

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

  
**St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year B] (20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

**Thought for Advent/Christmas:** "Christmas isn't automatic, it can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world." *Fr. Ronald Rolheiser OMI*

<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass followed by Confession: Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy Anna Rose McCullagh (19 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent [Year B]	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confession: Broughderg, Crock Peter Daly (8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confession: Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road Marie Tobin (50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Gortin Parish (YTube)	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
	St. Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b>	Mass followed by Confession: Susanna Myles McCullagh (Month's Mind)
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confession
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> St. John of Kanty (priest)	St. Patrick's	<b>2.00pm to 4.00pm</b>	Adoration
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Mass followed by Confession
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am – 1.00pm</b>	Confession
<b>DETAILS ON THE CHRISTMAS EVE / DAY MASSES CAN BE SEEN ON THE NOTICE TO THE RIGHT</b>			
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Facebook Page	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year B]	Facebook Page	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass

**COLLECTIONS**      **Weekly:** £1,010 • **Graveyards:** £1,140      *Thank you for your generosity*

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Mick McGarvey (London, formerly Muninamale)** who died this week and for the souls of **Barney McCrory (3<sup>rd</sup>), Peter Daly (8<sup>th</sup>), Anna Rose McCullagh (19<sup>th</sup>) and Marie Tobin (50<sup>th</sup>)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Feast of Holy Family Masses:** As indicated above these masses will be celebrated via the Parish of Greencastle Facebook Page on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am. It is intended that Fr. Gallagher will celebrate these masses from his family home in Derry and he encourages you to gather as families around your television, tablets or phones to participate in this mass and to send photos of your families following the mass with family name and townland to the Parish Facebook page to be shared on this special Family Occasion.

**Christmas Message 2020:** By Friday afternoon of this week we will have reached the heart of Christmas. Mass celebrated either in person or virtually, presents opened, dinner about to be served. We will be thinking of family both present or absent. This year coming to a close has stretched us all as we have tried to come to terms with all that Covid-19 and its restrictions have thrown at us, especially those who have been directly affected by illness and death this year and also the consequences of lockdown, mentally, financially and spiritually.

I would like to thank you for your prayer and support during this year. I have been constricted in my physical pastoral outreach to you, but hopefully the new digital pastoral outreach (and walks too!) have kept you attached to the parish and each other by joining in the Mass, Rosaries and other prayers. At the end of the day it is about helping each other to make Emmanuel (God with us) present to each other.

As we prepare to close the book of 2020 we pray that, in continuing prayerful solidarity with each other, Christ will be born again in our hearts, families and parish in 2021.

*The blessings of Christmas to you all. Nollaig shona dhaoibh. Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP*

**Summary of Christmas Eve / Day Mass Arrangements for Greencastle Parish:**

- No system will satisfy everyone. We will continue to use the townland system which has been successful these past few months.
- People cannot choose which mass they want to attend or which seat they sit in. If you wish to attend it must be with your own townland unless you have been asked to provide the music or other service for a different mass.
- You can always choose to watch your townland mass either live or on repeat on the Greencastle Parish YouTube Channel.
- Face coverings are required to be worn in church unless you have a medical exemption. They must be worn properly during services including covering of the nose. It should only be removed to receive Holy Communion.
- Sadly only the designated singers and the Mass celebrant should sing. This year just listen and quietly pray the words of the Carols as they are sung.
- Hopefully with the extra space available there will be no overflow. If there is an overflow you will have to follow mass either on the loudspeaker from your car or follow it on YouTube in your car or at home. Sheskinshule View will be placed with Binnefreaghan / Crockanboy Townlands for Christmas only. Maryville will remain with Sheskinshule Townland.

Please see below the Timetable for Christmas Mass in Greencastle Parish

<b>Thursday</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b> Christmas Eve	St. Patrick's	<b>4.00pm</b>	Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy Sheskinshule View Music by Cailin Joe McDonald
	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b>	Teebane East, Carnanracy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen Music by The Brogan Sisters
	St. Patrick's	<b>7.00pm</b>	Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South Music by Ciara Fox
	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>8.30pm</b>	Broughderg, Crock Music by Sinead and Cayla Donnelly
<b>Friday</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b> Christmas Day	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Sheskinshule (minus Sheskinshule View) Music by Ciara Fox
	St. Patrick's	<b>10.30am</b>	Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road Music by Tara Conneely
	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon</b>	Formil Music by Liam and Amanda Donnelly with Dominic Douglas

**PLEASE PASS ON THIS INFORMATION TO OTHERS**

**Greencastle Community Association – Virtual Bazaar:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
 Many fantastic prizes including a 40" 4K Smart TV with Alexa and oil, food and drink hampers  
*Tickets are £20 and available in Centra Greencastle or by visiting [paypal.me/greencastlecommunity](https://paypal.me/greencastlecommunity)*

**Children in Crossfire Christmas Raffle:** Centra Greencastle are very kindly sponsoring a raffle for a Christmas hamper, proceeds of which will go towards the Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal.  
 £1 per strip of tickets. Please look out for the raffle in Centra Greencastle Facebook Page and in the store itself. The draw will take place in the few days before Christmas.

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

<b>Institute of Irish Leadership – Upcoming Events:</b>		<i>kathleenburnsiii@gmail.com</i>
<b>Online Cookery Classes</b>	Very successful with 18 participants (hope to continue in New Year). <i>Live via Zoom</i>	
<b>Irish Language Conversation Circle</b>	Finishes Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December. Another great success, connecting people at home and abroad. Will continue in New Year, starting Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Live via Zoom</i>	
<b>Walking Group</b>	Mondays (10.30am to 11.30am) with MUSA co-ordinator. Meet in Pomeroy Forest car park.	

**Next Week's Readings:** Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 • Psalm 104:1-6, 8-9, R/ vv 7 • 8. Hebrews 18:11-12, 17-19  
 Luke 2:22, 39-40 • Lectionary 1:119      **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**Pope Francis' Intention for December (please remember this in your personal prayers)**

**For a Life of Prayer:** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**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 courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

**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

**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*

**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@jecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@jecon.ie)

**Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers:** To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.

*If you are interested in volunteering visit [trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer](http://trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer) or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info*

**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*

**Online Youth Programmes:** To access a wide variety of initiatives and activities by Derry Diocesan Youth, visit:

**Facebook:** [DerryDiocesanYouth](https://www.facebook.com/DerryDiocesanYouth) **Instagram:** [derryyouth](https://www.instagram.com/derryyouth)

**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)*

**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.

*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](http://derryyouthcommunity.com) or emailing [dyc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org)*

**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.

**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](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**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)*

**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*

**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*

**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).*

**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.

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

**Community Coordination Hub:** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Covid-19 Community Coordination Hub will respond to requests received from the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline to assist residents who may have become isolated and vulnerable due to the impacts of Coronavirus and the associated mitigation measures. The Hub will work with the local community and voluntary sector to ensure those most at risk will have access to support services such as food, medication, practical and emotional support. **Access to Food Parcels** provided by the Department for Communities are available for anyone who can't leave their home to access food due to Covid-19 restrictions, don't have support through family, friends or access to food deliveries from local suppliers, or face food insecurity. Please complete the Food Parcel Request Form and a member of the Council's Community Coordination Hub will contact you. We aim to respond to requests within 24 hours. Referrals to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Coordination Hub for other support services are directed through the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline:  
**Freephone 0808 802 0020 Text ACTION to 81025 Email [covid19@adviceni.net](mailto:covid19@adviceni.net)**  
Support and advice is available from 9.00am to 5.00pm, seven days a week.

**Trócaire:** Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org)
2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)
4. As with your parish envelope please leave at Broughderg Post Office, St. Patrick's Church Sacristy outside door postbox or the Parochial House. No boxes please.

Please also fill in Gift Aid details on envelope. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

**An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association:** Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the Covid-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call.  
*For up to date info and advice visit [www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus)*  
Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741 Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996 Briege Beggs: 07799 058 273

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:** *John Byrne OSA ([jpbyrneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpbyrneosa@gmail.com))*

1. We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you ... a messenger of good news?
2. 'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety?
3. Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded?
4. Mary's response serves as a model for us – as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'?

**The Deep End – Keeping Awake:** *Jane Mellett ([mellettj@gmail.com](mailto:mellettj@gmail.com))*

The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a 'shocking' way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. It is here Jesus comes. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times.

On the first Sunday of Advent we were invited to 'Keep Awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God present this Advent? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again?

Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh – this time, within me – as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago.

*Edward Hays (Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim)*

#### 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%

**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)*

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

**Wednesday 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.

**Friday 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.*

**Thursday 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.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December – St. John (Apostle and Evangelist)** John was the brother of James, son of Zebedee. The disciple whom Jesus loved, is traditionally said to have died in Ephesus. He is considered to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the book of Revelation and three letters. The letters especially teach us the law of love; John is said in his old age to have preached only one message: 'love one another'.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Holy Innocents** Also called Childermas, or Innocents' Day, festival commemorating the massacre of the children by King Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus.

**ASPIRE:** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's employability service, is currently active with new ways of working. ASPIRE staff are ready to help people apply for and secure jobs; support from the initial search through to the application and with interview prep. Also provide training courses and arrange work experience placements. Omagh (028) 8224 6535 • Enniskillen 028 6632 6478 • Mobile 07799 471 448 • [aspire@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:aspire@fermanaghomagh.com)

**The Net – December Edition:** For inclusion of your faith news in future editions email [editorthenet15@gmail.com](mailto:editorthenet15@gmail.com)

Coverage in this month's edition includes

Bishop Donal looking forward to World Youth Day 2023 • Online youth activities for Advent  
 Strabane Holy Cross College 'Footprints' competition by Hollie Frystal • JP11 Reflections  
 Youth writers share thoughts on...Celebrating Christmas; Inspirational Garvan Byrne story; and Drawing God  
 Advent reflections by Hollie & Filip, Derry Youth Scholarship Ministry  
 Sr. Clare devotees gathered in heavy rain to pray birthday Rosary • Bishop Donal launches Columban Year  
 Melmount Prayer for Deceased by Hollie Frystal • Creggan Eucharistic Blessing  
 Clonleigh Pilgrimage of Remembrance by Fr Colm O'Doherty • Ardmore marks 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
 Newtownstewart gets a new relic by Fr. Roland Colhoun • Fr. Roni Zacharias arrives from India  
 Dungiven celebrates doctoral success of Fr. Joseph Varghese • Remembering Fr. Stephen Kearney  
 Pat Carlin shares thoughts on 'Connecting Generations' campaign  
 Following the stone by Fr. Oliver Crilly • Françoise Henry – Irish section by Fr. Oliver Crilly  
 And much more

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Can't stop? There is a solution.

Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email [csoofaa@btinternet.com](mailto:csoofaa@btinternet.com). [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://alcoholicsanonymous.ie).

**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

**SUSE+ New Courses in January:** Have you recently been made redundant or are you currently unemployed? SUSE+ can help you, we are currently offering help and support to gain qualification and employment. We run Job Searches, CV Building, Interview Preparation. Mentors work 1:1 with participants to help secure a job in local area.

New courses include Foundation Skills in Working with Children, Personal Success & Wellbeing, Progression to Employment, Customer Service, Money Management, Retail, Business Administration, Barista and Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy. For more information email [tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk](mailto:tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk) or call 074 3653 3475

**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

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	11