



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

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

First Sunday of Lent [Year B] (22nd February, 2015)

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

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Liturgy Schedule for the First Week of Lent [Year B] (23rd February – 1st March)

Saturday Evening (21st February)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Peter Coyle (1 st Anniversary)
Monday 23rd February First Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	7.00am Mass
Tuesday 24th February First Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 25th February First Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 26th February First Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Michael Keenan (1 st Anniversary)
Friday 27th February First Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8.00pm Mass: Rose Morris (1 st Anniversary)
Saturday Morning (28th February) First Week of Lent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (28th February)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass

Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection of **£891.85** with **£13.15** in loose change.

Pro Terra Sancta (Support for the Holy Land) Collection: Thank you for the **£400** taken up on Ash Wednesday (18th February).

Remembering Our Dead: Pray for **Peter Coyle, Michael Keenan, Rose Morris** and **Gerald Myles McCullagh**, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

With justice he will judge the poor of the people, he will save the children of the needy and crush their oppressors.
Psalms 72:3-4

Trocaire's Lenten Campaign 2015: Highlights the injustice faced by many in the developing world who have to cope with drought and increasing temperatures because of climate change. The very people who have done least to cause this situation are the ones suffering most. *To find out more visit trocaire.org/lent • Thank you for your support*

Lent 2015 – What Will You Take Up This Year? One magazine suggested to its readers last week that to help experience something fresh this Lent, beyond the typical practices of 'giving up' X or Y, they might focus on practices Christians might 'take up' instead – an activity or discipline that would deepen the doer's spiritual life while it also improved local conditions or the environment, relationships within families or parishes and even the wider political process. *Have you got any suggestions that could help you or all of us rethink and celebrate this season?*

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

Universal – Scientists: That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.

Evangelisation – Contribution of Women: That the unique contribution of women in the life of the Church may be recognised.

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 • Psalm 115:10, 15-19, r/ Ps 114:9 • Romans 8:31-34
Mark 9:2-10; (Lectionary I, page 225) **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

GAA Lotto Results: E • F • G • L • O (3 with 3 letters winning £20 each) **Next Jackpot:** £4,300

Parish Liturgy for March, 2015	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Mary Slane	Nuala Glass	Geraldine McNamee
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of the Faithful	Emma Clarke	Peter Fox	Grace Conneely
Collectors	Michael McElhatton John Bradley	Mickey Beggs Colm Keenan	Sean McKenna Brendan Daly
Altar Society	Kathleen Beggs, Joanne Beggs and Mary McKenna		Anne McDermott Patricia Donnelly

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 21 st February The family of Sorcha Hughes	First Sunday of Lent	Sunday 22 nd February The family of Alisha McKenna
Saturday 28 th February The family of Lennon Mayton	Second Sunday of Lent	Sunday 1 st March The family of Enda McKenna
Saturday 7 th March* The family of Matthew McGlinchey	Third Sunday of Lent	Sunday 22 nd March The family of Shona McKenna
First Confessions (Reconciliation) is scheduled for Friday 13th March at 6.30pm		
Saturday 14 th March The family of Michael McGlinchey	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Sunday 15 th March The family of Stephen Meenan
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 Week 6		

Owenkillew Credit Union Ltd. – Death Benefit Insurance ... Are You Covered? The premium of £12.94* ensures a payment of £2,000 to your nominee on death. Open to all members who join before they are 70 years. Please check in either office if you have coverage. Ultimately the onus is on the member to ensure coverage. You may have been automatically covered previously, but both the premium and coverage have increased this year, and it may affect any claim.
**variable annually*

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – Days of Fasting and Abstinence: Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up particular kinds of food or drink, for example meat and alcohol. Friday, and especially the Fridays of Lent, recalls the crucifixion of Our Lord as we prepare for Easter. Fridays are set aside as special days of penance.

Forms of Friday Penance: The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance:

- Abstaining from meat or some other food • Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking
- Making a special effort at involvement in family • Making a special effort to participate in Mass
- Visiting the Blessed Sacrament • Making the Stations of the Cross • Helping the poor, sick aid or lonely
- Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy

From the statement on Friday Penance issued by the Bishops' Conference, 2011

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.

Please familiarise yourself with the policy by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church

Engaged Encounter Experience: Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March. A very positive way of preparing for marriage. Every couple deserves to discover how to enrich their marriage, how to handle differences and how to keep romance alive.
For more details visit marriageencounter.ie

Medjugorje Pilgrimage: For information please call Cathal on (028) 8224 1888.

Do This In Memory: Our next Sunday gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (Saturday 7th March).

Pope's Message for Lent – Make Your Hearts Firm:

Vatican City (Tuesday 27th January, 2015) [VIS]

The following is the full text of the Holy Father Francis' message for Lent 2015, entitled "Make your hearts firm"

The document was signed in the Vatican on 4th October, 2014, the festivity of St. Francis of Assisi

"Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each communities and every believer. Above all it is a 'time of grace'. God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. "We love because he first has loved us". He is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure. Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I do not think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalisation of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront. When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. One of the most urgent challenges which I would like to address in this Message is precisely the globalisation of indifference.

Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. In the Incarnation, in the earthly life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, the gate between God and man, between heaven and earth, opens once for all. The Church is like the hand holding open this gate, thanks to her proclamation of God's word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love. But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which God comes into the world and the world comes to him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded.

God's people, then, need this interior renewal, lest we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves. To further this renewal, I would like to propose for our reflection three biblical texts.

1. 'If one member suffers, all suffer together' – The Church

The love of God breaks through that fatal withdrawal into ourselves which is indifference. The Church offers us this love of God by her teaching and especially by her witness. But we can only bear witness to what we ourselves have experienced. Christians are those who let God clothe them with goodness and mercy, with Christ, so as to become, like Christ, servants of God and others. This is clearly seen in the liturgy of Holy Thursday, with its rite of the washing of feet. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, but he came to realise that Jesus does not wish to be just an example of how we should wash one another's feet. Only those who have first allowed Jesus to wash their own feet can then offer this service to others. Only they have 'a part' with him and thus can serve others.

Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ. In this body there is no room for the indifference which so often seems to possess our hearts. For whoever is of Christ, belongs to one body, and in him we cannot be indifferent to one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy'.

The Church is the *communio sanctorum* not only because of her saints, but also because she is a communion in holy things: the love of God revealed to us in Christ and all his gifts. Among these gifts there is also the response of those who let themselves be touched by this love. In this communion of saints, in this sharing in holy things, no one possesses anything alone, but shares everything with others. And since we are united in God, we can do something for those who are far distant, those whom we could never reach on our own, because with them and for them, we ask God that all of us may be open to his plan of salvation.

2. 'Where is your brother?' – Parishes and Communities

All that we have been saying about the universal Church must now be applied to the life of our parishes and communities. Do these ecclesial structures enable us to experience being part of one body? A body which receives and shares what God wishes to give? A body which acknowledges and cares for its weakest, poorest and most insignificant members? Or do we take refuge in a universal love that would embrace the whole world, while failing to see the Lazarus sitting before our closed doors?

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← In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to press beyond the boundaries of the visible Church in two ways.

In the first place, by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven. The prayers of the Church on earth establish a communion of mutual service and goodness which reaches up into the sight of God. Together with the saints who have found their fulfilment in God, we form part of that communion in which indifference is conquered by love. The Church in heaven is not triumphant because she has turned her back on the sufferings of the world and rejoices in splendid isolation. Rather, the saints already joyfully contemplate the fact that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, they have triumphed once and for all over indifference, hardness of heart and hatred. Until this victory of love penetrates the whole world, the saints continue to accompany us on our pilgrim way. Saint Therese of Lisieux, a Doctor of the Church, expressed her conviction that the joy in heaven for the victory of crucified love remains incomplete as long as there is still a single man or woman on earth who suffers and cries out in pain: 'I trust fully that I shall not remain idle in heaven; my desire is to continue to work for the Church and for souls'.

We share in the merits and joy of the saints, even as they share in our struggles and our longing for peace and reconciliation. Their joy in the victory of the Risen Christ gives us strength as we strive to overcome our indifference and hardness of heart.

In the second place, every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people.

Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. Her mission is to bring to all a love which cannot remain silent. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth. In each of our neighbours, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. What we ourselves have received, we have received for them as well. Similarly, all that our brothers and sisters possess is a gift for the Church and for all humanity. Dear brothers and sisters, how greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!

3. 'Make your hearts firm!' – Individual Christians

As individuals too, we have are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer! The '24 Hours for the Lord' initiative, which I hope will be observed on 13-14 March throughout the Church, also at the diocesan level, is meant to be a sign of this need for prayer.

Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organisations. Lent is a favourable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.

Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart. A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realises its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalisation of indifference.

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you".

An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Card Playing: Every Friday night at 8.30pm.

Thornhill Ministries' Team – Supporting Parish Liturgy Series 1: 2nd, 9th 16th and 23rd March in the Fir Trees Hotel, Melmount Road, Strabane. A six week workshop programme for members of liturgy teams, pastoral councils, and those who have an interest in supporting the liturgical life of the parish. Cost £40. Facilitators are Sr. Perpetua McNulty and Sr. Marie Wiley.
To book call (028) 713 51233 or email thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org • Module 2 will follow in the Autumn

Those who graduate through Alcoholics Anonymous are warned of, among many things, the dangers of complacency, of describing yourself as cured. The programme of AA does not promise to turn you into someone who no longer drinks, but only to help the alcoholic to resist the first drink, one day at a time.
From the book Lapsed Agnostic by John Waters

The pope said that the Holocaust should teach “new generations” that “only the difficult path of listening and dialogue, love and pardon” can lead to “fraternity and peace in truth.”
He expressed his prayer that the Holocaust be a warning for everyone: "May the Shoah teach especially, as much the old generations as the new ones, that only the tiring path of listening and dialogue, of love and pardon, leads peoples, cultures and religions of the world to the desired encounter of fraternity and peace in the world. May violence never again humiliate the dignity of man!"

Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behaviours. Keep your behaviours positive because your behaviours become your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.
Mahatma Gandhi

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 dccc@derrydiocese.org.

Couples Preparing to Celebrate Marriage in Northern Ireland: You are asked to note that the period of notice for marriage, which is required by civil law, is increasing from a minimum of 14 days to a minimum of 28 days, with effect from 2nd March. Couples must give at least 28 days notice of marriage to the civil Registrar local to the place where marriage is to be celebrated.

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

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

2014 Parish Statistics				
Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation	Marriages	Funerals
8 Boys	4 Boys	7 Boys	5 within parish	22
8 Girls	7 Girls	8 Girls	5 outside parish	
Station Masses in October 5	Parish Pilgrimage Sunday: This was marked with our pilgrimage to the Mass Rock at Dorville on Sunday 3 rd August where our special guest and main celebrant was our new bishop, Bishop Donal McKeown on his first visit to the parish. We have now completed our series of pilgrimages to the Penal Mass sites located within our parish boundaries. <i>Thank you for sharing your photographs</i>			

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 1:12-15: *John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. Jesus is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.
2. Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time. Later, with hindsight, we may see them as being good for us. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life?
3. Repent and believe the good news was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?
4. There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: ‘the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near’. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say ‘yes’?

Musings *Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)*
As we begin our Lenten journey it is worth remembering what the fourth-century monk, Abba Isidore of Scetis, Egypt, once had to say about acts of renunciation: ‘If you fast regularly, do not become inflated by pride. If you think highly of yourself because of it, then you had better eat meat; it is better for a man to eat meat than to be inflated with pride and to glorify himself.’

The Deep End – Times of Trial: *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*
Today's Gospel tells us (briefly) of Jesus' temptation by Satan in the wilderness, a time which seems to set him up for his public ministry. The account is at the very start of the Gospel of Mark, which was written for the early Christians who had been through a painful experience of persecution. Perhaps these followers of Jesus would have been comforted to know that Jesus too had been through harrowing times.
Around the world there are many who still suffer for their faith. In many parts of the world, admitting to one's faith as a Christian can lead to persecution, homelessness, torture, imprisonment or even death. Yet there are brave men, women and children who continue to profess their faith and to meet together to worship, in spite of the dangers facing them. Pope Francis has continually called for an end to Christian persecution, particularly in the Middle East where over 250,000 Iraqi Christians have been forced to flee their own country.
This Lent, why not make a special effort to remember and pray for those who are suffering for their faith in different parts of the world?

The news coming from Iraq pains me. Lord, teach us to live in solidarity with all those who suffer... An appeal to all families: when you say your prayers, remember all those forced from their homes in Iraq.
Pope Francis

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2015			
Sacramental Celebrations	Friday 13 th March	St. Patrick's	6.30pm First Confession
	Sunday 26 th April Fourth Sunday of Easter	St. Patrick's	2.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop McKeown)
	Sunday 17 th May Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's	11.00am First Holy Communion
Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Sunday 3 rd May	St. Patrick's
		Sunday 30 th August	Our Lady of the Wayside
Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish	Monday 6 th April • Friday 29 th May • Sunday 19 th July Tuesday 8 th September • Thursday 29 th October St. Patrick's		
	Sunday 19 th July Our 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) (4 th and 5 th July)	Saturday Evening (4 th July)	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
	Sunday Morning (5 th July)	Our Lady of Wayside St. Mary's, Broughderg	Directly after 11.00am Mass
	Monday 2 nd November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died in 2015)
'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion			
Saturday 7 th March		Second Week of Lent	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Friday 13 th March		Third Week of Lent	6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation)
Saturday 28 th March		Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Saturday 18 th April		Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 17 th May		Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am First Holy Communion
Saturday 6 th June		Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass