.
To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/bigknit

Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:
 All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness
For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com

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

Parish Liturgy for May, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martina Hughes	Orla Scullion	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	Shona McKenna	Rachel Clarke	Laoise Teague
Collectors	Raymond Bradley Francis McLaughlin	Shea McElhatton Eoghan Clarke	Brian Gillen Brendan Daly
Altar Society	Mary Conway, Mary Meenan and Paula Meenan		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley

Rural Support: We could help you with financial stress by
 Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt
 Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action
Email: info@ruralsupport.org.uk **Website:** ruralsupport.org.uk
 To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour: Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers.
Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com

The Priory Institute – Study Theology Online:
 Come and join our supportive student community and study theology by distance learning this Spring, register now!
Tel: 00353 1 404 8124 • **Email:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com • **Website:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com

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

Family Care Adoption Services *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*
 For a free information contact **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)
 us using any of these details **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

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

Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday
Sean-Nós and Set Dancing 6.00pm to 7.00pm • **Singing in Irish** 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels 8.00pm to 9.30pm
Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** 07747 899 249

Red Cross: Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.
Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011

Owenkillew Credit Union – Death Benefit Insurance (DBI):
 DBI is an insurance scheme whereby for a small premium, your nominee will receive an additional £2,000 to help defray funeral expenses. Can all members who have not paid their premium please call to either office and do so.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel: *John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

1. Judas leaves, and Jesus announces that the moment has come for God's power to be made manifest. This is unexpected at a moment of imminent betrayal. Have there been times for you when the power of God was made manifest in strange circumstances?
2. 'I shall not be with you much longer.' Jesus announces a parting of the ways. There are places we have to go in life, where others cannot come with us. There are places others have to go and we cannot accompany them. When have you experienced this going on alone as necessary for a fuller life for yourself, or for someone else?
3. Jesus proclaims love as the distinguishing characteristic of his followers. Have there been times when reaching out to others has heightened your sense of walking in the footsteps of Jesus?
4. Who are the individuals or communities whose love for one another and for others has been a witness to you?

The Deep End – Love One Another: *Jane Mellett (melletti@gmail.com)*

'Love one another' is the basic principle of Christianity, to love as Jesus loved. It is simple, yet we can make it so complicated. Jesus' love was controversial for some people, because it was love without exclusion. To love as Jesus loved is to love those it is hard to love. This love ultimately led to Jesus' death. Jesus loved sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes, people of other religions, the poor, the unwanted, the sick, the beggar, the leper. This love is too much for some Christians today also. It is hard to love the sinner or to love family members or friends who have hurt us. Yet this is the love that we are called to. Once we begin to accept that we are infinitely loved by God, it is like a domino effect where that love is poured outwards in our lives. We are part of this outpouring of God's creative love and are called to bring this into places where there is none. In this way we are helping to heal, sustain and nourish this world.

Let us hear those words of the Gospel more clearly today: 'Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.' Let us dream of, and work towards, a world where this is a reality.

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

The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". *Pope St. John Paul II*

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration

- 12noon – 1.00pm** Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life
1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage
2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people
4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth
6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.

Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk

PARISH EVENTS IN 2018

Thursday 1st February Service of Light for P7	Thursday 8th March First Confession for P4
Monday 12th March 5 Parishioners receive Pope John Paul Awards in Armagh Cathedral	
Sunday 22nd April Confirmation by Bishop McKeown	Saturday 19th May First Holy Communion
Thursday 14th June P7 attend Fan the Flame Mass in Celtic Park Derry	
Thursday 21st June Presentations to P7 Leavers and Mr. Noel McGinn on retirement as principal	
Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July Cemetery Prayers in Parish Cemeteries	
Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th August Parishioners, along with Fr Gallagher attend Festival of Families in Croke Park and Papal Mass in Phoenix Park	
Saturday 1st September Mr. Neil McCloy officially takes up role as principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	
Sunday 2nd September All-Ireland Final – Tyrone v. Dublin	Friday 2nd November Mass for Parish Deceased
10th November Sr. Bride Counihan makes Mission Appeal	
Wednesday 21st November Inaugural Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council	
Sunday 16th December Advent Penance Service	Saturday 22nd December 2 New Altar servers welcomed
31 December Large congregation gathers for Mass at final sunset of 2018	

	2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2017
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls	
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls	
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	Weddings	2 within parish • 3 outside parish	
10	Deaths and Burials	12	

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 entrance*

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

String Instrument Music Lessons: Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall

For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent

Beginners: 6.00pm to 6.45pm • **Advanced:** 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place

Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2019

Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace

'Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the polis... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have."

This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity. In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002: "Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role. Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility. Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest. Blessed be the politician who remains consistent. Blessed be the politician who works for unity. Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change. Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening. Blessed be the politician who is without fear." Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.'

Parents Prayer: Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.

We thank and praise you. Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity.

May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. *Amen*

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October): 7 nights B&B and Airport

Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing.
any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service.

Call us on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com for further info and book dates that suit

Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thursday 4th to Tuesday 9th July. £679. We welcome all pilgrims, especially pilgrims in need of care. We welcome doctors, nurses and youth (aged 17years+) to assist with those in need. Application forms now available. Call (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com at any time.

Pilgrimage to Rome and Tuscany: Tuesday 18th June for nights, ex Dublin (includes

Assisi, Florence and Pisa). Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Donnelly. Guide: Kieran Troy
£1,090 per person sharing (single room supplement £280). Includes guided tours and most meals.

Call Paul or Marie at Downe Travel on (028) 4461 3288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham

Masters in Catholic School Leadership: Post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. A great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. Next intake: Autumn, 2019.

For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Mid Ulster Agewell: Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland. If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992

Armchair Exercises: Continue every Monday night in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. *Suitable for all ages*

Accord Marriage Preparation Course: 10th and 11th May • 7th and 8th June • 21st and 22nd June
Visit accord-ni.co.uk to book

Accord Counselling Services: Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none.
To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

Deanery of Tyrone Statistics

17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.

8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000

6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people

3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people

The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics

7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?

In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.

The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.

Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s

The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%