

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry	
Saint Patrick's Church Greencastle	Our Lady of the Wayside Church Broughderg
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. 20 th September, 2009	
The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU	
Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com	

Liturgy Schedule for the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time. 21st September – 27th September, 2009

Sunday 20th September Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass
Monday 21st September St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 22nd September Our Lady of Sorrows	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 23rd September St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), priest	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 24th September Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 25th September Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's	8.00pm Mass: (Anthony Bradley – 13 th Anniversary)
Saturday 26th September St. Cosmas and St. Damian, martyrs	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 27th September Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass: (Elizabeth McCrory – 8 th Anniversary)

Confession Schedule

Saturday 26th September	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 27th September	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,580**.
Please support your parish by using your envelope even when you are on holiday or if for some reason you must attend Mass outside your parish – Thank you.
Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are promptly returned to those parishes.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Anthony Bradley** whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Help to contain the swine flu impact: Everyone can play their part, and simple measures such as regular hand-washing and using a tissue can go some way towards mitigating this pandemic's impact *Irish News (18th July, 2009)*

St. Vincent DePaul Society (Omagh Area) sent us a letter of thanks this week for our support for their *Clothes Bank* in the car park at Saint Patrick's Church, Greencastle. Clothes collected are recycled or sold at reasonable rates in the Omagh Shop. Please note that they cannot take duvets, pillows or carpets for recycling but they are very happy to receive all the clothes you give to them.

CU Factor Singing Competition: The credit unions in Northern Ireland and Donegal have got together to organise an X Factor style singing competition for 12 to 19 year olds. The overall winner will receive £1,000. There are 16 heats being run throughout Northern Ireland and Donegal. Application forms are available in local credit unions or online at www.cufactor.com and the closing date for the return of completed application forms is Saturday 26th September.

The Catholic Chaplaincy QUB will reopen with Sunday Mass on the 27th September at 8pm. Chaplains Food Bar and other Chaplaincy facilities will re-open on the Monday 28th September at 10am. Mon-Fri Mass 12.15pm. Please remember to enrol with the Catholic chaplaincy as part of the Queens online enrolment procedures. Dedication of Studies Mass will be on Sunday 12th October 8pm. There are a few student jobs available in Chaplains Food Bar, Contact Liam cc@qubcc.org or (028) 9066 9737 (Mon 21st onwards). Check out www.qubcc.org for more information.

Next Sunday's Readings: Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm 18; James 1:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 47-48. Lectionary I, page 804

Lotto Numbers: 12, 13, 16, 20 (1 winner with 3 numbers – £50) **Next Jackpot:** £1,500

Serving Our Faith Community in Greencastle Parish			
Parish Liturgy for September 2009	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Offertory Gifts	The family of Michaela McBride	The family of Lauren Hollywood	
New choir members will always be welcome – contact Sinead Donnelly			
Please consider volunteering your gifts for service in your parish.			
Prayers of intercession: We need committed and responsible teenagers (male and female) to lead these prayers for us at each Sunday Mass, will you volunteer?			
'Do This In Memory': Our First Holy Communion parish programme begins at tonight's Vigil Mass.			

Pilgrimages and Retreats

Lough Derg Pilgrimages One Day Retreats: Cost €29 including boat and light lunch):
 20th, 21st and 22nd September // Reservations essential. Book at the Lough Derg Office.
 Tel/fax: 00353 7198 61518 or email info@loughderg.org. Check out loughderg.ie for other events

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (16th – 21st July, 2010): Cost £629 – payable in instalments. Application forms are now available in the sacristy (Greencastle). Forms for those in need of special care or those aged 80 or over are available only from the Pilgrimage Office, Derry. Telephone: (028) 7126 0293.

Legion of Mary Pilgrimage to Knock (Sunday 27th September): Bus leaving Gortin at 7.45am and picking up pilgrims in Greencastle. (028) 8164 8436 or (028) 8076 1677.

IHCPT – Young People's Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Easter 2009): Around 500 young people from all over Ireland spend a week on pilgrimage in Lourdes with the IHCPT, The Irish Pilgrimage Trust at Easter. (www.irishpilgrimage.com) The Irish Pilgrimage Trust welcomes applications from young people with:

- A Physical Disability or illness/suffering/trauma/bereavement (aged 11-18).
- A learning disability (aged 11-21)
- Jet Set Group- Physical Disability (18-25)
- Jet Set Group-Learning Disability(21-30)
- The organisation also has Family Groups for very seriously ill children under the age of 9, accompanied by a parent or close relative

The IHCPT covers the cost of those young people selected to travel. If there is a young person that you feel would be eligible and would benefit from a trip to Lourdes or you would like further information about the pilgrimage please contact Damian on 07968312770 or IHCPT, Kilcuan, Clarenbridge, Co Galway, Tel: 00353 91 796622 for further details and an application form. Please note closing date for applications is Saturday 31st October 2009

Ards Friary Retreat & Conference Centre, Creeslough, Co. Donegal:

Monday 21st and Thursday 24th September	St. Padre Pio OFM Triduum
Website: ardsfriary.ie	Tel: 00353 7491 38909 Email: info@ardsfriary.ie
Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry: Tel: (028) 7126 2512 during office hours.	

Parish Stations: If you are willing to host a Station Mass in your home during the month of October, 2009, please sign the schedule in the sacristy in Greencastle. Fr. Hasson will be available on the following dates:
 Monday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th; Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th; Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October.
 Hosting a 'Station Mass' is a long tradition in the life of our parish communities in the Catholic Church. It reflects our openness to God and our hospitality to our neighbour. Hospitality should be kept as simple as possible. It is important that our priorities have the right focus. Mass in our homes is a blessing to the family and to the local area. It would be a blessing if one family in each townland were willing to host a 'Station'.

BADA An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:

Sunday 20th September	All Ireland Final – Cork v. Kerry on big screen (refreshments available)
Sunday 27th September	Dance with music by <i>Larry and Co.</i>
Friday 16th October	Pioneer Association Annual Dance
Friday 23rd October	Card playing from 8.30pm (every Friday night onwards)
Saturday 31st October	Table quiz at 8.30pm

greencastleparish.com: During the month of August, 2009 a total of **1,184** people have visited our website bringing the overall total to **25,270**.

I've spoken with individuals who consider themselves estranged from the Church. Sometimes their situation has come about as the result of hurt suffered at a sensitive time in their lives, or a brush with someone seen as representative of the Church, or more often than not a case of disillusionment or a sense of not fitting in. It's hard to convince such a person that it is infinitely better to be part of the Church, with all its imperfections, than to cut oneself off from it. How can we expect to get something out if we put nothing in; what good are our talents if we keep them to ourselves, hoarded away like money in a cash tin? A Church community thrives when those within it pool together for the greater good. Everyone has something to offer God, and something to share for God's sake. By coming together to worship Him, we can stumble upon hidden gifts and at the same time become healed of the hurt and division which otherwise would keep us apart. There will be no fanfare for an estranged soul coming back into the fold (at least none we can hear) nor will it be roses all the way, but there is for them what there is for us, namely, real communion and confirming of our identity as children of God.

Anne Murray – Holy Family parish website (www.holy-familyparish.com/global/guestbook.html)

Papal Visit to a Land of Nonbelievers – Czech Prior Reflects on Benedict XVI's Next Trip: KOENIGSTEIN, Germany, 15th September, 2009 (zenit.org)

Though Benedict XVI's next apostolic visit will bring him to one of the most atheistic nations in Europe, many Czechs who describe themselves as nonbelievers still love the Infant Jesus of Prague, whom the Pope will visit on his first day in the Republic.

Prior Petr Sleich of the Carmelite monastery of the Holy Infant of Prague noted his countrymen's affection for the Infant Jesus when he spoke last week with Aid to the Church in Need about the Holy Father's trip to the Czech Republic this month.

"Many people are uncertain when it comes to God, but I wouldn't say they have no faith," he said, explaining that the aim of the papal visit is to focus people's hearts and minds on Christ. "I am certain that many [Czechs] will yet become [the Infant Jesus'] friends!"

According to Prior Sleich, the fact that the first stop on the Pontiff's program is the shrine of Our Lady of Victories, where the image of the Holy Infant Jesus has been venerated since the 17th century, is "the most powerful expression of this intention."

Benedict XVI will be in the Czech Republic from 26th to 28th September.

During his visit, the Pope will solemnly crown the image of the Infant Jesus, which, affirmed the 41 year old Carmelite prior, is the highest honor Western Christianity can accord such an image.

Prior Sleich said the Infant Jesus is a symbol that everyone can understand, and one that often leads to a real encounter with Christ.

"When people come here to our church and see God as a Child, they have no fear of him" the Carmelite observed. "On the contrary, he is a child who needs our love, our hearts, our hands, our help."

Nevertheless, Prior Sleich continued, the Prague image also portrays Christ as a king. The orb held in his left hand symbolizes the entire universe, which stands beneath the symbol of the cross and rests in the hand of the Child Jesus.

"I sometimes say, half jokingly, that the left hand of the Child Jesus is enough to sustain the entire universe,"

Prior Sleich recounted. "But of course it is no joke, but the truth. Meanwhile, with his right hand, the Divine Child blesses mankind." This is a symbol, he added, that is easily intelligible to people without a great deal of reflection, and "the most effective symbols are precisely those that do not require us to think long and hard about them."

Though the prior admitted that the papal visit comes at a time when spirituality is weak in the Czech Republic -- only about 30% of Czechs claim any religious belief -- he is hopeful about the future.

He himself was only baptized at age 20 after having found his way to faith through friends, while a student of mathematics. Today almost his entire family is Catholic.

"Things can change very quickly," the priest affirmed, "as we all saw 20 years ago with our own eyes, when the Iron Curtain fell."

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 9:30-39:

1. Jesus uses the time they are travelling along the road to teach his disciples what it means to be one of his followers. Think of the wisdom you have acquired about life, about faith, about what it means to be a Christian. Who have been your teachers? Remember them and give thanks for them.
2. One of the lessons Jesus gives them is that there is a dying to be endured as we move to a fuller life. That was the road he would travel. It is also our journey, not only at the end of this earthly life, but also in small ways through life. When have you found that by dying in some way you came to a fuller life?
3. Achievement, affirmation, recognition and status are attractive and enjoyable when they come our way. Yet we can be in trouble if, like the disciples, we become caught up in pursuit of them. Jesus tells them that true greatness lies in service of others. What has helped you to appreciate the value of loving service of others? When have you experienced the service of others to you?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

Q. What are the sacraments of Initiation?

- A. Most religions have ceremonies of Initiation to mark stages of belonging to the group. We recognise Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as three stages of union with Jesus and the fullness of Christian life. Pope John Paul II wrote that the participation of people in the mission of Christ finds its source in Baptism, its further development in Confirmation and its realisation and dynamic sustenance in the holy Eucharist.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

The Deep End – Hobson's Choice?:

Today's Gospel reading (Mark 9:30-37) makes you wonder what on earth possessed Jesus to choose the ones he did to become his disciples. He's teaching them vitally important matters but not only do they not understand what he's saying, they're afraid even to ask him what he means. Why? Could they fear that he may tire of them and look for others more intelligent to replace them as his disciples?

Though slow on the uptake, they're quick on the draw. Self-seeking calculation has them bickering about which of them is top dog. Not only are they a bit dense they're also small-time glory seekers. Could any group of people be less likely candidates to become Jesus' disciples!

Yet, he chose them knowing their calibre, and knowing what he was doing. Amazing! Even more amazing is the change in them after Jesus' death and resurrection, a change that sees them proclaiming a most profound message and establishing a faith-community that has spread throughout the world down to this present day. It was also a change that produced in them total commitment to God even to the point of death.

Bringing it closer to home is it not equally amazing the type of people God still calls today to do his work? I don't mean priests and religious primarily but parents. What more precious task could be entrusted to a human being than to bring another into this world and introduce them to God?

We too can be dense and self-seeking, yet God has chosen us. How has the gift of life changed us?

Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)