



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord [Year B] (20th May, 2012)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshkinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474 **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Congratulations to our young parishioners who will receive Holy Communion for the first time this weekend
Caitlin Clarke · Aoife Conway · Oisin Coyle · Rachael Devine · Tyler Gumley · Joseph Hagan
Ruanai McDermott · Shauna McGurk · Alisha McKenna · Enda McKenna · Shona McKenna
Stephen Meenan · David Morris · Kieran Mulholland · Niamh Tracey · Joseph Warnock
 Our thanks to parents, families, the year 4 teacher Mrs. McElroy, the 'Do This In Memory' liturgy leaders and everyone who supported these young people on their faith journey. May they continue to grow faithfully every day.

Liturgy Schedule for the Seventh Week of Easter [Year B] (21st May, 2012 – 27th May, 2012)		
Saturday Evening (19th May) <i>Do This In Memory</i>	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sunday 20th May Feast of the Ascension of the Lord [Year B]	Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass: First Holy Communion for Year 4 Pupils in our parish
Monday 21st May Seventh Week of Easter		9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass
Tuesday 22nd May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass: DDS Society
Wednesday 23rd May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass
Thursday 24th May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass
Friday 25th May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	7.35pm Public Recitation of the Rosary 8.00pm Mass
Saturday 26th May Seventh Week of Easter	St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (26th May)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 5.35pm Rosary 6:00pm Vigil Mass: David O'Hagan (Month's Mind)
Sunday 27th May Pentecost Sunday [Year B]	Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Rose Hollywood (Month's Mind)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£880**.
Diocesan Purposes Collection: A further **£90** was contributed.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Peter Donnelly** whose Requiem took place on Thursday, we extend to his family our deepest sympathy and support. We also pray for **JJ Donnelly** whose anniversary occurs at this time. Please also remember **Rose Quinn, Eileen Smyth, Eileen Carson** and **Margaret Morris**, recently enrolled members of the Derry Diocesan Society.

During the month of May members of the Legion of Mary will lead us praying the Rosary 25 minutes before the beginning of Mass each day. Please join them or make the Rosary your special family prayer during this month

International Eucharistic Congress 2012 – Mass Rock at Formil: A second meeting in St. Patrick's Church on Monday 21st May at 7.30pm for anyone willing to become involved in organising this event on behalf of our parish, for our neighbours.

Parish Maintenance Committee Meeting: Monday 21st May at 9.00pm.

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock: A bus will leave Gortin on Sunday 3rd June at 8.00am with stops at Greencastle, Mountfield, Killyclogher and Omagh
Enquiries to Pat McSwiggan (028) 8164 7099 / Bridget Carlin (028) 807 71357

Diocesan Voices for International Congress: If you are a member of a church choir and would like to be involved in the Opening Mass for The International Eucharistic Congress on 10th June in Dublin please contact Sister Perpetua on (028) 7135 1233 for details. *Individuals, small groups and whole choirs will be welcome, it promises to be a wonderful occasion.*

Open-Air Mass at Celtic Park, Derry: The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre extends an invitation to all children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the diocese this year to come on Thursday 7th June from 11.30am to around 1.00pm.

Next Sundays Readings: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; Psalm 103; Galathians 5:16-25; John 15:26-27, 16:12-15; (Lectionary I, page 601) **(Sunday: Year B) (Weekday: Year 2)**

Lotto Results: L – N – O – Q – U (5 people with 3 letters, winning £100 each) **Next Jackpot:** £7,550

6.00pm Saturday Vigil <u>Saturday 19th May</u> The family of Megan Coyle <i>First Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is scheduled for the 11.00am Mass which will take place in Saint Patrick's, Church Greencastle. 9.00am Mass will be in Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg on this date.</i>	Offertory Gifts Rota Feast of the Ascension	9.00am Sunday Morning <u>Sunday 20th May</u> The pupils of Our Lady of Lourdes PS
<u>Saturday 26th May</u> The family of Shona McKenna	Feast of the Pentecost	<u>Sunday 27th May</u> The family of Stephan Meenan
<u>Saturday 2nd June</u> The family of Oisin Coyle	Feast of the Holy Trinity	<u>Sunday 3rd June</u> The family of Alannah Coyle
<u>Saturday 9th June</u> The family of Alisha McKenna	Feast of the Corpus Christi	<u>Sunday 10th June</u> The family of Aidan Conway
<u>Saturday 16th June</u> The family of Shauna McGurk	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 17th June</u> The family of Rachael Clarke
<u>Saturday 23rd June</u> The family of Dylan McFarlane	Nativity of St. John the Baptist	<u>Sunday 24th June</u> The family of Ciaran Bradley
<u>Saturday 30th June</u> The family of Ruanai McDermott	Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 1st July</u> The family of Orla Warnock
<u>Saturday 7th July</u> The family of Joseph Hagan	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 8th July</u> The family of Rachael Tuohey
<u>Saturday 14th July</u> The family of Rachael Devine	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 15th July</u> The family of Laura Tuohey

International Eucharistic Congress – Schedule: Are you interested in travelling to the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin? The Opening Ceremony of the Congress will take place on Sunday 10th June.

Monday Baptism	Tuesday Marriage/Family	Wednesday Priesthood
Thursday Reconciliation	Friday Anointing/Healing	Saturday Our Lady

It is intended that transport will be made available for any person wanting to attend the Congress on any of the weekdays. Meals will also be facilitated for people travelling. If you wish to make a booking to travel on any of the days, or require further information, please contact the one of the following numbers during office hours:

Draperstown (South Derry)	(028) 796 28248	Booking should be made before Tuesday 29 th May
Omagh (Tyrone)	(028) 8224 2092	

Final Mass of the Congress (Sunday 17th June): Many people from the diocese have applied for tickets for the final Eucharistic Congress Mass (Statio Orbis) in Croke Park. These tickets will not become available until the end of May. For people who have applied for tickets and who intend to travel by bus, made available by the diocese, further information on time and place of departure, payment for transport / meals will be made known in parish bulletins on Saturday 2nd/Sunday 3rd June.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Opening of New Playing Field: This will be marked on Thursday 24th May between 1.30pm and 3.30pm, as many past pupils or family members should attend the official opening as possible. Mr. John O'Dowd MLA and Minister for Education is our special guest and will officially open the playing field. Should you decide you would like to attend please contact the school secretary and confirm your attendance. There will be a finger buffet after the official opening and demonstration games are complete. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

There will be restricted car-parking on the day so we ask you to take care when approaching the school or exiting

Important Upcoming Dates for your Diary	
Sunday 1th-17th June	International Eucharistic Congress Dublin
Saturday 30th June	Public Prayers for the remembrance of the Dead at St. Patrick's Cemetery after the Vigil Mass.
Sunday 1st July	Public Prayers for the remembrance of the Dead at Our Lady of the Wayside after 11.00am Mass.
Sunday 22nd July	Mass will be held outdoors at the Mass Rock in the townland of Formil in thanksgiving for the blessings received during the Eucharistic Congress. Parishioners from Badoney Lower, Castlederg, Cappagh, Drumragh, Drumquin , who along with us in Greencastle helped prepare for the Congress over the past two years. Please invite our neighbours and friends to join us on this pilgrimage. <i>Be aware to respect that it may be too challenging for anyone with a physical disability</i>

Lough Derg Pilgrimages One Day Retreats: 20th, 21st, 25th, 26th, 27th and 29th May (€30 includes boat fare and light lunch)
 For further information on any of these events or to make a reservation contact The Lough Derg Office, Pettigo, Co. Donegal.
 Tel: (028) 6863 2391 (from NI) or email info@loughderg.org. Visit loughderg.org for other events.

Derry Diocesan Vocations Council – Prayer Vigil: St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Friday 25th May. It will begin with Mass at 7.30pm, followed by prayer and reflections on Diocesan Priesthood.
Please come along and join with us in praying for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

Greencastle Vintage Show: Sunday 27th May, proceeds support of Green Elves Playgroup and Termonmaguirc Cancer Group.

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for May (please remember these in your personal prayer)
General – The Family: That initiatives which defined and uphold the role of the family may be promoted within society
Missionary – Mary, Guide of Missionaries: That Mary Queen of the World and Star of Evangelisation, may accompany all missionaries in proclaiming her Son, Jesus.

Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children: - Use of photography and video
 The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.

Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

*The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests: 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying £20. 2. Likewise, any person whomsoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. **Privileges of members: Deceased:** 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (*this will take place in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle on Tuesday 22nd May*). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. **Living:** 1. Mass will be offered each month, as listed on the Church notice board. 2. When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

Decorating the City to Welcome the 50th International Eucharistic Congress: All around the country, people are getting ready for the Congress and to welcome thousands of pilgrims that will join us from all over the world. The Congress is encouraging the Irish faithful to give pilgrims a warm welcome by decorating their homes, parishes and schools for this important occasion. *To assist in this, official IEC2012 flags and bunting can be purchased through Irish Wholesale Flags directly on (00353) 0934 2024 or email irishwholesaleflag@hotmail.com*

Carmelite Retreat Centre (Termonbacca, Derry) – Celebration to Mark 25 Years of Marian Devotions:
 Sunday 20th May, beginning at 11.00am and ending at 5.00pm with Marion Carroll as guest speaker
Admission is by ticket only, costing £8 including a Buffet Lunch
Booking is necessary and can be made by contacting the Carmelite Fathers Office on (028) 7126 2512.

Help the Red Cross Care for Older People in Your Local Community:
 Can you spare a few hours a week? No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed. Current mileage rate 45p per mile. (028) 8225 1116

Our Parish cemeteries are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, Co. Mayo – Pilgrimage Season: Sunday 29th April – Sunday 14th October.
See poster on church notice boards or visit knock-shrine.ie || T: (00353) 94938 8100 / F: (00353) 94938 8295
Knock Summer Youth Festival: Sunday 28th July. *Book now at knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival*

Special invitation to Young People to the 50th International Eucharistic Congress: Young people from 17 to 25 years of age from all across Ireland are invited to celebrate their faith at this summer's International Eucharistic Congress 2012 (from 10-16 June) in an event that is being described as one of the most ambitious youth ministry programmes ever presented in this country. 'Go! Be Church!' is the name of the Youth Programme, where around 2,500 young people will gather and experience a lively and international Church while rediscovering the meaning of communion. Come and participate in this event with workshops, dramas, interactive catechesis, concerts, social activities, games, art, fun and much more! Booking is required and youth can register as individuals or groups on www.iec2012.ie/registration. For more information on the youth programme go to www.iec2012.ie/youth. **Liturgical Music for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 announced:** The musical repertoire for each of the liturgies of the Congress from 10th June to 17th June has now been released. The goal of the music programme for IEC2012 is to encourage the entire assembly to participate as fully as possible in the liturgies of the week. A core choir will lead the music each day with the participation of many others gathered in the RDS and, on the final day, in Croke Park. We hope to involve choirs and singers from all Ireland. It is important for choirs to register for the Congress as soon as possible if you wish to sing in the Congress liturgies as part of the massed choirs. We suggest that you register as a group, giving your choir name as the group name and send an email to our offices. To book for the Congress go to www.iec2012.ie/registrations or call 01 2981122. To download the music for the Congress go to www.iec2012.ie/music


Vincent's, Castle Street, Omagh: Vincent's is the only SVP shop in this district. It depends on donations from you. Our customers really appreciate your gifts, especially good quality clothing. The shops profits are a steady source of income towards the work of SVP (St. Vincent DePaul Society). We realise there is a lot of competition from commercial and charity sources for your donations. We thank you for your ongoing support and appeal to you to continue to support SVP work in the seven SVP conferences in Omagh and district.
Please leave your donations at the shop or place them in the blue bin near St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. Our SVP van can collect larger amounts of goods or furniture. Our shop number is (028) 8224 9839.

Family Care Society – Adoption: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged under 8 and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?
For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry) email familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net

<i>Prayers for your personal and family use at this time</i>	
<p>Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time God our Father, We your people of the diocese of Derry, Turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura. Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, With confidence in your love we ask your help. Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, Give courage and vision to those who are called on To administer the diocese at this time. Grant your wisdom and discernment to those Charged with the task of choosing your next bishop. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord. Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, All you saints of the diocese pray for us. <i>Fr. Kieran Devlin P.Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)</i></p>	<p>International Eucharistic Congress Prayer 2012. Lord Jesus, You were sent by the Father to gather together those who are scattered. You came among us, doing good and bringing healing, announcing the Word of salvation and giving the Bread which lasts forever. Be our companion on life's pilgrim way. May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts, enliven our hope and open our minds, so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith we may recognise you in the Scriptures and in the breaking of bread. May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body and lead us to walk humbly on the earth, in justice and love, as witnesses of your resurrection. In communion with Mary, whom you gave to us as our Mother at the foot of the cross, through you may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father in the Holy Spirit and in the Church, now and forever. Amen.</p>

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012: This will take place in Dublin from 10th to 17th June under the theme *'The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another'* and expects 25,000 pilgrims to participate each day, both from Ireland and from overseas.

It is an international gathering of people, which aims to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church; help improve our understanding and celebration of the liturgy and draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist.



These aims are achieved through a programme of pastoral preparation in the years leading up to the Congress and the actual week of the Congress that consists of a programme of Prayer, Eucharist, workshops, discussion groups, catechesis and testimonies, cultural events, a youth space, tours, exhibitions, a Eucharistic Procession, a massive closing ceremony in Croke Park and more.

For more information visit iec2012.ie

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2012			
International Eucharistic Congress			
Dublin Sunday 10 th – Sunday 17 th June			
Sacramental Celebrations			
Sunday 20th May			
St. Patrick's 11.00am First Holy Communion			
Feast of the Ascension			
Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament			
Sunday 2nd September			
Our Lady of the Wayside			
Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish			
Tuesday 22 nd May	Wednesday 11 th July	Thursday 30 th August	Friday 19 th October
Weekday Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church unless a Requiem is needed			
Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (30th June and 1st July)			
Saturday 30th June		St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 1st July		Our Lady of the Wayside	Directly after 11.00am Mass
Friday 2nd November		St. Patrick's	8.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year)
'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion			
Sunday 20th May		Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am First Holy Communion
Saturday 9th June		Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass

The Glorious Mysteries (Sunday and Wednesday)	The Joyful Mysteries (Monday and Saturday)	The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday and Friday)	The Mysteries of Light (Thursday)
The Resurrection	The Annunciation	The Agony in the Garden	Jesus is baptised in the Jordan
The Ascension	The Visitation	The Scourging at the Pillar	Jesus at the wedding feast of Cana
The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles	The Birth of the Lord	The Crowning with Thorns	Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God and calls us to conversion
The Assumption of our Lady into Heaven	The Presentation in the Temple	The Carrying of the Cross	The Transfiguration
The Crowning of our Lady as Queen of Heaven	The Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple	The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord	The Last Supper and Institution of the Eucharist

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses (St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028 8224 2439)):
1st and 2nd June **Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date**

Questions people ask:

Q. The Last Supper was a very simple meal. Have we lost its meaning with too many vestments, rituals, special ministers etc.? Let's get back to the simple meal.

A. By all means have your simple meal but the Last Supper was much more than a simple meal. It was deeply linked to the Jewish Passover and anticipated the sacrificial death and resurrection of the Lord. Jesus spoke of his body soon to be given up and of the new covenant in his blood. This was the language of sacrifice. The altar, special ministers and proper ritual belong to the celebration of the sacred sacrifice. Anything that helps our reverence before God is to be welcomed. *Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)*

Age NI – Digital Switchover Scheme: Age NI is one of the partners in the digital switchover scheme for Northern Ireland in the run up to switchover this October. We are now recruiting for volunteers to help with the home visit service, where older and vulnerable people get a bit of extra help from volunteers, a Northern Ireland wide scheme.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 16:15-20:

- In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this he commissioned them to bring the Good News to the whole world. Witnesses to the Good News do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement to us in this. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?
- Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bringing them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in ourselves and in God. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?
- The ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he was with them in other ways. 'The Lord worked with them'.
Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend or an inspiring leader after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

The Deep End – No Hands But Yours:

'Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours, no feet but yours;
yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion looks out on the world,
yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good
and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.'

These well-known words of Teresa of Avila give us a taste of how we can make Jesus present to others as we go about our daily lives. We are called to treat everyone we meet with the same love and compassion Jesus did – including those whom we find difficult, those who are alienated or marginalised, and those most in need of a kind word or deed. That is what Jesus did.

In today's Gospel we hear the very last words of Jesus before he is taken up into heaven: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.' With these words he hands over the responsibility for his mission to his disciples.

There is an immediacy to his instruction, and we don't get the impression that the disciples hung around for any length of time; even as Jesus took his place at the right hand of God in heaven, the disciples are already going out, preaching and performing signs.

Jesus could no longer be here, and he needed someone to carry on his work of spreading the Good News. The handover was instant, and the task urgent. It is just as urgent today.

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

Tuesday's Child - Upcoming Events

Dublin Flora Women's Mini Marathon (10k) Never done a marathon before? This is a great one for beginners.
Monday 4th June *To enrol in the 10k marathon go to dublinwomensminimarathon.com*
For a full list of up and coming runs and marathons please visit our website at tuesdayschild.ie

An Evening with Elvis at The Empire Ireland's two top award winning Elvis tribute acts, Ciaran Houlihan aka Eireann Elvis and Tom Gilson aka GI Blues Elvis will perform at The Empire Music Hall, Belfast.
Thursday 28th June Tom sings rock and roll hits from the young Elvis, while Ciaran sings hits from the Las Vegas era. Ah huh huh and tickets just £10

Get active and change the life of a child today Recently Tuesday's Child funds rescued 200 street children from city dumps in Nairobi and enrolled in primary school where they get breakfast, lunch and a chance to learn and grow. It doesn't take much to make a big difference. Want to organise your own event? Why not do something in your town or parish to help children in one of our projects around the world. Everything you raise, we give. No salaries, no administration cost, are taken from funds raised.

Loose Change Campaign 2012: Having a Spring Clean? Please support our loose change appeal for children. Every pound or euro you raise we give. *Details on our websites at tuesdayschild.org.uk or tuesdayschild.org.uk*

Bearing Witness to the Faith Through the Digital World*Vatican City (20th May, 2009 [VIS])*

At the end of his general audience, celebrated this morning in St. Peter's Square, the Pope made a brief appeal for World Communications Day, due to be held on Sunday 24 May. Speaking English, the Holy Father recalled how in his Message for the Day this year "I am inviting all those who make use of the new technologies of communication, especially the young, to utilise them in a positive way and to realise the great potential of these means to build up bonds of friendship and solidarity that can contribute to a better world. "The new technologies", he added, "have brought about fundamental shifts in the ways in which news and information are disseminated and in how people communicate and relate to each other. I wish to encourage all those who access cyberspace to be careful to maintain and promote a culture of respect, dialogue and authentic friendship where the values of truth, harmony and understanding can flourish. "Young people in particular, I appeal to you: bear witness to your faith through the digital world! Employ these new technologies to make the Gospel known, so that the Good News of God's infinite love for all people, will resound in new ways across our increasingly technological world.