



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderr
Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year B] (21st December, 2014)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474 **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Advent [Year B] (22nd December – 28th December)

Saturday Evening (20th December) Do This In Memory (week 4)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year B] Penitential Services in preparation for Christmas with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament individually	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's, Greencastle St. Patrick's, Gortin Sacred Heart, Plumbridge	10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Peter Daly (2 nd Anniversary) 3.30pm <i>Fr. Forbes (PP Badoney Lower),</i> 5.30pm <i>Fr. Donnelly (PP Badoney Upper)</i> 7.00pm <i>and Fr. Hasson will be available</i>
Monday 22nd December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle St. Colmcille's, Carrickmore	10.00am Mass: Derry Diocesan Society* 8.00pm Penitential Service
Tuesday 23rd December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Chapel of Mary, Mother of God, Newtownstewart	10.00am Mass 7.30pm Penitential Service
Wednesday 24th December Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	10.00am Mass

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Wednesday Evening (24th December)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	7.30pm Carol Service 8:00pm Vigil Mass
Thursday 25th December Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ [Year B]	Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's, Greencastle	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass
Friday 26th December St. Stephan (first martyr)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	10.00am Mass:
Saturday Morning (27th December) St. John (apostle and evangelist)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	NO MASS
Saturday Evening (27th December)	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sunday 28th December Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year B]	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass

If you are a homemaker, not at work or retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily during Advent

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection of **£847** and **£23** in loose change.

Baptisms: As a parish community we welcome **Francis Bernard McElduff, Ronan James McAleer, Oisín James Donnelly** and **Patrick Joseph McDermott-Donaghy** who were baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptized and their parents and sponsors prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Anna Rose McCullagh, Peter Daly, Francis Conway** and **Margaret Daly**, whose anniversary occurs at this time.

St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs:

Saturday 14th March at 3.00pm. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion at this Mass call the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 / email ddcc@derrydiocese.org.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 1st to 6th July. Gift vouchers are available from the Thornhill Centre (028) 7135 1233 and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre (028) 7136 2475. *Vouchers can be used as part or full payment towards the pilgrimage*

Child Safeguarding: Please familiarise yourself with the policy by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church.

Trócaire – Christmas Gifts: Trócaire Christmas gifts are now on sale and can make a life-changing difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries. *Visit trocaire.org/gifts • Pick up a leaflet at the Church door*

Christmas Readings: Lectionary 1, page 104; **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Midnight Mass: Isaiah 9:1-7, Psalm 95:1-3, 11-13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14;

Dawn Mass: Isaiah 62:11-12, Psalm 96; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20;

Daytime Mass: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 97:1-6, r/v 3; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18;

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Psalm 104:1-6, 8-9, r/v 7; Hebrews 18:11-12; Luke 2:22-40;

GAA Lotto Results: 1 • J • L • U • X (4 with 3 letters winning £15 each) **Next Jackpot:** £3,900

6.00pm Saturday Vigil <u>Saturday 20th December*</u> The family of Shanice Morris	Offertory Gifts Rota Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00am Sunday Morning <u>Sunday 21st December</u> The family of Joseph Warnock
<u>Wednesday 24th December</u> The family of Sean Og Teague	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	<u>Thursday 25th December</u> The family of Oisín Coyle
<u>Saturday 27th December</u> The family of Daire Tracey	Second Sunday of Christmas	<u>Sunday 28th December</u> The family of Aoife Conway
As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership. Thanks to all who participate in the life and work of our parish faith-community. *Do This In Memory Programme (week 4)		

Do This In Memory: Our next Sunday gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (17th January).

The Pope Lights the Tallest Christmas Tree in the World

Pope Explains 3 Steps to Ensure a Joyful Christmas – Visits Roman Parish on Gaudate Sunday:

By Deborah Castellano Lubov

Vatican City (Monday 15th December) [VIS]

The Pope has called for nothing other than pure joy as we prepare for Christmas, and given a three-step recipe for making sure we can live the birth of the Christ Child with joy.

This was his message Sunday afternoon when he visited the parish of Saint Joseph all'Aurelio, in the western sector of the Diocese of Rome.

On his arrival, the Pope met with little children, the sick and families with children baptized in the course of the year. The Holy Father then heard the confessions of some penitents. Finally, he presided over Mass.

In his homily, he reflected that the joy of Christmas is a special joy. However, he noted, it is not a joy that is only for Christmas day, but rather for the whole life of a Christian. **Continued below →**

Craft Training Ltd: A leading organisation that gives young people training opportunities to learn new skills and gain qualifications that can help them to succeed in their chosen career path and earn £40 per week, all free of charge! Gain the skills you need to kick start your career. We offer a vast range of qualifications including ICT, hairdressing, joinery, painting and decorating, hospitality and catering, retail and much more. These are provided through two programmes. Training for Success is aimed at 16-18 year olds and Apprenticeships NI is for 18 years and up.
Tel: (028) 8225 9377 • **Address:** Kelvin Avenue, Omagh • **Email:** joincraft@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer for the Pope on His 78th Birthday

Rome (Wednesday 17th December) [zenit.org]

May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth

As Pope Francis celebrates his 78th birthday today, here is a prayer for him:

V. Let us pray for Francis, the Pope.

R. May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth, and may the Lord not hand him over to the power of his enemies.

V. May your hand be upon your holy servant.

R. And upon your son whom you have anointed.

Let us pray. O God, the Pastor and Ruler of all the faithful, look down, in your mercy, upon your servant, Francis, whom you have appointed to preside over your Church; and grant, we beseech you, that both by word and example, he may edify all those under his charge; so that, with the flock entrusted to him, he may arrive at length unto life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests: Information can be found in the online news sheet at greencastleparish.com.

Children in Crossfire: Richard Moore LLD Founder and Director would like to thank you for your on-going support and hopes you and your family have a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Jack and the Beanstalk: Monday 22nd December at 3.00pm. A relaxed performance designed to create an enjoyable atmosphere for young people with learning and sensory difficulties and their families.

Pope John Paul II Award: Tuesday 10th February in the Millennium Forum, Derry. There are 800 students currently participating in the award. This is the 8th year of the award in the Derry Diocese and it will be launched in several other diocese this year. Those who are currently doing the award are due to complete by mid-November.

Fr. Hasson would like Year 13 students undertaking the award program to offer their gifts for service in our parish

Dalradian Gold Ltd. would like to invite you to join their staff for festive refreshments in their Gortin office (67 Main St.) from 12 noon to 2.00pm on Tuesday 23rd December. *Come along and find out more about our plans for 2015*

Developing a Prayer Network: Anne McCusker will give this talk in the Pastoral Centre, Brook St, Omagh at 8.00pm on Thursday 8th January. *Come and pray*

God looked over the world for an empty heart -- but not a lonely heart -- a heart that was empty like a flute on which He might pipe a tune -- not lonely like an empty abyss, which is filled by death. And the emptiest heart He could find was the heart of a Lady. Since there was no self there, He filled it with His very Self. *The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God by Fulton Sheen*

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)

Universal: That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

For Evangelisation: That parents may be true evangelisers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

← Continued from above (*The Pope Lights the Tallest Christmas Tree in the World*)

This "serene, tranquil joy" that always accompanies a Christian, he said, in difficult moments becomes instead peace.

The Holy Father recalled the Apostle St. Paul's words to the Thessalonians: "Brothers, always be happy" "How can I be happy?" he reflected.

The answer, he said, quoting the saint: "Pray, uninterruptedly, and give thanks in everything," for we find Christian joy in prayer and giving thanks to God.

Thinking back, Francis said, "I knew a Sister – far from here! – this Sister was good, she worked ... but her life was a lamentation, a lamentation of the many things that happened In the convent she was called "Sister Complaint." We understand ... [but] this isn't Christian!"

More than that, he added, "One feels badly to meet Christians with a sad face, with that restless face of sadness, which isn't peace. A man or woman saint never had a mournful face, never!"

Francis said the saints always had joyful faces or, at least in suffering, peaceful faces, including Jesus who endured the greatest suffering.

To have this Christian joy we must first pray, then give thanks, the Pope exclaimed.

"Remember your life," he said, "and think of the many good things that life has given you."

He acknowledged that life has its bad things too, but "think of the good things," he said.

3 ways

The Pontiff went on to explain three ways to have joy. The first, he said, is to pray, noting: "To have this joy in preparation for Christmas, first, pray: 'Lord, may I live this Christmas with true joy.' Not with the joy of consumerism which brings us to Dec. 24 full of anguish because 'ah, I'm lacking this, I'm lacking that ...' No, this isn't God's joy. Pray."

Second, he said, is render thanks to the Lord for the good things he has given us.

Third, he continued, is to think "how I can go to others, to those who have difficulties, problems" and "where I can go to bring some relief, peace to those who suffer."

The Holy Father concluded by asking Mary to accompany the parishioners and calling them to joy.

Pope Francis at Morning Mass: God Asks Us to Trust Him, Give Him Our Sin

Says We Must Be Ready to Listen to His Voice, Accept Correction By Staff Reporter

Vatican City (Tuesday 16th December) [zenith.org]

"When we will be able to say to the Lord: 'Lord, these are my sins. They are not his or hers, they are mine... They are mine. Take them and I will be saved.' When we will be able to do this, we will be that people, that meek and humble people, that trusts in the Lord's name. May the Lord grant us this grace."

This was a prayer made this morning by Pope Francis as he celebrated morning Mass at the Casa Santa Marta, reported Vatican Radio.

The Pope drew his homily from today's reading from Zephaniah, Chapter 3, which includes the text: "On that day / You need not be ashamed / of all your deeds, / your rebellious actions against me; / For then will I remove from your midst / the proud braggarts, / And you shall no longer exalt yourself / on my holy mountain. / But I will leave as a remnant in your midst / a people humble and lowly, / Who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: / the remnant of Israel."

He also drew from the Gospel reading of Matthew, Chapter 21, which relates the story of the man with two sons, one who tells his father he will not go work in the vineyard, but later repents and goes; and the other who says he will go but in fact does not.

The repentant group described by Zephaniah has "humility, poverty, and trust in the Lord," Francis said. But there are also those who "do not accept correction, they do not trust in the Lord."

"These people cannot receive Salvation. They are closed to Salvation. 'I will leave within you the meek and humble; they will trust in the name of the Lord throughout their lives.' And that is still valid today, isn't it? When we look at the holy people of God that is humble, that has its riches in its faith in the Lord, in its trust in the Lord - the humble, poor people that trust in the Lord: these are the ones who are saved and this is the way of the Church, isn't it? This is the path I must follow, not the path in which I do not listen to His voice, do not accept →

← correction and do not trust in the Lord," the Pope said.

Francis proposed that the scandal provoked by Jesus in the Gospel when he says, "tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you," is felt today by those who feel "pure" because they go to Mass and receive Communion.

God, Francis said, needs much more: "If your heart is not a repentant heart, if you do not listen to the Lord, if you don't accept correction and you do not trust in Him, your heart is unrepentant," he said. "These hypocrites who were scandalized by what Jesus said about the tax collectors and the prostitutes, but then secretly approached them to vent their passion or to do business - but all in secrecy - were 'pure!' The Lord does not want them."

Jesus' message is one of hope, the Pope said, if we have the courage to give God our sins.

He recalled the story of a saint who thought he had given everything to the Lord:

"He listened to the Lord, he always followed His will, he gave to the Lord, and the Lord said to him: 'There is still one thing you have not given me.' And the poor man who was good said: 'But, Lord, what is it that I have not given you? I have given you my life, I work for the poor, I work for catechesis, I work here, I work there ...'

"But there is something you have not given me yet."

"What is it Lord?"

"Your sins."

"When we will be able to say to the Lord: 'Lord, these are my sins. They are not his or hers, they are mine... They are mine. Take them and I will be saved.' When we will be able to do this we will be that people, that meek and humble people, that trusts in the Lord's name. May the Lord grant us this grace."

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/or 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.

***Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests:** 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying at least £20. 2. Likewise, any person whomsoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. These Masses go on all the time. **Privileges of members: Deceased: 1.** A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (**this will take place in Greencastle on Monday 22nd December**). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. **Living: 1.** Mass will be offered each month, as listed on the Church notice board. 2. When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

Warm Homes – Are you entitled to Free Insulation and Heating? Call 0800 988 0559 or visit warm-homes.com.

Irish Language Class for Beginners: Every Thursday in Greencastle GAA Hall from 8.00pm to 9.30pm.

Teenagers and adults are welcome.

Call Sinéad Warnock on 07849 394 001

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses

St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@accordni.com

9th and 10th January • 6th and 7th February • 6th and 7th March

10th and 11th April • 8th and 9th May • 12th and 13th June

Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date

Parish Liturgy for December, 2014	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Catriona McCullagh	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of the Faithful	-- TBC --	-- TBC --	Conan Maguire
Collectors	Francis McLaughlin Mary Bradley	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Tony Donnelly Brendan Daly
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
New choir members will always be welcome – Contact Sinead			

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 1:26-38:John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

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'?

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

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

Thursday 25th 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.

Friday 26th 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.

Saturday 27th 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'.

Sunday 28th December – The Feast of the Innocents (martyrs) The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Holy Innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people. [Not celebrated this year]

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2015

Sacramental Celebrations

Friday 13th MarchSt. Patrick's6.30pmFirst Confession

Sunday 26th AprilSt. Patrick's2.00pmSacrament of Confirmation (Bishop McKeown)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 17th MaySt. Patrick's11.00amFirst Holy Communion

Feast of the Ascension

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday 3rd MaySt. Patrick's

Sunday 30th AugustOur Lady of the Wayside

Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish

Wednesday 11th February • Monday 6th April • Friday 29th MaySt. Patrick's

Sunday 19th July • Tuesday 8th September • Thursday 29th October

Sunday 19th JulyOur Lady of the Wayside

Morning Masses will be celebrated as above unless a Requiem is needed on the dates

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (4th and 5th July)

Saturday Evening (4th July)St. Patrick'sDirectly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday Morning (5th July)Our Lady of WaysideSt. Mary's, BroughdergDirectly after 11.00am Mass

Monday 2nd NovemberSt. Patrick's6.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2014)

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Saturday 17th JanuaryThird Week in Ordinary Time6.00pm Vigil Mass

Saturday 15th FebruarySixth Week in Ordinary Time6.00pm Vigil Mass

Saturday 7th MarchSecond Week of Lent6.00pm Vigil Mass

Friday 13th MarchThird Week of Lent6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation)

Saturday 29th MarchPalm Sunday6.00pm Vigil Mass

Saturday 19th MayThird Sunday of Easter6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 17th MayFeast of the Ascension of the Lord11.00am First Holy Communion

Saturday 7th JuneFeast of Corpus Christi6.00pm Vigil Mass

The Deep End – Yes, Mother:Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)

We sometimes distance ourselves from the real encounter here. As Margaret Silf notes, we sometimes 'put Mary into a glass case, surround her with flowers, and avoid the personal consequences of this moment'. And there could have been very severe consequences for Mary, even death by stoning. Mary's yes is an example of completely surrendering to God's will. She surrenders her motherhood, her entire life to God.

We can think today of those who mother against the odds in our world. In places where there is no food, no clean water, the threat of disease, of torture; those who watch their children suffer from addiction or violence. And we remember those who are the angel Gabriel's of the world, bringing good news and hope that 'nothing is impossible'.

Hail Mary, woman of Nazareth, home maker, cleaner, preparer of food, fetcher of water, God is with you in your everyday excursions in this ordinary town.
Blessed are you among women and blessed indeed are women in their everyday lives, in the confines of family life, in the ambivalence of decision making, in the silences and blessed are the fruits of all our labours.

Janet Lees

MusingsSalvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)

Today's Gospel recounts the story of the Annunciation in which Mary is told that she will conceive and bear the Christ-Child. Many traditions have grown up around this scene and have influenced both eastern and western Christian art. One of these depicts Mary spinning a veil for the temple when the angel appears. This will be the same temple veil that will be torn in two at Christ's death. In his Great Canon, the eighth-century bishop, Andrew of Crete, speaks of this scene in the following way: 'As from purple silk, O undefiled Virgin, the spiritual robe of Emmanuel, his flesh, was woven in thy womb.'