



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (20th January, 2019)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474



Pope Francis Speaks to Ireland *Croke Park [Saturday 25th August]*
 "As families, you are the hope of the Church and of the world! God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, created mankind in his image and likeness to share in his love, to be a family of families, and to enjoy the peace that he alone can give. By your witness to the Gospel, you can help God's dream to come true. You can help to draw all God's children closer together, so that they can grow in unity and learn what it is for the entire world to live in peace as one great family."

Liturgy Schedule for Second Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (20th January, 2019 – 27th January, 2019)

Saturday 19th January		
	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Patrick Glass (4 th Anniversary)
Sunday 20th January		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Second Sunday in Ord. Time [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass
Please note that there will be NO MASS between Monday 21st and Friday 25th January Adoration will be Wednesday 23rd January from 12 noon to 7.00pm in St. Patrick's Church		
Saturday 26th January <i>Do This in Memory (week 5)</i>		
St. Timothy and St. Titus (bishops)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Bernard McLaughlin (2 nd Anniversary)
Sunday 27th January		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Third Sunday in Ord. Time [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass

Weekly Collection: £1,060 *Thank you for your generosity*
Annual Lourdes Hospitalité Collection: Takes place the weekend of 2nd and 3rd February.
 Prayer Cards will be distributed. Your past generosity to the pilgrimage has made it possible for persons in need to benefit from the experience of Lourdes. *Thank you once again in advance*

Baptism: We offer our prayers and congratulations to the parents, family and friends of **Fiachra Conor Bradley** who was welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 12th January in St. Patrick's Church

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Patrick Glass (4th)** and **Eileen Carson (7th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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.

Marian Pilgrimages: Fully escorted group pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo from Tuesday 9th to Saturday 13th April, £579 pps. Including visits to the town of Pietrelcina, the house of Mary Pyle and Mass at the Shrine of St. Michael Archangel, accompanied by Spiritual Director.
For more info on joining the group call Marie Martin on 0044 7799 11 2224

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

Children in Crossfire would like to extend their thanks to parishioners who donated to the Advent Campaign. Donations will help some of the world's most vulnerable children in Ethiopia and Tanzania providing vital health care, nutrition, clean water and most importantly an education for the future.

Next Week's Readings: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10 • Psalm 18:8-10, 15, R/ John 6:63 • 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
 Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21. Lectionary 1:841 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 19 th January The family of Aimee Fox	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 20 th January The family of Michael Meenan
Saturday 26 th January (DTiM week 5) The family of Ava Morris	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 27 th January The family of Aisling Lucas
Saturday 2 nd February The family of Fianna Clarke	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 3 rd February The family of Caolan Tracey
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented		

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events: *To enquire call Tom on (028) 816 48719*

Monthly Seisun:	Friday 18 th February at 9.00pm in the Leo's Bar & Lounge, Plumbridge. <i>Free admission • Everyone welcome • Supper served</i>
Music Classes:	Starts Monday 21 st January (beginners at 6.30pm) in St. Peter's PS, Plumbridge. Ten week block. Tutoring available for Banjo • Fiddle • Accordion • Whistle • Concertina Thanks to everyone for their continued support • New musicians (adult and children) welcome
Singing Classes:	Starts Sunday 20 th January at 2.00pm in Plumbridge Hall with Ciara Fox. Bock of 6 classes on a fortnightly basis • £30 per child • £50 for 2 or more children
LCM Exams:	London College of Music Exams – If anyone wishes for their child to take part in these exams let us know and we will provide further details. Exams take place in April.
Fundraising Event:	The Island Wake by Fergus Cleary (a two-act comedy) will take place in Plumbridge Hall on Wednesday 6 th February at 8.00pm (admission is £8, pay at door). All support would be appreciated <i>These fundraisers all go towards subsidising the costs of our music classes</i>

An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg – Dinnéar Bliantúil and Presentation Night:
 Satharn 2 Feabhra at 8.00pm sharp in the Greencastle Hall (food served at 8.30pm). **Ceol:** DJ Kevy • **Ticéad:** £15

Loreto Grammar School – Open Night: Wednesday 23rd January, registration from 5.00pm with Principal's welcome at 5.30pm. P6 and P7 girls along with their parents / guardians are welcome.
 As parking is restricted in the school grounds visitors are requested to use adjacent public car parks.
 loreto.gs.com • James Street, Omagh, BT78 1DL • (028) 8224 3633

Dean Maguirc College, Carrickmore – Open Day / Night: For Primary 7 Pupils on Monday 21st January. Open Night for P6 and P7 pupils and their parents beginning with the Principal's address in assembly hall at 7.30pm.
Tel: (028) 807 61272 • **Email:** info@deanmaguirccollege.college.ni.sch.uk • **Website:** deanmaguirccollege.com

Holy Trinity College – Open Night: *Meet our pupils and staff and sample a variety of Year 8 activities*
 The Principal and Staff invite Primary 7 (and Primary 6) pupils and their parents Thursday 24th January at 7.00pm.

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

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

First Aid Awareness Training: For parents, grandparents and carers in Omagh. Covering CPR, recovery position, choking, febrile seizures and much more. 2 hours training at £20 per person, includes refreshments and paediatric first aid book. Group bookings available for 4 up. *Call Ann on 07866 410 105 or email ann@acresconsultancy.com*

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October): 7 nights B&B and Airport
 Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing.
 Book 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

<p>Pope Francis' Intention for January (please remember this in your personal prayers) Young People and the Example of Mary: That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.</p>
<p>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. <i>Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011</i></p>
<p>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</p>
<p>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 <i>To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com</i></p>
<p>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</p>
<p>Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI): Prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies <i>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!</i></p>
<p>Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination. <i>If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com</i></p>
<p>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. <i>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</i></p>
<p>The Big Knit for Age NI Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p. <i>To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/bigknit</i></p>
<p>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 <i>For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com</i></p>
<p>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. <i>An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com</i></p>
<p>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</p>
<p>Catholic Engaged Encounter Course: For details / booking: marriageencounter.ie • (028) 2763 8512 Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March in Our Lady and St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.</p>

Parish Liturgy for January, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Monica Coyle	Martina McNamee
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	Lauren O'Neill	Erin Hood	Grace Conneely
Collectors	Mary Bradley Francis McLaughlin	Colm Keenan Michael Clarke	Pat McGuigan Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Maria Morris, Kathleen Tracey, Louise O'Brien, Alannah Coyle, Clodagh McKenna and Nora McCullagh		Ann McDermott, Mary Bradley, Lucy-Marie McCrory and Leanne Morris

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

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

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

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

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

Foster Carers Needed: The Western Trust urgently needs people to come forward who can offer a loving home to foster children. At present there is a greater number of children in need of homes than there are foster carers available. If you have room in your home and in your heart to care for a child, please contact:
Vanessa Nelis – WHSCT Recruitment Officer for Fostering
Tel: (028) 8283 5264 **Mob:** 07554 552 989 **Email:** vanessa.nelis@westerntrust.hscni.net

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

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – John 2:1-11: *John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)*

1. The story is a story of abundance, the abundance of the blessings God gives us. How have you been aware of the abundance of God's blessings? Let the memories lead you to prayer of thanks and praise for the times in your life when that joy and fulfilment have been very real to you.
2. John uses a number of images (marriage, wine, feast, etc.) to symbolise the abundance of God's love. Do you have a favourite image, or metaphor, that reminds you of the abundance of God's love and blessings?
3. The hour of Jesus had not yet come when the glory of God would be fully revealed. Even so, something of the glory of God was revealed in the sign that took place. For us, also, the revelation of the full glory of God lies in the future, but we do get glimpses along the way. Recall some of the signs that have revealed to you something of the glory of God, e.g., nature, art, friendship, etc.
4. Mary/Jesus. It is interesting to note that despite the apparent rebuff, Mary is the first person in the narrative to show (at the level of the action of the story) that the correct response to the presence of Jesus is to trust in him. When have you trusted in the word of Jesus like that? What relationships do you have that you can trust like that? Do you recall times when your trust was rewarded even when you had initially been disappointed?

The Deep End – 'The First of His Signs': *Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)*

This is a familiar story, rich in symbolism. It is the first 'sign' recorded in John's Gospel. These 'signs' in John's Gospel are miracle stories but John prefers to use the term 'sign,' as they point to something far more than just the miracle itself. John used these signs to encourage belief in his readers but they are also an invitation for us to understand something more of how God operates in our lives.

Jesus transforms the water which would be used for the Jewish purification rite. He takes something used to give life to people, and transforms it into something which brings joy, celebration and new life to the party. There are many messages we can take from this account: the ability of God to transform our lives, to transform that which is dead and stale. The abundance of wine (approx. 700 litres!) is a significant reminder of the abundance of God's love for us, beyond our comprehension.

We could also focus on the role of Mary in this Gospel – she is the one who notices, she is attentive to the needs of those around her and brings this concern to Jesus. We might pray today that we too may be able to notice, to see, to intervene when we are faced with situations that need attention. This may be a situation of injustice or it may be a situation where something in our own lives or in our church has become dead and stale and is in desperate need of new wine.

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*

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 20th January – St. Fabian (pope and martyr) Pope for 14 years when martyred under Decius in 250. **St. Sebastian (martyr)** May have been a soldier and was martyred in the persecution of Diocletian. He sustained many others in their trials.

Tuesday 22nd January – St. Vincent (deacon and martyr) Deacon of the church of Saragossa, Spain, martyred in 304 in Valencia after prolonged torture.

Thursday 24th January – St. Francis de Sales (bishop and Doctor of the Church) [1567-1622] Bishop of Geneva, founder of the Visitation Sisters. He worked with gentleness and love to rebuild the Catholic faith after the Reformation. Patron Saint of writers, editors and journalists.

Friday 25th January – Conversion of St. Paul An event in the life of Paul the Apostle that led him to cease persecuting early Christians and to become a follower of Jesus

Saturday 26th January – St. Timothy and St. Titus (bishops) Close to St. Paul as followers and later in their work with him. Tradition makes Timothy the first Bishop of Ephesus. And from Paul's advice to him to take some wine for his stomach's sake, he has been invoked as a Patron Saint in cases of stomach complaint. Titus was sent to organise the Church in Crete.

Sunday 27th January – St. Angela Merici (virgin and religious) [1474-1540] Founder of the Ursulines, devoted herself to Christian education based on love, kindness with firmness and concern for the individual.

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

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	

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2019

Service of Light (P7) Thursday 31st January, 7.30pm • **First Confession** Thursday 28th March, 7.30pm
Confirmation Saturday 6th April, 12 noon • **First Holy Communion** Saturday 11th May, 12 noon

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%

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

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

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.'