

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry

Saint Patrick's Church, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg

The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year C (20th December, 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 Fourth Week of Advent

Saturday Evening (19th December)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: (Margaret Daly – 1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass
Monday 21st December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 22nd December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: DDS (members and benefactors)
Wednesday 23rd December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 24th December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass

Season of Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Carol Service 8.00pm Vigil Mass
Friday 25th December Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass
Saturday 26th December St. Stephen (martyr)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (26th December) Sunday 27th December Feast of the Holy Family	St. Patrick's St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

Confessions and Penitential Services Schedule

Sunday 20th December	St. Patrick's, Greencastle St. Patrick's, Gortin Sacred Heart, Plumbridge	3:30pm 5.00pm 7.30pm
<i>Two visiting priests will be available for individual confessions</i>		
Monday 21st December	Sacred Heart Church, Omagh	7.30pm Mass
<i>Followed by a Penitential Service with several priests in attendance for individual confessions</i>		

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,165**. **Please support your parish by using your envelope even if you must attend Mass outside your parish, thank you.** Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **John McNulty, Chicago (formerly Aughaboy)** who was buried during the week and for **Margaret Daly, Anna Rose McCullagh** and **Annie McCullagh** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Welcome: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family **Aine Bernadette and Aoiheann Mary McNamee** who were baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptised, their parents and godparents prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Green Elves Playgroup: Applications forms for pre – school places for the year 2010 / 2011 are now available. If you want a form contact the playgroup on (028) 8164 7104 between 9.00am and 1.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Next Sunday's Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm 83; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52
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Lotto Numbers: 2, 8, 16, 24 (4 winners with 3 numbers – £15 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,250

Serving Our Faith-Community in Greencastle Parish

Parish Liturgy for 26th / 27th December, 2009	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Prayers of Intercession	James McCullagh	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed
Offertory Gifts	The family of Jack Tuohy	The family of Aileen Tracey	

Pilgrimages and Retreats

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.

Foundations in Liturgy: A 12 week Liturgy course led by the Thornhill Centre team will be held in Sion Mills Parish Centre beginning Tuesday 19th January, 2010 from 7:30pm to 9:30 pm. This course is designed to foster an understanding of the richness of the Liturgy of the Church, examining core elements and symbols of our ritual and worship. Course cost: £100. For further details, please contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233.

Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests: 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying £10. 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. These Masses go on all the time.

Privileges of members – deceased: 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (**this will take place in at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church on Tuesday 22nd December**). 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.

BADA An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:

Sunday 20th December Every Friday Night	Party Night – Dance, with music by <i>Larry and Co.</i> Card game from 8.30pm	Wishing a very happy Christmas and New Year to all our patrons!
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Greencastle Youth Club: Re-opening on Monday 4th January, 2010

Greencastle Youth Club Organisers wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas



Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the Wednesday evening prior to publication

This Week's Calendar of Saints:

Sunday 20th December – St. Fachanan (bishop) Not celebrated this year.

Monday 21st December – St. Peter Canisus (1521-1597) Born in Holland. He intended to become a lawyer but joined the Jesuits. Through courtesy and learning he promoted the Catholic revival after the Council of Trent. His greatest work was a catechism of 211 questions and answers, published in 1555.

Wednesday 23rd December – St. John of Kanty (1390-1473) Taught Theology and Scripture in the university of Cracow, Poland. He is also remembered for his austerity of life and generosity.

Saturday 26th December – St. Stephen (the first Christian martyr) Was one of those in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for forgiveness of his enemies. Patron of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

Sunday 27th December – St. John (apostle and evangelist) Not celebrated this year.

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)

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 1:39-44:

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 willingness to look beyond one's own needs to the needs of others. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have you 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?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

Q. Why was 25th December chosen for the birthday of Jesus?

A. The conception of Jesus at the Annunciation to Mary, nine months earlier, was an older celebration than his birthday. 25th March was a very important date, regarded as the first day of creation and the day of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Thus the conception of Jesus was linked with creation and the cross. Another reason for choosing 25th December was that this date was decreed by the Emperor Aurelian as a feast for the return of the Unconquered Sun after the mid-winter solstice. Christians put their own spin on the feast by celebrating the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

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

The Deep End – Importance of Being Little:

Size matters, even when it's small. Take, for example, the Galápagos islands. They're not small nor a problem but the mosquitoes brought there by chartered flights and tourist boats are. Getting its name from the Spanish for 'small fly', the mosquito is a real and present danger to the islands' unique species. Many mosquitoes carry deadly diseases such as avian malaria or West Nile fever. They could endanger even the Galápagos tortoises, marine iguanas, sea lions and Darwin's famous finches.

But small things can do much good too. Take, for example, bacteria. A controversial scientist trying to sequence the human genome (containing 3 billion DNA base pairs) claimed last August that by the end of this year artificial life would be produced in the lab. For some time now he has been trying to produce bacteria that would change coal into natural gas, and algae that would absorb carbon dioxide and turn it into hydrocarbon fuels.

Small things can indeed have an enormous impact.

Today's First Reading (Micah 5:1-4) knows the value of small things too, for it foretells the impact that the emergence of a ruler of Israel from one of Judah's little clans (5:2) will have. Repeatedly God chooses the small and insignificant in the world's eyes for very important missions.

Advent is a reminder that we, who for the most part are small and insignificant in the world's eyes, have been chosen for mission too. When at Christmas we celebrate that 'ruler's' birth let us be aware that in a very real sense we celebrate our own – our birth into greatness.

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