

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

Saint Patrick's Church  
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church  
Broughderg

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2009

Day of Prayer for Temperance

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

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**Day of Prayer for Temperance:** 'What a great legacy and gift it would be for our children in this new emerging country of ours if we would be the generation brave enough to promote and work for an attitude and culture of moderation rather than excess in our use of alcohol. If we could promote abstinence or moderation and create attitudes towards alcohol use that are conducive to a better and healthier way of life, then indeed we would be leaving a wonderful inheritance to future generations.' *Pastoral Letter from Irish Bishops 2007*  
This letter is available on [www.catholiccommunications.ie](http://www.catholiccommunications.ie) or by contacting Irish Bishops' Drug and Alcohol Initiative (IBDAI), Columba Centre, Maynooth. Co. Kildare. [ibdai@jeacon.ie](mailto:ibdai@jeacon.ie)

**Liturgy Schedule for the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time. 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2009**

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Saint Patrick's	11.00am: Requiem Mass for Cecelia Woodhall
St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr		
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry	10.00am Mass: <i>Main celebrant – Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Edinburgh</i>

**"War ruined his home, his family, his life. You can help rebuild his world."** Trócaire's Lenten theme 2009 is based on people forced to flee from their homes due to war. Please take an envelope with you today and give it a prominent place in your home. Make this Lent another record breaker for your generosity. Thank you for everything you have given to previous Lenten campaigns, first established in 1973. <http://trocaire.org>

### Season of Lent

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass (Ashes will be blessed)
Ash Wednesday	Our Lady of the Wayside	8.00pm Mass (Ashes will be blessed)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
After Ash Wednesday		
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Saint Patrick's	7.30pm: Stations of the Cross
After Ash Wednesday		8.00pm Mass: (Philip Morris – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
After Ash Wednesday		
Saturday Evening	Saint Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: (‘Do This in Memory’ Programme)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Saint Patrick's	9:00am Mass: ‘Misso Pro Populo’
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of the Wayside	11:00am Mass

### Confession Schedule

Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Saint Patrick's	10.30am (after Mass) 5.30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Our Lady of the Wayside	10:30am (before Mass)

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1175.**

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for **Cecilia Woodhall, London** whose Requiem will take place on Monday at 11.00am. As a parish community we extend our prayers and support to her family and all who mourn her. We also pray for **Ellen Conway, Philip Morris, Kathleen Warnock** and **Bridget and John Quinn** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** 1 Samuel 16:6-7, 10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**Sick and housebound** will be attended Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, beginning after 10.00am Mass. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

**Lotto Numbers:** 2, 9, 19, 21 (2 winners with 3 numbers – £25 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,550

**Parish Volunteers:** Please sign up for service in your parish. The following are some ways in which you can minister. Two areas still needing support are *Collectors* and *Altar Society* member.

Parish Liturgy for February 2009	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Caitriona McCullagh	Anne McDermott
Prayers of Intercession	Elaine Coyle		
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Collectors	Francis McLaughlin Seamus Keenan	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Brian Gillen Sean Clarke
Altar Society	Rosemary, Sean and Ciara McNalley		Anne McDermott

**Offertory Gifts:** The Confirmation class of 2009 and their families taking responsibility for presenting the Offertory gifts at each Sunday Mass are as follows:-

Week	6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
27	<u>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Caolan Lucas</b>	Second Sunday of Lent	<u>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Sean Maguire</b>
28	<u>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Stacey McCullagh</b>	Third Sunday of Lent	<u>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Carla McElhatton</b>
29	<u>Saturday 21<sup>th</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Megan McKenna</b>	Fourth Sunday of Lent	<u>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Patrick McLaughlin</b>
30	<u>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Caolan O'Neill</b>	Fifth Sunday of Lent	<u>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March</u> The family of <b>Eamon Tracey</b>
31	<u>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April</u> The family of <b>Niall Tracey</b>	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	<u>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</u> The family of <b>Claire Tuohey</b>

As the wider parish community we support these young people and their families with our prayers and we thank them for what they are doing for us. ***If you find yourself unable to attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented.***

**Prayer Friends for the Confirmation Class:** Thank you for your continuing support.

**The Pope's Intentions for March 2009: General:** That the role of women may be more appreciated and used to greater advantage in every country in the world. **Missionary:** That in the light of the letter addressed to them by Pope Benedict XVI the bishops, priest, consecrated persons and lay faithful of the Catholic Church in the Popular Republic of China may commit themselves to being the sign and instrument of unity, communion and peace. ***Please remember these intentions in your personal prayer throughout March***

**'Do This In Memory':** Our First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in Saint Patrick's next weekend (Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February). *In preparation there will be a choir practice for others actively involved on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February in the Church at 7.30pm. More singers will be welcomed.*

### GREENCASLE YOUTH CLUB – Parent Rota

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Dermot / Rosemary Coyle (P4 and P5)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Gary / Catriona McAleer (Years 8, 9, 10)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Fergal / Orla Lucas (P6 and P7)

**Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry:** One Day Retreat for senior citizens Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. 10.30am-5.00pm, £15 inc. lunch. To book call (028) 7126 2512 during office hours only.

**South West College, Omagh. Money Matters – Financial Information / Advice:** 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 3.00pm 'til 8.00pm. This is an opportunity to get some advice and help. Members of the public can get information on benefits, caring in the community, education / training advice and employment opportunities. Rural Link can provide transport at 8076-740. Organisations taking part include:- Consumer Council, St. Vincent DePaul, Jobs and Benefits Office, WELB, SW Carers Forum, EGSA, The Housing executive, Women's Aid and more.

**Holy Trinity College, Cookstown** Formerly Our lady's Secondary / St. Patrick's Secondary School Reunion: **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2009** in Greenvale Hotel, Cookstown at 8.00 pm for all past pupils and teachers who attended the above schools from September 1973 to 1978. Tickets are £20.00 (includes meal) available from Holy Trinity Primary, Holy Trinity College, Greenvale Hotel or by contacting Mary on (078) 7232 1846, or via e-mail at [m.gervin@btinternet.com](mailto:m.gervin@btinternet.com) All proceeds are in aid of Special Olympics.

**The Pope urges us to rediscover confession:** At midday last Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, Benedict XVI appeared at the window of his study overlooking St. Peter's Square to pray the Angelus.

Commenting upon the Gospel reading from Mass, in which St. Mark recounts Jesus' miraculous healing of a leper, the Pope explained how "according to ancient Jewish Law leprosy was considered not just as an illness but as the most serious form of 'impurity'. It was the priest's task to diagnose it and declare as unclean the sick person, who then had to leave the community ... until his recovery, if any, a recovery that had to be properly certified. Leprosy, then, constituted a kind of religious and civil death, and its cure a sort of resurrection."

"In leprosy", he added, "we may see a symbol of sin, which is the true impurity of the heart and has the power to distance us from God. It is not in fact the physical sickness of leprosy, as established by the ancient laws that separates us from Him, but guilt, spiritual and moral evil. ... The sins we commit distance us from God and, if not humbly confessed with trust in divine mercy, they go so far as to produce the death of the soul". The Holy Father then observed how Christ during His Passion "would become as a leper, made unclean by our sins, separated from God: and He would do this for love, in order to obtain reconciliation, forgiveness and salvation for us".

"In the Sacrament of Penance the crucified and risen Christ, through His ministers, purifies us with His infinite mercy, He restores us to communion with the heavenly Father and with our brothers and sisters, He makes us the gift of His love, His joy and His peace". Benedict XVI concluded by inviting the faithful "to make frequent use of the Sacrament of Confession, the Sacrament of Forgiveness, which we must increasingly rediscover today in the value and importance it has for our lives as Christians".

#### **The Deep End – Netting a Fisherman:**

Jesus' choice for 'pope' was a strange one: an unlettered fisherman. His followers were quick to change the gene pool. Had Jesus made a mistake? Unlikely! Was Peter a failure? Hardly! So why the shift? Who knows! But first: the 'why' of Jesus' choice. Were there no academics around in his time, no doctors of the Law, no scholars, no intellectuals? No doubt there were. But God has the disconcerting habit of choosing unlikely people to do his work: Abram and Sarah, Moses, David, the prophets, Job, Zachariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph. The rationale being that it's God's power that must shine through what is being done, not the brilliance of the person doing it.

Jesus was a carpenter, not a scholar. None of his disciples were scholars either. God's choice to get the ball rolling, if you'll pardon the expression, was unlettered people. I wonder how the Church would have developed had we had tradesmen as popes instead of scholars. As the prospect of ever having such a pope again is remote – though knowing Who's behind the scenes not impossible – harbouring such a thought seems ludicrous.

How different would Christ's Church be today had persons with trades under their belt instead of letters after their name been leading her? This speculation is interesting and useful for it brings to focus the biblical imperative that regardless of who leads, God is head, and God's power must shine through those who lead.

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

#### **Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 2:1-12:**

1. Perhaps you can identify with the man on the stretcher who has been paralysed and then could walk. Have there been times when you were able to move after a period of being stuck, paralysed? What lay behind the paralysis? What was the change like for you?
2. The liberation the paralysed man experienced when he could walk again is symbolic of the liberation forgiveness can bring. What was it like for you when someone forgave you for doing something about which you felt guilty? Recall the freedom and the healing of a relationship that the forgiveness brought. Have you in your turn given this experience to another person through your willingness to forgive?
3. Perhaps you have experienced the same liberation in your relationship with God, either through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or through some other experience of God's forgiveness. Remember when it happened and give thanks.
4. The paralytic was unable to come to Jesus without help. There are times when we need the help of friends to get the help we need for healing or for growth. Who are the people who helped you when you felt stuck and unable to move on? When have you been that kind of a friend to another?
5. The friends showed great determination in their efforts to bring the man to Jesus. Their persistence was rewarded. When have you found that it was worthwhile to persist even though initially there seemed to be insurmountable obstacles in the way?

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

#### **Questions people ask:**

Q. What would you recommend me to do for Lent?

A. The gospel mentions three areas of life, prayer (God), fasting (self) and almsgiving (others). Make more time for God each day, time for prayer, Mass, reading scripture, availing of a retreat or good lecture. By fasting we discipline our appetites. Lent is a great time to motivate ourselves to cut back on anything harmful to health like smoking or too much drink. Almsgiving is a call to be more responsive to the cries of the hungry and needy. A collection box at home or in the place of work can be a daily reminder that even to give a little can help a lot.

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