

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

Saint Patrick's Church  
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church  
Broughderg

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday). 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2009

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

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### Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Lent. 23<sup>rd</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2009

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March Fourth Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	<b>8.00pm</b> Mass followed by a Lenten Reflection – <i>The Falls</i>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March Fourth Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b> Stations of the Cross <b>8.00pm</b> Mass <b>8.30pm</b> Confessions
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March <b>The Annunciation of the Lord</b>	Saint Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>5.00pm</b> Confirmation Mass
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March Fourth Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March Fourth Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b> Stations of the Cross <b>8.00pm</b> Mass: (William Morris – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March Fourth Week of Lent	Saint Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March Fifth Sunday of Lent	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside Saint Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' <b>11:00am</b> Mass <b>10.00am – 4.30pm</b> Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Confession Schedule

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Saint Patrick's	<b>8.30pm</b> Confessions available for parent, sponsors and families of candidates for Confirmation
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Saint Patrick's	<b>5:30pm</b> (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>10:30am</b> (before Mass)

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,180** and the annual collection for Clerical Education and Ongoing Formation taken up on St. Patrick's Day which raised **£630**.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray this week for **William Morris** whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**Keep Trócaire's Lenten Appeal 2009 before you for the next three weeks**

**To do for Lent: Read a CTS booklet, available at the Church entrances**

**Lenten Reflections:** Join with Guided Prayer leaders on the Mondays of Lent, straight after 8.00pm Mass in a 20-25 minute reflection. The theme this week is *The Falls*, in which we remember that Jesus fell three times on the way to Calvary.

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

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** is the anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of our bishop the **Most Rev. Seamus Hegarty (28<sup>th</sup> March, 1982)**. Please pray for him, especially on Saturday.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Flying directly from Belfast, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. £1,090stg. For further information and bookings contact Charlie Gillespie on 075 3333 0756.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 50; Hebrews 5:7-9;  
John 12:20-30 (Lectionary I, page 310)

**Lotto Numbers:** 5, 9, 11, 12 (3 winners with 3 numbers – £20 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,750

**Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.** This will take place in Saint Patrick's Church, Greencastle next weekend. Please feel welcome to attend at any time throughout the day to pray for your personal needs or blessings, and those of our wider parish community and world. However to ensure a continuity of worshippers I invite people from the named areas to take responsibility and ensure a presence at specific times.

**"Teach us the lesson of silence, of prayer, of quiet – Lord hear us."**

Time	Townland	Time	Townland
10.00am	Glenhull / Aughminacrory	1.30pm	Benefreaghan
10.30am	Muninamale / Alworries	2.00pm	Cashel / Brackagh / Leaghan
11.00am	Crock / Coneyglen	2.30pm	Teebane / Carnanrancy
11.30am	Aughascribba	3.00pm	Crockanboy
12.00noon	Broughderg / Evishession	3.30pm	Maryville / Sheskinshule View
12.30pm	Formil East	4.00pm	Sheskinshule
1.00pm	Formil West	4.30pm	Concluding Prayers and Benediction

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March (Feast of the Annunciation) at 5.00pm Bishop Lagan will come to our parish to impart the Sacrament of Confirmation to our young people. Please include the candidates for Confirmation, their families, their sponsors, teachers and the Bishop in your personal and family prayers in anticipation of the ceremony.

**Volunteers are needed** to assist with providing a reception in Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School after the Confirmation ceremony. Please contact the principal, Mr. McGinn.

**Annual Diocesan Mass for those with special needs**, and their families and friends, will take place in *Saint Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry* on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at 3.00pm. Bishop Hegarty will celebrate the Mass. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Communion at this Mass please contact the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087.

**Northern Ireland Hospice – Big Walk Week:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. To find out more visit [nihospice.org](http://nihospice.org) or call (028) 9077 7123.

**Cumann Naoimh Pádraig** will take up their annual Irish Language collection on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March after each weekend Mass. The funds will be used to subsidise local children who intend to go to the Gaeltacht during the Summer on one of the language courses

**Clothes Collection for the Destitute of Peru:** The recent clothes collection, in Carrickmore for the destitute of Peru was a resounding success and the organisers wish to thank all who supported the venture.

**Greencastle Senior Citizens:** Annual General Meeting in 'Eddie's Quiet Room' on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm. *New volunteers needed*

**Our Parish cemeteries** 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.A.D.A. An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – First Responder Service:** The Northern Health and Social Services Board has identified Broughderg as a suitable base for a First Responder Service. This facility depends upon a sizeable number of local volunteers who wish to assist their own community. A meeting with Board Representatives who will deliver training for voluntary helpers is arranged for An Bruach Dearg Centre on *Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March* at 8:00pm. If you have an interest in caring in the Community this is a unique opportunity to hear firsthand how service works and how you can play your part in it. For further details contact (028) 8675 1633, (028) 8675 2004, (028) 8164 8180 or any member of community group.

**greencastleparish.com:** During the month of February, 2009 a total of **1,554** people visited our website, bringing the overall total to **17,786**.

**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**

### The Sacrament of Confirmation

In the Church's teaching **Confirmation** is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ for the conferral of sanctifying grace and the strengthening of the union between individual souls and God.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in its paragraphs 1302-1303 teaches:

- *It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.*
- *From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:*
- *It roots us more deeply in the divine affiliation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15);*
- *It unites us more firmly to Christ;*
- *It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;*
- *It renders our bond with the Church more perfect;*
- *It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:*
- *Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.*

The roots of confirmation are found in Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17, "Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit." See also the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 14 where Christ speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

In the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, the sacrament is customarily conferred only on persons old enough to understand it, and the ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop.

"The practice of the Latin Church more clearly expresses the communion of the new Christian with the bishop as guarantor and servant of the unity, catholicity and apostolicity of his Church, and hence the connection with the apostolic origins of Christ's Church."

Reserving administration of the sacrament to a bishop, who cannot be present at every infant baptism, means that large groups of older children and young adults are confirmed together, making the occasion something of a rite of passage and an opportunity to profess personal commitment to the faith. However, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1308 warns: "Although Confirmation is sometimes called the 'sacrament of Christian maturity,' we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need 'ratification' to become effective."

In the early twentieth century, Pope Pius X encouraged the admission of children to reception of the Eucharist as soon as they reached the age of reason, in contrast to the later age at which they had been admitted for some centuries. Since the age for confirmation remained as before, those being confirmed generally received the eucharist several years earlier. However, the three sacraments of Christian initiation, baptism, confirmation and eucharist, are increasingly conferred, within the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, in the traditional order, which is obligatory when an adult is baptized.

The Catholic Church teaches that, like baptism, confirmation marks the recipient permanently, making it impossible to receive the sacrament twice.

One of the effects of the sacrament is that "it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1303). This effect has been described as making the confirmed person "a soldier of Christ".

The same passage of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* also mentions, as an effect of confirmation, that "it renders our bond with the Church more perfect". This mention stresses the importance of participation in the Christian community.

The "soldier of Christ" imagery, which remains valid but is downplayed if seen as part of the once common idea of confirmation as a "sacrament of maturity", was used as far back as 350, by St Cyril of Jerusalem. In this connection, the touch on the cheek that the bishop gave while saying "Pax tecum" (Peace be with you) to the person he had just confirmed was interpreted as a slap, a reminder to be brave in spreading and defending the faith: "Deinde leviter eum in maxilla caedit, dicens: Pax tecum" (Then he strikes him lightly on the cheek, saying: Peace be with you). When, in application of the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the confirmation rite was revised in 1971, mention of this gesture was omitted. However, the French and Italian translations, indicating that the bishop should accompany the words "Peace be with you" with "a friendly gesture" (French text) or "the sign of peace" (Italian text), explicitly allow a gesture such as the touch on the cheek, to which they restore its original meaning.

Information on other effects and broader matters concerning this sacrament can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1285-1321.

**Confirmation name:** In many English-speaking countries and in German-speaking lands it is customary for a person being confirmed in the Catholic Church to adopt the name of a saint with whom he/she feels a special affinity, thus securing an additional patron saint to be his/her protector and guide. The saint's name is often used in conjunction with the confirmer's middle name, and is without effect in civil law, unless, of course, the confirmand pursues the appropriate legal avenues. *Wikipedia (wikipedia.org)*

### Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – *John 3:14-21*:

1. Jesus speaks of himself being lifted up, a term that can mean a physical lifting, or also exaltation. By this play on words the evangelist explains to us that Jesus' gift of himself in the passion was a glorious revelation of love, despite all its injustice and brutality. Bring to mind occasions when the love shown by Jesus in his passion was a sacrament of God's love for you.
2. It would be very cushy for us if we could be a source of life to others without cost to ourselves. The true life-givers know that they need the generosity of being lifted up by giving their lives so that others may have life. Recall when you have had that generosity and give thanks for others who have been like that for you.
3. We receive life from God when our faith enables us to trust in God's love for us. We give life to one another when the love between us is trustworthy. Recall memories of that kind of trustworthy love. For whom have you been able to be a 'Jesus person' and give a love that another could trust? Who has shown that kind of love to you and been for you a sacrament of God's love?
4. People loved darkness rather than light ... so that their deeds may not be exposed. Judgement and condemnation are very inhibiting forces and we easily slip into them. Occasionally we meet someone who is non-judgmental, who does not come into the world to condemn it, but in order that it might be saved. What has it been like for you when you met a non-judgemental person? What has it been like for you, and for other people, when you have been able to adopt a non-judgemental approach to them?

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

**Questions people ask:**

Q. I can accept praying for somebody, but what is the point of lighting a candle for some intention?

A. The language of prayer can take many forms and it is not confined to human speech. St Paul wrote that when we do not know how to pray, then the Spirit makes our petitions in groans that cannot be put into words. We pray in gestures such as kneeling or the sign of the cross. Lighting a candle, or votive light, is a sign of the light of faith. A candle is a powerful symbol of unselfish service as it gives of itself totally in spreading light.

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

**The Deep End – Our Twilight Zones:**

In his book *Sophie's World* author Jostein Gaarder writes 'The most subversive people are those who ask questions. Giving answers is not nearly as threatening. Any one question can be more explosive than a thousand answers.' Why so?

Perhaps a quote from another author may provide a partial answer. In *Kissing the Dark*, Mark Patrick Hederman writes, 'Fixation upon any one particular aspect of the total mystery is missing the point, is swopping the glory for the gore, trading our birthright for a mess of pottage. The crucifixion is not a fact. It cannot be nailed down to one explanation, labelled with one easy heading. It is an event.' Today's Gospel reading (John 3:14-21) tells us that some people don't just prefer the darkness they love it (v. 19). They are the ones fixated on the gore, not the glory.

John makes no excuses for these people. There is no attempt to explain away their evil deeds or mitigate their guilt. It's either or. Either you're for the light, or for the dark. Faith has no twilight zones.

Lent is a time for discovery; for facing fact not fiction, for honesty about twilight zones we may frequent, or long to: haunts of unreality, dead end traps that stunt our growth, imprison us in addiction, and alienate us from each other, and from God. Lent is a time for lingering in the light, for letting its rays do their healthy work. It's a time for asking the subversive question: Where does my heart lie, in darkness or in light?

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