



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

**St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent [Year A] (22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474



**Thought for the Week:** "A person who sees things as they truly are and sympathises with pain and sorrow is capable of touching life's depths and finding authentic happiness. He or she is consoled, not by the world but by Jesus. Such persons are unafraid to share in the suffering of others; they do not flee from painful situations. They discover the meaning of life by coming to the aid of those who suffer, understanding their anguish and bringing relief."

*Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness (section 72)*

### Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Lent [Year A] (22<sup>nd</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> March)

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b> Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March Fourth Sunday of Lent [Year A]	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: John Tuohey (12 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>11.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b> Solemnity of Annunciation of Lord	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>5.00pm – 7.00pm</b> Adoration with Benediction <b>7.30pm</b> Mass
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass followed by <b>10.30am</b> Stations
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Willie John Morris (13 <sup>th</sup> ) and Margaret Morris (8 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year A]	Parochial House (Facebook)	<b>11.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)

**COLLECTIONS** Weekly: £640    **St. Patrick's Day (Clerical Education and Ongoing Formation):** £271.50  
**Parish Envelopes and Collections:** In the meantime as requested, within your means, if you can leave your parish envelope through the Parochial House Letterbox, Broughderg Post Office and in the very near future at the letterbox at the Sacristy of St. Patrick's Church. *Thank you*

**Remembering our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of  
**John Tuohey Jnr. (12<sup>th</sup>)** and **Mary McCrory (26<sup>th</sup>)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Anniversary Masses and Names:** As mass continues to be celebrated every day it is still possible to request a mass for deceased loved ones. They can be offered as the intention for the mass on each day apart from Sunday which is Missa pro Populo. You can also continue to have the names of the deceased prayed for at the weekend masses and included in the Parish Bulletin Online / Facebook and in the restricted number of printed copies.

**Trócaire Fundraiser – Easter Basket:** This will be raffled in aid of this year's Trócaire Lent Appeal. The basket can be seen in O'Neill's Centra, Greencastle in the near future. *Further details in shop*

### Foster Carers – Urgently Required in the WHSCT Area:

To meet the unfortunate demand for foster placements. If you think you can help call 0800 0720 137

**Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. £579. Includes half-board, tax and insurance. *Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or Whatsapp 07768 395 038 for more info*

**COVID-19 – Important Notice:** All GAA activities suspended until further notice.

Card playing and all other community centre activities suspended until further notice.

### Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):

Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies

*Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)*

**Next Week's Readings:** Ezekiel 37:12-14 • Psalm 129, R/ v7 • Romans 8:8-11  
 John 11:1-45 • Lectionary 1:305      **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**Message from Fr. Gallagher:** We are certainly journeying on a unique experience together during these days. Firstly let us reaffirm our solidarity with each other, in prayer and in practical support. That has already been apparent as people rally around their neighbours and seen elsewhere in this bulletin as our Football / Camogie Clubs and Community Association and local businesses help to coordinate outreach to those in need of assistance. As time passes that help and assistance will be needed by many. In order that no one is left behind can I suggest that each of you make a list of people who you may think could be vulnerable in your own townland and either check on that person yourself as health and safety allows or pass that information on to the Community Organisers listed in today's bulletin. Remember that Jesus told us, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do unto me."

It is also very heartening that so many have been able to join remotely in the Celebration of the Mass on Facebook Live, the Parish Website and also through the Daily Weekday Mass at 10.30am on RTÉ News Now from the Cathedral in Letterkenny. As the days and weeks go by please look out for further prayer opportunities, messages and church teaching broadcasts on our Parish Facebook Page and Website and remember the Parish Churches are open each day for prayer, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday as usual. As the late great Rosary Priest, Fr. Patrick Peyton, famously reminded us, "The family that prays together stays together." May we be that family both under our own roofs and in the family we call the Parish of Greencastle. We seek the intercession of our Parish Church Patrons as we face the present situation; St. Patrick pray for us, Our Lady of the Wayside pray for us. God bless and keep safe.

**Message to Priests from Bishop Donal:** Dear Father, I write regarding two matters:

**First Holy Communion:** As it is evident that the current public health regulations are likely to run for some time, First Holy Communion should be postponed in all parishes for the foreseeable future.

**Parish Collection Envelopes:** I know that, in many parishes envelopes are given out at this time of year for use at the start of the new tax year. I would suggest that envelopes do not be given out at this time, for two reasons: the only direct contact many parishioners would have from the church would be the delivery of envelopes to their door. Also, we are conscious that we are entering the start of a time great of personal hardship for many; it would be unwise to have people going from door to door delivering envelopes at a time when we are encouraged to have social distancing. An email on personnel / HR matters is being prepared, with the help of legal and government advice, and this will be issued to you as soon as possible. Take care in your continued efforts in your parishes to embrace these unprecedented times.  
 + Donal

**What Is Spiritual Communion?** It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. **Spiritual Communion Prayer:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen*

### A Prayer for Now

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

**An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association:** Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the COVID-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call. *For up to date info and advice visit [www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus)*  
 Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741      Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996      Briege Beggs: 07799 058 273

**Pope Francis' Intention for March (please remember this in your personal prayers)**

**Catholics in China:** We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Can't stop? There is a solution.

Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email [csoofaa@btinternet.com](mailto:csoofaa@btinternet.com). [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://alcoholicsanonymous.ie).

**Drink Wise, Age Well:** Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

*For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240*

**Accord Counselling Services:** Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers:** To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.

*If you are interested in volunteering visit [trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer](http://trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer) or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info*

**Epilepsy Action NI:** Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury?

Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

**Mid Ulster Agewell:** Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

*For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email [marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org)*

**Rural Support:** We could help you with financial stress by

Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt

Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action

**Email:** [info@ruralsupport.org.uk](mailto:info@ruralsupport.org.uk) **Website:** [ruralsupport.org.uk](http://ruralsupport.org.uk)

To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

**The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility:** This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.

*Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email [lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk)*

**Accord Counselling Services:** Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.

*If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure:** If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.

*If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting [derryyouthcommunity.com](http://derryyouthcommunity.com) or emailing [dyc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org)*

**Kindercare Fostering NI:** Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:

**Tel:** (028) 90941690 • **Email:** [gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**St. Vincent de Paul Helpline:** For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992

**Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration**

**12noon – 1.00pm** Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life

**1.00pm – 2.00pm** Married couples and those preparing for Marriage

**2.00pm – 3.00pm** Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people

**4.00pm – 5.00pm** Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth

**6.00pm – 7.00pm** The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

**Red Cross:** Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.

*Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011*

**Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children – Use of Photography and Video:**

The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.

Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of all to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

*From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

**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 / 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. *See poster at entrance*

**The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration**

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

*"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". Pope St. John Paul II*

**Towards Peace:** A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free.

**Website:** [towardspeace.ie](http://towardspeace.ie) • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** [towardspeace@jecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@jecon.ie)

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:**

*John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

A long story like the one we have today provides many different points of entry for prayer. Read the story and stay with what resonates with you. Some possible points of entry are:

1. The blind man was healed. Can you recall occasions when some blindness of yours was taken away and you could see in a new way? What was that experience like for you.
2. The Pharisees claimed to be the ones who could see, who knew where God was to be found, when in fact they were blind. It was the man born blind who showed himself open to seeing the hand of God at work in what happened. There can be some of each attitude in us. What has helped you to be open to seeing the hand of God at work in your life? Who have been the Jesus people who have led you to this point?
3. There are many characters in the story: Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents, and the Pharisees. Put yourself in the position of each one and see what you learn from identifying with them.

**The Deep End – ‘It was your eyes he opened:**

*Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)*

The Trócaire Lenten campaign this year invites us to Kenya, to hear the struggles and concerns of the people of Ishiara parish who are suffering the disastrous effects of climate change. Fr Barasa, the parish priest there, says: ‘Climate change is an important issue within our faith because whatever God created is good. Whatever God created is also related to us; we need the environment and it needs us. What I pray for is that everyone will come together, because one continent cannot do it on its own. I would liketo ask people to work together against climate change. Let us pray for rain and support each other so this planet may still be here for the next generations, so that we may not be the last ones to live here.’

The Gospel today tells the story of the healing of the man born blind who, like us, is being invited to see more clearly, until he finally worships Jesus. In contrast, the Pharisees in the story are becoming more blind. The more clearly the man can see, the more opposition he faces, as those who hold power object to him and his new-found vision. How can we as parish communities work for justice for our brothers and sisters who are in need? We need to see them, to see their struggle, to see the systems which contribute to the crisis. Through small actions we can live in solidarity and challenge those in power to work for transformation.

Transformation ... begins with the people of God who start turning the things of death into things of life. And the kings and presidents and nations will follow.

*Shane Claiborne*

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	11

**Lent 2020 in the parishes of the Diocese of Derry**

Throughout Lent resources and parish events for Lent will be published on the diocesan website and its social media channels. You are encouraged to follow and share these resources:

**Web:** derrydiocese.org **Twitter:** @DioceseOfDerry **Facebook:** @derrydiocese

You are also asked to recite daily during Lent the following Diocesan Lenten Prayer

Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. *Amen*

**Pope Francis’ Prayer for Protection:**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus’ pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father’s will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**Deanery of Tyrone Statistics**

17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.

8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000

6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people

3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people

The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics

7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?

In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.

The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.

Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s

The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

**Family Care Adoption Services**

*Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*

For free info contact us	<b>Tel:</b> (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm) <b>Email:</b> anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • <b>Website:</b> familycaresociety.co.uk
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