



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year B] (21st March, 2021)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the Week: "Just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands, and leave it with him. Then you will be able to rest in him — really rest."
St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Saturday 20th March	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	12 noon to 1.00pm Confession 6.00pm Vigil Mass: John Tuohey Jnr. (13 th)
Sunday 21st March Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year B]	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	11.00am Mass: Service of Light 3.00pm Divine Mercy and Lenten Devotions 8.00pm Night Prayer and Rosary
Monday 22nd March	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	10.00am Mass 8.00pm Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 23rd March	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Badoney Lower (FB)	10.00am Mass 8.00pm Night Prayer and Rosary
Wednesday 24th March	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Badoney Lower (FB)	2.00pm to 4.00pm Adoration 7.30pm Mass 8.00pm Night Prayer and Rosary
Thursday 25th March Solemnity of the Annunciation	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	10.00am Mass 8.00pm Night Prayer and Rosary
Friday 26th March	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Badoney Lower (FB)	7.30pm Mass 8.00pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday 27th March	St. Patrick's (YouTube) St. Patrick's (YouTube)	12 noon to 1.00pm Confession 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Annie Morris (10 th)
Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday [Year B]	St. Patrick's (YouTube) Greencastle (FB)	11.00am Mass 3.00pm Divine Mercy and Lenten Devotions 8.00pm Night Prayer and Rosary

Liturgy Schedule Changes: Please note as restrictions on Public Worship slowly ease there may be changes in the Liturgy Schedule as published. For example, the Celebration of Mass may take place with a congregation present and online on our YouTube Channel. Please look out for any notices on our Parish of Greencastle Facebook Page to that effect. Holy Week liturgies whether with or without congregation will be curtailed in length for the safety of the small number who may be present.

Weekly Collection: £905

Thank you for your generosity

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **John Tuohey Jnr. (13th)** whose anniversary occurs at this time and those who have died as a result of Covid-19.

Parish Envelopes for 2021 / 2022: Can be picked up by distributors for the Greencastle area from back of St. Patrick's Church. The envelopes for Broughderg have been delivered to Broughderg Post Office and distributors can pick them up from there. Thank you for your continuing generosity to the parish during these difficult times.

Confession During Lent: During the month of March and up until Easter the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Saturdays from 12 noon to 1.00pm in St. Patrick's Church. The sacrament will be celebrated in the open beside the altar and spiritual music will play during the hour. The seat, if used, will be sanitised between each use. Penitents should wear a mask as required.

As part of our Lenten efforts we should all make the effort to receive the grace of the Sacrament of God's mercy

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

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7 • Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 R/ v 2 • Philippians 2:6-11
 Mark 15:1-39 • Lectionary 1:346 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Service of Light for Confirmation: Sunday 21st March during 11.00am Mass on YouTube. A small number of representatives of the class will be present to read and share the prayers of the Service of Light. A reminder message will be sent out through the school.

Please have a candle at the ready (preferably your baptism one if possible) to light during the ceremony

Trócaire Easter Basket Raffle: As part of our fundraising efforts for Trócaire we will once again be raffling an Easter Basket. This basket has around £100 of Easter and other goodies in it. This year we will raffle it through the Parish of Greencastle Facebook Page and PayPal at £5 per chance. Please go there to see a picture of the basket and some of the goodies. You can also see it at a distance at mass on the webcam over the next two weekends.

Many thanks to Enya McAteer of Mulkerns Spar Jonesborough, Co. Armagh for donating the Easter Basket

Michael Kelly Talk: Tuesday 23rd March at 6.30pm. CK19, The Knights of St. Columbanus at Queen's University Belfast is delighted to facilitate an online talk delivered by Michael Kelly, Editor of The Irish Catholic newspaper. Michael will be speaking to us on the subject of 'Defending the faith without raising your voice'. This was the subject of a book which was co-authored by Michael in 2012 and should give us an insight into how we can respond to Catholic hot-button issues when they arise in our lives.

For more info email council19.qub@gmail.com or message us on social media (@KSCQueens)

Diocese of Derry Prayer for Lent 2021
Each day of Lent everyone is encouraged to pray this prayer

Loving Father,
 To prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world
 Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert.
 In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness.
 With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. *Amen*

Lenten Commitment Prayer

Father in heaven, I believe that You have committed Yourself to me forever as your child, made in Your image and likeness. In this Fifth Week of Lent I wish to commit myself to making some personal sacrifice in my life during this Season of Preparation before the Celebration of our salvation by Your Son, Jesus on the cross on Good Friday. I believe He made that sacrifice for all our sakes so that we can approach You, Father, with an open heart. I now make my Lenten Promise during this silent pause in the quiet of my heart And I seek Your strength and perseverance in this promise. I make it in Your name: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Other Lenten Devotions

Masses at the usual times; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 10.00am, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30pm. Saturday at 6.00pm, Sunday at 11.00am.

Sunday at 3.00pm	Greencastle (FB)	Divine Mercy and Lenten Devotions
Sunday at 8.00pm	Greencastle (FB)	Night Prayer and Rosary
Monday at 8.00pm	Greencastle (FB)	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday at 8.00pm	Badoney Lower (FB)	Night Prayer and Rosary
Wednesday at 8.00pm	Badoney Lower (FB)	Night Prayer and Rosary
Thursday at 8.00pm	Greencastle (FB)	Night Prayer and Rosary
Friday at 8.00pm	Badoney Lower (FB)	Stations of the Cross

Mini-Lenten Retreat in Preparation for Holy Week: In preparation for the Easter Triduum, 'The Hook of Faith' is happy to offer a 'Mini-Lenten Retreat in Preparation for Holy Week' on Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March. The retreat will be held on Zoom and will be led by Fr. Billy Swan. Each conference begins at 8.00pm. The three conferences will anticipate the Triduum and will therefore focus on the Eucharist (Tuesday 23rd); the Cross and the Mystery of Suffering (Wednesday 24th); the Resurrection, Joy and Hope (Thursday 25th).

To take part all you need to do is send an email to thehookoffaith@gmail.com (all are welcome)

Pope Francis' Intention for March (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Intention for Evangelisation – Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

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

Catholic Engaged Encountered – Online Marriage Preparation Course via Zoom:
Planned for Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th March. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship.
For more information and to book call (028) 2763 8512 or visit marriageencounter.ie

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 or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)

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 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 • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@jecon.ie

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

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

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 • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

SUSE+ New Courses: 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 or call 074 3653 3475*

Dún Uladh's Music Classes – Back for 2021 via Zoom: Lessons available in tin whistle, flute, fiddle, banjo, harp, button accordion and concertina for all ages and abilities. Instruments also available to hire.
For more info or to register e-mail music@dunuladh.ie

Alcoholics Anonymous: Can't stop? There is a solution.
Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email csoofaa@btinternet.com. alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

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***

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

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*

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.

What Is Spiritual Communion? It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

Spiritual Communion Prayer: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen*

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 or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

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
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.

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

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*

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%

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:
Thursday 25th March – Solemnity of Annunciation of Lord Celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son.
We are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of this feast are the joyous mysteries of the Rosary and the Angelus.
The feast of the Annunciation began to be celebrated on this day during the fourth and fifth centuries, soon after the date for celebrating Christmas was universalized throughout the Church. This feast celebrates the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity and the salvation of all mankind. This point of our salvation was deeply discussed by many of the Church fathers, to explain it to the faithful and to show the deep love God has for us. Some of the Church fathers who wrote on this were St. Athanasius, St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Augustine.

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham
Masters in Catholic School Leadership: This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn, 2021.
For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Priory Institute – Retreat Delivery: Offered entirely online with 15 minute video reflections focusing on the verses of the psalm that are contained in the liturgical readings for each day of Holy Week. The first reflection will be available on Palm Sunday and all reflections will remain to watch until Sunday 11th April. There is no charge for this retreat, but you must register with your email address and have access to the internet to participate. All are welcome.
To find out more and register visit prioryinstitute.com/events/holy-week-retreat-2021

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@fermanaghmagh.com

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*

The Deep End – The Journey of Discipleship: *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

Our opening reading from Mark's Gospel captures the elation of the crowds who welcome Jesus in Jerusalem. They spread greenery on the road in front of him, they lift their voices in praise, singing 'Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!' But their hope and loyalty is short-lived, as we discover in our reading of the Passion. Jesus is left almost alone to face humiliation and death. His followers have heard his radical message of reversal and upheaval, but when it comes down to it, the challenge is too much. We are told 'they all deserted him and ran away'. While Peter follows Jesus at a distance, he is soon denying he even knows him. Soon, the crowds are shouting for Jesus to be crucified.

We are very familiar with the Passion Gospel and it can be tempting to allow ourselves to tune out, particularly when it comes to the unpleasant parts. We do not like to think of ourselves as part of the mob shouting 'Crucify him!' Yet if we enter fully into the experience, we can see ourselves in the story. When things are going well, it is easy to praise God and shout 'Hosanna!', and promise we will not lose faith. There are other times we fall asleep, become complacent. And then there are days when we struggle, when we are confused or do not know what God expects of us or whether we are able to handle the difficult times. We pull away from God. The different disciples display this range of human reactions and emotions. This week, Holy Week, we are the disciples walking with Jesus on a journey that leads to the cross. And yet here at the cross, we find Mary Magdalene and the other female disciples, and Joseph of Arimathea. We know the story is not over for these disciples, or for Peter and the others. The journey of discipleship is just beginning.

We don't have to be able to articulate all the logic of what is happening now. But Christians walk on with the conviction that there is One who does make sense of the apparent madness of shattered human dreams.

Bishop Donal McKeown

Some Important Dates

Thursday 25th March First Confession for P4 Children	Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday	Saturday 8th May at 11.00am Confirmation
Saturday 5th June at 12noon First Holy Communion	Saturday 3rd / Sunday 4th July Blessing of the Graves in Greencastle / Broughderg	

2019	PARISH STATISTICS	2020
(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls	Baptisms	(17) 8 Boys • 9 Girls
(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls	First Communion	(11) 4 Boys • 7 Girls
(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(14) 7 Boys • 7 Girls
1 within parish • 6 outside parish	Weddings	0 within parish • 1 outside parish
11	Deaths and Burials	8

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:

John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. The injustice and brutality of the Passion of Jesus make it a difficult story to read as good news. Yet in the midst of that cruelty the courageous, faithful and self-sacrificing love that Jesus showed for us shines through. Recall moments when the account of the Passion has moved you in a special way. How have you experienced blessing through it?
2. Human love can also be painful. When have you experienced the courage, fidelity and self-sacrifice of others in their love of you? When have you shown that kind of love to others, as a parent, a spouse, or a friend, or in some other relationship?
3. We read the Passion story in the light of the resurrection. What seemed a humiliating and shameful failure for Jesus was not the end of the story. Perhaps with hindsight you can look back on something in your own life that seemed like a tragedy at the time but out of that tragedy new life and new possibilities followed for you.
4. For each of us there arise situations in which we feel things are outside our control and we are utterly helpless and powerless. We are not alone in this experience. In his Passion Jesus is one with us in this human helplessness. When have you found that the presence of another with you helped you through a crisis? When have you been able to help another with your presence?

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.

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