

Diocese of Derry, Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone

Saint Patrick's Church
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Broughderg

The Fourth Sunday of Advent. 21st December, 2008

The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

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Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Advent. 22nd December – 24th December, 2008

Monday 22 nd December Fourth Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 23 rd December Fourth Week of Advent	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 24 th December	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass for the DDS (members and benefactors)

Season of Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday 24 th December Christmas Eve	Saint Patrick's	7.30pm Carol Service 8.00pm Vigil Mass
Thursday 25 th December The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Our Lady of the Wayside Saint Patrick's	9:30am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11.00am Mass
Friday 26 th December St. Stephen, martyr	Saint Patrick's	11.00am Mass
Saturday 27 th December St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	No morning Mass 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 28 th December Feast of the Holy Family	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass – 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

Confession Schedule

Sunday 21 st December Fr. Forbes (Gortin) and Fr. O'Connor (Plumbridge) Will be available for individual confession	<u>Penitential Services</u> Saint Patrick's, Greencastle Saint Patrick's, Gortin Sacred Heart, Plumbridge	3.30pm 5.00pm 7.30pm
Monday 22 nd December	Saint Colmcille's Church, Carrickmore	8.00pm
Saturday 13 th December	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 14 th December	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,125**.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray this week for **Stephen Ward** and **Annie McCullagh** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Welcome: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family **Ryan Sean McFarlane** who was baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptised, his parents and sponsors prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Derry Diocesan Society for sick & infirm priests:

- Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges, with a donation of at least £20.
 - Likewise, any person whose ever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. These Masses go on all the time. **Privileges of members – deceased**
 - A Mass every day in some parish in the Diocese (*this will take place in Greencastle on Wednesday 29th October*).
 - The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the First three Sundays of each quarter.
- Living 1.** Mass will be offered each month, as listed on church notice-board. **2.** When a living member dies, the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment. **Please attend Mass on Wednesday if you can and remember this intention in your personal prayers**

Children in Crossfire would like to thank everyone in the Diocese for taking an Advent Calendar. If everyone could please return their boxes to their Chapel on Saturday Vigil (27th December) and Sunday Masses (28th December). Baskets will be provided at the entrance of the chapel where you can leave the boxes. Thank you for your support in this campaign to give some of the world's most vulnerable children the chance of a better future. If you would like any more information please call (028) 7126 9898

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 1:26-38:

- 'Greetings, favoured one. The Lord is with you.' 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?
- '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?
- The angel told Mary that it was through her fruitfulness that she would realise the truth of the greeting. New life would come into being through her, and it would be through the Spirit of God working in her. How and where have you experienced yourself as a source of life for others? Have you at times had the sense that the Spirit of God was at work in you?
- 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?
- 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 – Turn off the Knob:

If the first sign of maturity is discovering that the volume knob also turns to the left, perhaps the first sign of spiritual maturity is discovering that God knows how to turn the knob. Today's First Reading says as much when God tells Nathan to say to David: 'Are you the one to build me a house to live in?' (2 Sam 7:5) In other words: 'Do you think that I need you?'

We can forget that God rules, not us. Our Second Reading (Rom 16:25-27) shows God at work within human history as it talks of the mystery kept hidden for long ages but now disclosed. God creates the mystery, keeps it a mystery, and in God's own good time reveals it. Our emptiness may be God's purpose being fulfilled – though not as we expect it. What seems like inactivity, or indifference, on God's part in the face of human tribulation may be God's wisdom at work waiting for the opportune time to act – a time constrained by human freedom and its consequences. We need humility to admit that we don't know it all and can be wrong in our judgments. And we need trust to accept that God's judgement is never wrong.

God wasn't wrong in choosing a manger instead of a throne, in choosing faithfulness to the mission over personal safety, in accepting death on a cross rather than public acclaim based on false hopes. God wasn't wrong because these ended in resurrection and glory. But no one could see it at the time. This Advent, can we?

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

B.A.D.A. An Bruach Dearg Community Centre. Upcoming Events:

Sunday 21st December Usual fortnightly dance continues, music by 'Country Flavour'

**We wish all our patrons a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year
Thank you all for your continued support.**

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Psalm 104; Hebrews 18:11-12, 17-19;
Luke 2:22-40 (Lectionary I, page 119)

Lotto Numbers: 4, 9, 10, 22 **Next Jackpot:** £1,100
Congratulations to Peter Tracey who won the £8,500 jackpot!

Parish News Sheet: Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the **Wednesday evening** prior to publication. **Please take the news sheet home with you after Mass**