



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

**St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C] (19<sup>th</sup> December, 2021)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474



**Fourth Sunday of Advent Readings:** In our first reading the prophet Micah tells us that the ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem. Our Responsorial Psalm from Psalm 80 is a prayer for God's salvation. The Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews says that through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all. In our Gospel Reading from St Luke Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>12.00pm to 1.00pm</b> Confession <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Stephen Ward (20 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.)
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>11.30am</b> Mass: Peter Daly (9 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.) Confession available afterwards
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.30am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>2.00pm to 4.00pm</b> Adoration
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> St. John of Kanty (priest)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>4.00pm</b> Christmas Vigil Mass <b>8.30pm</b> Christmas Vigil Mass
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Christmas Day Mass <b>10.30am</b> Christmas Day Mass
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year C]	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (open to all townlands)

**There will be NO MASS from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>4.00pm</b> Mass at last sunset of 2021 (first come, first serve): Tessie McElhatton (3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniv.)
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Mickey 'Neilly' McCullagh (7 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.)
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>11.30am</b> Mass

<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>Weekly:</b> £1,260	<b>Trócaire:</b> £1,355	<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>
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**Baptism:** We offer our best wishes and prayers to the family of **Annie Rose Douglas** who was received into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December in St. Patrick's Church.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Fr. John Ryder**, Retired PP of Greencastle who was buried this week and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.  
 Weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> December: **Sean Thomas McCrory (2<sup>nd</sup>)**, **Peter Daly (9<sup>th</sup>)**, **Stephen Ward (20<sup>th</sup>)** and **Anna Rose McCullagh (20<sup>th</sup>)**. Weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> December: **Barney McCrory (4<sup>th</sup>)** and **Harry Donaghy (5<sup>th</sup>)**.

**Parish Office Opening Hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11.00am to 3.00pm  
**Tel:** (028) 8164 8203      **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com  
*All bookings to be done through the Parish Office please*

**Children in Crossfire:** Today we thank our John Paul II Award students who are supervising the distribution of this year's Advent Appeal. Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal envelopes are now available as you leave the church. This year you are asked to support their vital work to prevent and treat malnutrition in children living in extreme poverty in Ethiopia. This work is particularly crucial now as conflict spreads throughout the country.  
*Thank you for your support*

**Next Week's Readings:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 • Psalm 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10, R / v 5 • 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24  
 Luke 2:41-52 • Lectionary 1: 122      **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

### December and January Townland Rota

<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Teebane East, Aughminacrorry, Coneyglen, Alworries, Muninamale, Aughascribba Road
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>11.30am</b>	Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>4.00pm</b>	Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>8.30pm</b>	Sheskinshule, Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy
<b>Christmas Day</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Teebane East, Aughascribba, Muninamale, Aughminacrorry, Alworries, Coneyglen
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10.30am</b>	Formil, Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Open to all townlands
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Formil, Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>11.30am</b>	Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Teebane East, Aughascribba, Muninamale, Aughminacrorry, Alworries, Coneyglen
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.30am</b>	Sheskinshule, Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy

### Pre-Booking Seats for Christmas Mass:

In an effort to plan for Christmas, we are asking you to please pre-book your seats for Christmas Mass by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December by sending a message to Maria Bradley via WhatsApp / text on 07768 395 038.

Please specify your name, number and Townland and provide the names of all attending with you.

Every effort will be made to accommodate as many people as possible, but please be patient, accommodating and flexible as this may not be possible. It is important to know that priority is given to people living in our Parish.

Please note you will not get an immediate response confirming your booking, realise the level of work that has to go on behind the scenes to plan and organise this in a safe and fair manner which meets all Covid regulations. It would be helpful if you could help a neighbour or friend who does have the facility of WhatsApp.

It would also be useful if families who are mixing could perhaps decide by agreement which Mass to attend jointly and advise the names of families who could sit together, this information will be considered in good faith and on the understanding that this has been mutually discussed and agreed by the families involved.

*We thank you in advance for your help, cooperation and continued support as we try to make this Christmas Season as special and as safe as possible*

### CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

#### Our Lady of Wayside:

Josephine Clarke • Mary McNamee

#### St. Patrick's:

Eileen McKenna • Margaret McCrory • Patricia Donnelly  
 Anne McAleer • Margaret Morris • JP2 students

**Lough Derg Online Shop – Unique Christmas Cards:** Featuring scenes of the Island from across the centuries and bespoke gifts, including a limited edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle. Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are also available – Fr. La, Prior, will offer a triduum of Masses beginning Christmas Eve for all those who are enrolled.

**Website:** loughderg.live/shop **Tel:** 0(0353) 71 9861 518 *Delivery nationwide, click and collect service available*

**Christmas Message:** As we prepare to enter into the Christmas Season of 2021 we pray together for a safe Christmas for all and the strength to be able to make those sacrifices asked of us during this continuing pandemic.

We take this opportunity as a parish to acknowledge and give thanks to all who have allowed us to operate as well as possible during these times, especially our ushers and cleaners, readers of Scripture and Prayers of the Faithful, our singers, our servers, our sacristans and those who have coordinated our masses for us.

It highlights the high level of commitment by so many to the parish and during the coming months we will be asking for volunteers to help us with various aspects of parish and wider church life in the context of Pope Francis' call to the church to prepare through discernment and dialogue in a Synodal Process, the way ahead for the Church on Mission.

Can I personally thank each of you for your generosity and prayers and understanding particularly around the time of Fr. Forbes' retirement and the transition to ministering to our two parishes with four churches.

I can only pray that the Christ Child whose birth we celebrate may pour his grace upon the peoples of Greencastle and Badoney Lower as we journey together in mission.

*Happy Christmas to all both here at home and abroad – Fr. Edward Gallagher PP*

**Pope Francis' Intention for December (please remember this in your personal prayers)**  
**Evangelisation – Catechists:** Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit

**This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – St. John of Kanty (priest) [1390-1473]** Taught Theology and Scripture in the university of Kraków, Poland. He is also remembered for his austerity of life and generosity.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December – St. Stephen (first martyr)** The first Christian martyr, was one of the disciples who was in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for forgiveness of his enemies. Patron Saint of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

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

**Epilepsy Action NI:** Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury?

Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

**A Prayer for Now:** God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

**Prayer for the End of the Virus:** Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an end of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities, that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. *Amen*

**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

**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*

**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*

**Radio Maria Ireland:** An Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies based at St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. If you are not already a follower of the station Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family! Prayer / song requests welcome. "A Catholic voice in your home". Fr Eamonn McCarthy is Director.

You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:

Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210 / Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)

Download FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"

Streaming on [radiomarie.ie](http://radiomarie.ie) (subscribe and donate here also)

'Listen Live Radio' link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)

Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).

**Kindercare Fostering NI:** Could you help a child in need? 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) 9094 1690 • **Email:** [gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** Although mindful of all the uncertainties we face at this time, the Pilgrimage Director and staff have begun planning for a return to Lourdes in early summer of 2022. While it is still too early to provide details, it is intended that the date and duration will be as in recent years and hopefully these will be confirmed and announced by the end of 2021. We ask for the prayers of the people of the diocese so that, by the grace of God and intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, we may return to Lourdes once more.

**Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection:** O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**Our Faith – Developing What We Were Taught in School:**

- Was RE just a subject in school? Would you like to really to understand it in practice?
- Are you open to deepening your understanding of your Catholic Faith?
- Do you want to better understand the Mass - the celebration to the Eucharist?
- Would you like to explore, discuss and reflect upon issues and questions of faith, the Church, and how to link faith to your everyday life?

The Pathways Adult Faith Programme by Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, addresses these questions and more. This two-year faith development programme, delivered one Saturday per month from October to June is available either in-house at Drumalis or by Zoom video-conferencing. *More info, enrolment visit [drumalis.co.uk/pathways](http://drumalis.co.uk/pathways)*

**Prayer for Synod on Synodality (2021 – 2023)**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. *Amen*

**What Is Spiritual Communion?** It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

**Barnardo's NI – Can You Foster?** Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support.

*To learn more call (028) 9065 2288 or visit [barnardos.org.uk/foster](http://barnardos.org.uk/foster)*

**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](http://towardspeace.ie) • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** [towardspeace@iecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie)

**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 call (028) 8224 2439 or email [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Disciples of Jesus – Filled with Joy!** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00am to 12.00am

**Catechetical Centre Webcam** Preparation Programme in January 2022, to support parents, schools and parishes as they prepare the children in this very important stage of their faith journey.

**Preparation Programme** Linking with Filled with Joy, pupil workbook and Disciples of Jesus, parent booklet (available from the Diocesan Catechetical Centre) the programme will consist of

- Four sessions, 10.00am to 12.00am on the [catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/](http://catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/)
- Support pack for the four sessions to be emailed to schools and available on the Catechetical Centre Website
- Short Video reflections on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the impact Confirmation has made on different people

**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*

**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](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk)*

**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%

**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](mailto:info@ruralsupport.org.uk) **Website:** [ruralsupport.org.uk](http://ruralsupport.org.uk)

To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

**Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):**

Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies

*Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on [radiomaria.ie](http://radiomaria.ie) or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)*

2019	PARISH STATISTICS	2020
(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(17) 8 Boys • 9 Girls
(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(11) 4 Boys • 7 Girls
(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(14) 7 Boys • 7 Girls
1 within parish • 6 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	0 within parish • 1 outside parish
11	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	8

**What Is Spiritual Communion?** It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

**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](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org)*

**Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel:**

*John Byrne OSA ([jpbymeosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpbymeosa@gmail.com))*

1. The greeting of Elizabeth to Mary 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb' is a joyful welcome of the child to come. Bringing new life into the world through pregnancy and birth is one of the most awesome human experiences. How have you experienced this for yourself or in someone close to you?
2. The image of the pregnant Mary going a distance to visit her cousin is a symbol of her willingness to look beyond her own needs to the needs of another. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have been able to act in this way yourself?
3. Mary is praised for her faith, because she believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises? What are God's promises that mean the most to you?