



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderr

**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] – Mission Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> October, 2012)**

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-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2012 – 28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2012)			
Saturday Evening (20 <sup>th</sup> October)		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions and Public Recitation of the Rosary 6:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] Mission Sunday		St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions and Public Recitation of the Rosary 11.00am Mass
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time In the home of Sean and Josephine Clarke (Evishession)		St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass 7.30pm Station Mass
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October St. John of Capistrano (priest)		St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October St. Anthony Claret (bishop)		St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass 7.30pm Station Mass [AVAILABLE]
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> October Blessed Thadeus MacCarthy (bishop) In the home of Sean and Michelle Clarke (Formil East)		St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass 7.30pm Station Mass
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time		St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 8.00pm Mass: Rose McGurk (Month's Mind)
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October St. Otteran (monk)		St. Patrick's	9.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (27 <sup>th</sup> October)		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions and Public Recitation of the Rosary 6:00pm Vigil Mass: Rose Heagney (8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]		St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	8.35am Public Recitation of the Rosary 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to £970.			
Baptisms: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family <b>Sarah Kate McAleer</b> who was baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptised and her parents and godparents prayerful support and good example.			
Fill their hearts with your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of understanding, joy, fortitude and peace We offer congratulations and prayerful support from our parish community to <b>Mark Conway (Greencastle) and Aine O'Donnell (Drumragh)</b> Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> October <b>Ronan Donaghy (Donaghmore) and Aisling McDermott (Greencastle)</b> Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October They recently committed themselves to each other in the sacrament of Christian Marriage.			
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for <b>Michael O'Neill</b> whose anniversary occurs at this time.			
First Anniversary Mass for Fr. James McGlinchey RIP: Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov. at 11.30am in Star of the Sea Church, Desertegney.			
GAA Community Centre – 45 Card Drive: Resumes Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October at 7.00pm.			
Called to the Contemplative life? The Cistercian Community in Portglenone, Co. Antrim will guide a weekend of vocation discernment for men who may feel they have a vocation to the contemplative monastic life 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> November. Details available by calling (028) 2582 1211 or emailing vocations@bethabbey.com			
Special Enriching Weekend for Married Couples in a Stable Relationship: Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, 30 <sup>th</sup> November to 2 <sup>nd</sup> December. Designed to help deepen your commitment to one another and enrich the joys you share together. marriageencounter.ie / (00353) 64664 4319 / (00353) 87667 0418 / (028) 9062 6503			
Greencastle Youth Club Rota			
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October		6.30pm – 8.00pm 8.00pm – 9.30pm	P6 and P7 (Liz Conneely) Years 8, 9 and 10 (Vincent Hollywood)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October		6.30pm – 8.00pm	P4 and P5 (Mickey Morris)
Next Sundays Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 125, r/v 3; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52; (Lectionary I, page 817) (Sunday: Year B) (Weekday: Year 2)			
Lotto Results: H – I – J – L – O (5 people with 3 letters – £10 each) Next Jackpot: £2,000			

<b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>Offertory Gifts Rota</b>	<b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b>
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> October The family of <b>Cathair McAleer</b>	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October The family of <b>Serene Morris</b>
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October* The family of <b>Kayleigh McCrory</b>	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October The family of <b>Luke O'Connor</b>
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November The family of <b>Eoin McCullagh</b>	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Lauren O'Neill</b>
<b>* Do This In Memory Week 2</b>		
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.		
<b>During the month of October</b> members of the Legion of Mary supported by others in our congregation will lead us in praying the Rosary <b>25 minutes before</b> the beginning of Mass each day. Please join them or make the Rosary your special family prayer during this month.		
<b>Parish Stations:</b> If you are willing to host a Station Mass in your home during the month of October, please book it in the Sacristy in Greencastle. Hosting a 'Station Mass' is a long tradition in the life of our Catholic parish communities. 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. <i>Mass in our homes is a blessing to the family and to the local area</i>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOWNLAND</b>	<b>IN THE HOME OF</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm	Sheskinshule	Leo and Ann Donnelly
Confessions are available 30 minutes before Mass. Thank you to all families who have volunteered to host a Station Mass for your townland during the month of October.		
<b>Taize – Time of Prayer:</b> To celebrate Mission Sunday, and to acknowledge the good work of the Apostolic Society within our diocese a Taize time of prayer will take place in St. Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, Derry on Mission Sunday (21 <sup>st</sup> October from 3.00pm to 4.00pm). Afterwards there will be a presentation on missionary activity given by <i>Friends of Africa</i> , a group of young lay people who have worked on the missions. Refreshments will then be served in the Youth Centre, Pennyburn. The Apostolic Society helps to promote missionary activity by prayerful and financial support. <i>All past and present members, and friends, are warmly invited to come along</i>		
<b>Fundraising Support:</b> Damian McBride, a young parishioner and pupil at Holy Trinity College, Cookstown has, through his school enlisted with 'Friends of Africa', a lay association established from the SMA Fathers, Dromintine to contribute to the work of the Missions and is planning an educational visit to South Africa in March with other pupils from his school. He has the challenging task of raising £1,700 in funds for the project and he asks for your support. <i>You can meet him after Mass next weekend (27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October), when he will be happy to receive donations</i>		
<b>Special Music Workshop:</b> Thornhill Centre Ministries has invited Fr. Liam Lawton to lead a music workshop in the city on 11 <sup>th</sup> November from 4.30pm to 6.00 pm in St. Brigid's Parish Centre (opposite Resource Centre Derry, Carnhill). We are really fortunate that Fr. Liam has agreed to include a visit to Derry in his latest itinerary. His most recent composition is the Mass setting <i>Aifreann Muire na nGael</i> . The style is very attractive, very singable and makes use of the Irish idiom in both melody and language. the venue holds a couple of hundred people and our hope is that as many Church Musicians from the diocese as possible will be able to attend. Each participant will receive an accompanying book and CD. The cost of the workshop is £16 per person. In some cases, the parish may be able to part / fully sponsor musicians. <i>Cheques payable to Thornhill Centre</i> <i>To book a place, please phone Sister Perpetua/Erin on (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org</i>		
<b>Owenkillew Credit Union – Annual General Meeting:</b> Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November at 8.00pm sharp in the Greencastle Office, a draw will be held for all adult members present on the night.		
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Establishing a Parent Teacher Association:</b> They would be keen to hear from parents interested in helping out with the setting up and running of such a group. Several parents have already indicated their willingness to assist with this and if you would like to become involved contact the school as soon as possible with your details.		
<b>Annual Scor na nOg Showcase:</b> Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm. This is a great nights entertainment and a great opportunity for the youth of the Scor to showcase their acts for the community.		
<b>Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013:</b> For information please contact (0044) 28822 41888		
It's Sunday afternoon here in the States and I've just finished my usual Sunday schedule after arriving last evening safe and sound. My first order of business is to write you and express my sincere thanks for your wonderful hospitality, and that of everyone in Greencastle Parish during my too short stay with you. I look back on those days with great fondness. I hope my efforts will have proven useful to you in your fine ministry there. The trip to Iona was quite nice - lots of time to reflect and read. The weather held up well and it turned out to be a retreat for me. Again, my heartfelt thanks for your wonderful presence with me during the mission/retreat. Please give my love and sincere thanks to all your dear people. I hold them closely in my heart. No doubt we'll stay in touch and surely see each other in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, know of my affection and admiration for you all. Your brother, Joe Nangle OFM <i>Recent Email received from Fr. Joe Nangle OFM</i>		
<b>An Bruach Derg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:</b>		<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b> 8.30pm, light supper served

<b>Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for October (please remember these in your personal prayer)</b> <b>General – New Evangelisation:</b> That the new Evangelisation may progress in the oldest Christian countries. <b>Missionary – World Mission Day:</b> That the celebration of World Mission Day may result in a renewed commitment to evangelisation.	
---	--

<b>Cherish the Rosary During the Year of Faith</b> Before praying the Angelus this morning, Benedict XVI recalled that the traditional annual "supplication", in which thousands of faithful around the world participate, is taking place today at the Italian shrine of Pompei, dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. "As we too spiritually unite ourselves to that choral invocation, I would like to invite everyone to cherish the Rosary during the forthcoming Year of Faith. With the Rosary, in fact, we allow ourselves to be guided by Mary, the model of faith, in meditating upon the mysteries of Christ, and day after day we are helped to assimilate the Gospel so that it can shape our lives. Therefore, in the wake of my predecessors, and in particular Blessed John Paul II who ten years ago gave us his Apostolic Letter 'Rosarium Virginis Mariae', I invite people to pray the Rosary individually, in the family and in the community, placing themselves in the school of Mary who leads us to Christ, the living centre of our faith".	<i>Vatican City (Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October) [VIS]</i>
--	---

<b>Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider <i>The Mystery of Work</i>:</b> This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux) Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon. For 5 or more copies at discounted prices, see our website. <a href="http://logosinstitute.org">logosinstitute.org</a>	
---	--

<b>Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time</b> 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. <b>Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.</b> <i>Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)</i>	
---	--

<b>Family Care Society – Adoption:</b> 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) <a href="mailto:email@familycaresociety.org">email@familycaresociety.org</a> <a href="http://familycaresociety.net">familycaresociety.net</a>	
---	--

Tuesday's Child - Upcoming Events	
<b>Dublin City Marathon</b> Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	A lovely marathon taking in some of the main tourist attractions in Dublin. To register go to <a href="http://dublinmarathon.ie">dublinmarathon.ie</a> . For a fundraising pack email us at <a href="mailto:events@tuesdayschild.org.uk">events@tuesdayschild.org.uk</a> .
<b>Get Active and make it a Win-Win for needy children:</b> Get active, do a sponsored walk or run, swimathon or cycle and change the life of a child today. Lots of sponsored events to choose from or why not organise your own. Everything you raise, we give. No salaries, no administration cost, are taken from funds raised.	
<b>Bore Hole for Kariobangi, Nairobi:</b> Most of us take clean drinking water for granted. We can have a glass of clean water at the turn of a tap. Millions of people are not so fortunate. Your loose change can make a difference. Help us raise funds to sink a bore hole in Kariobangi, Nairobi. Further information on <a href="http://tuesdayschild.ie">tuesdayschild.ie</a> .	

<b>Barnardo's Main Office Line for the Child Bereavement Service in Belfast Number Change:</b> Please note that this number is no longer (028) 9069 4000 anymore and is now (028) 9066 8333.
---

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2012		
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>St. Patrick's</b>	<b>8.00pm</b> Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year)
<b>Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID):</b> Concerned about your hearing or tinnitus problems? If you would like a hearing check, get advice or get information on services available, come to an Action on Hearing Loss FREE Drop-in Hearing Aid Clinic. Local clinics will be held in the coming weeks as follows: <b>Derg Valley Healthy Living Centre, Castlederg:</b> Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November between 10.30am and 12noon. <b>Strule Medical Practice, Health Centre, Omagh:</b> Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November between 2.00pm and 3.30pm. For further details contact Lisa Bullick, Outreach Development Officer Tel: (028) 6632 4400, Textphone: (028) 6632 4400, Mobile: 07553 353 980 Website <a href="http://actiononhearingloss.org.uk">actiononhearingloss.org.uk</a>		
<b>Our Parish cemeteries</b> 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.		
<b>ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013</b> (028)8224 2439 <a href="mailto:accordomagh@btopenworld.com">accordomagh@btopenworld.com</a> 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> November 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> January 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> February 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> March 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> April 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> June Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding		
<b>Institute of Irish leadership, Pomeroy – Enrolment for Computer, Irish and Personal Development Classes:</b> Walking group meet in Forest school Car park on Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Everybody welcome. Full day/Half day Conference facilities available Contact (028) 8775 7800 / <a href="mailto:kathleenburnsiii@gmail.com">kathleenburnsiii@gmail.com</a>		
<b>The YARD Project (Columba House, 11 Queen St, Derry) – Catholic Theology for Young People (16 yrs +):</b> A series of interactive discussions exploring what it means to be a young Catholic today. The talks will take place over four weeks (Wednesdays, 7.00pm-8.30pm) beginning 19 <sup>th</sup> September. This free course will benefit A-Level Religious Studies students and any young person wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith. For more info or to register, contact Claire on (028) 7126 9113 / <a href="mailto:claireyard3@btinternet.com">claireyard3@btinternet.com</a>		
<b>Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children: - Use of photography and video</b> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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);</li> <li>Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the <b>Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</b></i></p>		
<b>October: Month of Mission (Theme: Growing in Communion):</b> The Mission Alive Office of the Irish Missionary Union draws your attention to its programme of events to raise awareness of the life and service of Lay and Religious Missionaries. You are encouraged to celebrate Lay and Religious Missionaries, and their contribution to the global realities they serve, in your parish, with your parishioners and in the school(s) in your parish. <i>You are invited to access <a href="http://imu.ie">imu.ie</a> or <a href="https://facebook.com/missionmonth">facebook.com/missionmonth</a></i>		
<b>University of Ulster – Applications for Part-Time Irish language Courses (Diploma/Degree):</b> In our various centres at Magee (Derry), Annagry, Downings and Letterkenny. <i>Please call (028) 7167 5277 or email <a href="mailto:gaelge@ulster.ac.uk">gaelge@ulster.ac.uk</a> for further information</i>		

**London Marathon (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April):** Why not join team Foyle Hospice for a thrill of a lifetime running/walking one of the world's most exciting marathons, the Virgin London Marathon which takes place Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April? This run takes in all the major sites and attractions in London with thousands of spectators all along the course. Places in this event will be difficult to get, but Foyle Hospice has some guaranteed entries for the marathon. For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager. Email [noel@foylehospice.com](mailto:noel@foylehospice.com) or telephone (028) 7135 9888.

**Tip of the Week:** There's nothing more frustrating than giving your biggest, baddest, most Lombardi-esque speech to your athletes... then looking up and seeing half of them rolling their eyes, staring off into space, or playing Angry Birds on their iPhones. Yaaarrgh!

It used to happen to me too, until I figured out this one important coaching secret:

You see, every group is made up of different kids, with different backgrounds, different goals, and different motivations. You can group them roughly into four personality types:

- 1) The leaders
- 2) The goofy, lighthearted Kids
- 3) The poor talent - yet hard workers
- 4) The indifferent kids

The key to effective motivation is not a "one size fits all" speech that's supposed to whip your athletes into a frenzy of effort and togetherness.

#### **Transmitting the Passion for Christ to the World**

*Vatican City (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October) [VIS]*

The passion for announcing Christ to the world and the knowledge that God acts in the Church were the two key themes of the brief remarks addressed this morning by Benedict XVI to the Synod Fathers at the opening of the thirteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is to examine the subject of new evangelisation.

The Pope explained how the question as to whether God is real is as urgent today as it was in the past. With the Gospel God broke His silence, He spoke to us and entered into history. Jesus is His Word, the God Who showed that He loved us, Who suffered with us even unto death, then rose again.

This, the Holy Father went on, is the Church's response to that great question. Yet there is another question: how to communicate this truth to the men and women of our time, that they might learn of salvation? "We cannot make the Church", he said, "we can only make known what He did. The Church did not begin with our actions but with the actions and word of God".

Having recalled how the Apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, while gathered in prayer in the Upper Room, Benedict XVI went on: "The fact, then, that each synodal assembly begins with prayer is no mere formality; rather, it is evidence of our awareness that the initiative is always God's: we may implore it, but the Church can only cooperate with God".

Having achieved this awareness, the second step is "confession"; that is, bearing witness even in dangerous situations. It is precisely such witness in moments of difficulty that is a guarantee of credibility, because it implies a readiness to give our lives for that in which we believe.

Yet, confession requires a visible form, a 'clothing'. This, the Pope explained, is charity; the most powerful force, which must burn in the hearts of Christians. Faith, he concluded, must become a flame of love within us, a flame which burns in our lives and is propagated to our neighbours. This is the essence of evangelisation.

**Tumaini (Hope) 2012:** Please help orphanages in Kenya by supporting Tumaini (Hope) 2012 at the Millennium Forum on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 8.00pm. West End Soloists and Toccata Choir will take you on a magic carpet ride into the music of The Beatles, The Bee Gees, ABBA, Simon and Garfunkel, The Mamas and Papas, Michael Jackson and many more. Tickets: £12.50 Millennium Box office: (028) 7126 4455

TOCCATA, a cross community choir from Northern Ireland, including members from the Derry Diocese, have been working with a team of health professionals and have already sent out much needed medical equipment to Kenya. At the end of October the Tumaini team will travel to work voluntarily in Kenya. The highly trained medical volunteers will be donating their time and skills to The Morris Moses Foundation and local health charities.

Meanwhile the West End Soloists and Toccata Choir will perform concerts, which (in Kenya) will include a 100 strong children's choir from local Kenyan orphanages. The fundraising from these concerts will go directly to the orphanages involved in the project.

*All support greatly appreciated*

#### **Archdiocese of Vienna to Undergo Radical Parish Reform**

*Christa Pongratz-Lippitt*

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 11.08am

*Vienna, Austria*

The Vienna archdiocese, which is one of the largest in Europe and extends from the Czech frontier down to the southern Alps, will undergo radical parish reforms, reducing its 660 parishes to 150 in the next 10 years.

"This is the most comprehensive reorganisation of the Vienna archdiocese since that of Austrian Emperor Joseph II [1765-1790] 200 years ago," Cardinal Christoph Schönborn told journalists at a Sept. 19 media reception in the archbishop's palace in Vienna.

The main reasons for these measures were the increasing shortage of priests and the steady decline in the number of Catholics, especially of those who regularly attended Mass and were involved in their local parishes, the cardinal explained.

"I am fully aware that these reforms denote a far-reaching change of perspective," Schönborn said. "We must take leave of the traditional concept that the church is only present where there is a priest. That is a restricted view that has developed over time but which must now be corrected. Church is community, and leading offices in the church should in principle be carried out collaboratively, even if the parish priest has the final responsibility according to canon law." The "common priesthood of all the baptised" will take center stage from now on, Schönborn said, meaning that those who have been baptised and confirmed will be responsible for evangelisation and pastoral work. The reform is meant to bring about a new form of cooperation between priests and lay Catholics based on their common vocation to Christianity, he said.

The reforms are scheduled to start in January, and if everything goes according to plan, 80 percent of today's parishes would be amalgamated by 2022, Schönborn said. It is not yet possible to predict exactly how many nor which parishes would survive, he said, but several hundreds of the present parishes would certainly find themselves part of one large central parish in 10 years' time, the cardinal explained.

Several priests -- "at least three to five" -- would be active in each of the central parishes and would run the parish jointly with lay parishioners.

"Participatory leadership with clear task allocation" was the aim, Schönborn said. One priest in each of the central parishes would be responsible to the archbishop.

Within these large central parishes, there would be many small affiliated communities run only by lay Catholics who would work voluntarily. The cardinal expressly emphasised that no parishes would be closed, but smaller parishes might be amalgamated with larger ones.

Catholics would have to travel to one of the large central parishes to celebrate the Eucharist, but Services of the Word would be celebrated by the laypeople running the local affiliated communities.

Church activities would be dedicated to evangelisation to a far greater extent than they had been up to now, Schönborn said.

"More and more vibrant communities will be able to develop," he said, as there would be less administrative work, costs would be bundled, resources pooled and thus "more time left for evangelisation."

"There are still many problems to be solved. We will have to say goodbye to a great deal of what has become dear to us, but the farewell is at the same time a new departure," Schönborn said.

The reforms were criticised by the Catholic reform group Austrian Priests' Initiative, which is in favour of ordaining married men and women to relieve the shortage of priests.

"Reacting to a mass retreat by retreating oneself is not a good solution," Msgr. Helmut Schüller, a founder of the Austrian Priests' Initiative, told the Austrian daily Die Presse. "We are withdrawing from our local parish churches instead of strengthening them."

"In large parishes which cover extensive geographical areas, many of our parishioners will feel lost and go astray, said Schüller, Schönborn's former vicar-general. "Many contacts will be lost and much closeness and presence will be lost, too."

As parish priest of a small, flourishing parish in lower Austria, Schüller said he could not imagine his parish being merged into a large central parish because an "immense amount of blood, sweat and tears but also time and energy has been invested in it."

The community of the faithful was a "very precious asset" that was hardly mentioned in the new reform plans, Schüller said.

According to an Oekonsult poll, 86% of Austrians see the amalgamation of parishes as "problematic."

*Christa Pongratz-Lippitt is an Austrian correspondent for the London-based weekly Catholic magazine The Tablet*

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

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – St. John of Capistrano (priest) [1386-1456]** Studied civil and canon law and joined the Franciscan Order. In a battle at Belgrade he contracted fever and died there. Patron Saint of jurists and military chaplains.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October – St. Anthony Claret (bishop)** Born in Sallent, Bages comarca, near Barcelona, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1807, the son of a small woollen manufacturer. He received an elementary education in his native village, and at the age of twelve became a weaver. Later he went to Barcelona to specialize in his trade, and remained there until he was twenty. Meanwhile he devoted his spare time to study and became proficient in Latin, French and engraving.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Blessed Thaddeus MacCarthy (bishop) [1455-1492]** His appointment as Bishop of Ross was opposed and Pope Innocent VIII then appointed him bishop of Cork and Cloyne. He set out as a humble pilgrim to Rome where he was confirmed as bishop of Cork and Cloyne. On his return journey in 1492 he died at Ivrea in Italy.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October – St. Otteran (monk)** Descendant of Conall Gulban, is usually identified with Odhran who preceded Columba on Iona. His death is recorded in 548 and his grave was greatly revered in Iona. He was chosen by the Vikings as patron saint of the city of Waterford in 1096 and later patron saint of the diocese. [Not celebrated this year]

### **Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 10:42-45:**

*John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. Jesus had spent much time teaching his followers that discipleship was a life of service, a life of giving oneself for others. In spite of that James and John were thinking of what they could get out of it. For Jesus, for the apostles and for each one of us, the glory of God is revealed when we allow God to work through us as we give ourselves for others. When have you found that you reach a fuller life and others benefit when you act in this spirit of service?
2. One of the great problems in a community, a parish or an organisation, is when you have some people jockeying for status and positions of power. The good of the group and the people it serves take second place to personal prestige. You have probably seen this happen. Perhaps you have also witnessed people with a spirit of service that allowed them to value the good of the group over personal rewards. Recall them and give thanks for their witness.
3. Jesus himself is the great model of this spirit of service. Think of the aspects of Jesus' life and ministry that have inspired you to imitate his giving of his life for others.

### **Questions people ask:**

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

- Q. Why should the Catholic Church be pushing its teaching, given all the scandals that have come to light?
- A. Yes indeed, the uncovering of scandals is a massive obstacle in the promotion of the mission to preach the word of God to all nations. Mission begins with constant personal conversion by each one of us. But we should not be so blinded by the bad news that we fail to see all the goodness in the Church. Catholic missionaries have made the world a better place in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, in education, nursing, food aid, peace-making and many other ways. May the Church never be short of courageous, generous people who respond to the call of Jesus Christ to bring his message and love to all nations.

### **The Deep End – 'For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve':**

*Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

Today, Mission Sunday, Catholics worldwide are asked to recommit themselves to mission, to the gospel message. Many people think of missionaries as those who travel to so-called developing countries and dedicate their lives to serving the poor and spreading the gospel. Today we pray especially for them but we also recommit ourselves to following the gospel message in prayer, in our daily lives, in our relationships with others and in sharing that message. We live in an extremely unequal world that is in desperate need of the gospel message of hope, solidarity, peace, love and equality. The Mission month of October reminds us all that we are bearers of that message. We are all called to be missionaries wherever we live; we are all invited to love and serve God by loving and serving others. That's how we share our faith with the world. The Mission month of October offers everyone the chance to renew their commitment to the Gospel. Can we be missionaries to our own families and to the people around us? That is one of the more challenging tasks in our society today.