



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

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

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021)**

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

**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474



**Thought for the Week:** "The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters."

*Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium 28)*

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August</b> St. Pius (pope)	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Elizabeth (41 <sup>st</sup> ) and Paul (11 <sup>th</sup> ) McCullagh (Anniversaries)
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August</b> Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Mass: Annie McCullagh (31 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b> St. Eugene	Gortin / YouTube	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b> St. Bartholomew (apostle)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>2.00pm to 4.00pm</b> Adoration
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b> St. Monica	St. Patrick's	<b>10.30am</b> Mass
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August</b> St. Augustine (bishop and doctor of Church)	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Maureen McKnight (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b> Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Mass <b>11.00am</b> Mass

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Paul McCullagh (11<sup>th</sup>)**, **Elizabeth McCullagh (41<sup>st</sup>)** and **Annie McCullagh (31<sup>st</sup>)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

We also pray for **Bridie Harries** and **Jane Bradley**, recently deceased and enrolled in the Derry Diocesan Society and all who have died recently due to Covid-19.

**Weekly Collection:** £1,040

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

**Proposals for Badoney Lower and Greencastle Parishes:** As spoken about at all masses in our parishes over the past weekend, we are in the process of preparing for the eventuality that only one priest, namely myself, will be in residence in this area to cover the work of the two parishes. As promised, proposals for dealing with this situation were distributed for reflection and discussion to members of the Parish Pastoral Councils and members of other Parish Committees. Hopefully, as requested, they have been sharing these proposals with family members and neighbours. I have had to date very little feedback, but look forward to hearing from the members of the Parish Pastoral Councils at meetings on the Monday and Tuesday of this coming week. As I also mentioned there is still the outside possibility of a priest being sent to replace Fr. Forbes. However, in the event of that not happening a new weekday mass schedule will be implemented from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August and a new weekend mass schedule from the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September. This will be circulated firstly on the social media of the two parishes (Facebook pages and website) and in the parish bulletins of next weekend. Again I ask for understanding as I try to ensure continued pastoral provision for the people, for our parishes. Thank you so much for your prayers and support thus far. Please continue those prayers at this time.

St. Patrick's pray for us, Mary Mother for the Church pray for us. *Fr Eddie Gallagher PP*

**Next Week's Readings:** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 • Psalm 14:2-5, R/ v 1 • James 1:17-18, 21-22  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 • Lectionary 1:793 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

### Townland Mass Rota

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Formil
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b>	Binnefreaghan, Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Teebane East, Aughminacrorry, Muninamale, Aughascribba, Alworries
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy, Coneyglen Sheskinshule, Crockanboy

### Dromantine Retreat Centre – Retreat and Workshops:

*Offered by Fr. Hugh Lagan SMA*

<b>Called by a New Name</b>	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 5.00pm – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am.	£420 / €490
Retreat	Refocus, recharge and reconnect in a post-pandemic world.	
<b>Broken Open</b>	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November, 5.00pm – Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November, 2.00pm.	£200 / €230
Workshop	How difficult times can help us grow.	
For enquiries and reservations call 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964 or email admin@dromantineconference.com		

**Priory Institute – Online Theology Courses (to degree level):** Is this for you? Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register now for Autumn, 2021. *For more info visit prioryinstitute.com*

**Holy Trinity College, Cookstown – Sixth Form Enrolment:** Offering a wide range of A Level Academic / Applied Subjects, BTEC Nationals, Enrichment and Leadership Opportunities. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. All interested students and parents / guardians are welcome to attend the Post 16 Open Morning from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Speak to our Teaching Staff and Careers Team about your chosen subjects. Visit holytrinitycollege.org for Year 12 to Post 16 Transition Overview on all available subject courses and to download an application form.  
*Application Forms May be forwarded in advance to the College or contact the College on (028) 8676 2420*

### Walk with Zest in Remembrance of Imelda Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Leaving Greencastle Hall at 3.00pm and walking over Mullydoo Road, onto Crockanboy and up via Chapel.  
*Donations welcome as we carry our buckets • Everyone welcome*

### This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – St. Eugene (Eoghan)** Born in the sixth century and was said to have been taken by Pirates to Britain. On obtaining his freedom he studied at Candida Casa. Returning to Ireland he. Ade a foundation at Kilnamanagh in the Wicklow hills but his principal foundation was at Ardstraw (Ard Sratha), Co Tyrone. Patron saint of the Diocese of Derry.
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August – St. Bartholomew** His name only appears in the list of Apostles in the Synoptic Gospels. He is probably identified with Nathaniel of Cana, whom Philip brings to the Lord. Preached the Gospel in India. Patron saint of plasterers, tanners and leather workers.
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August – St. Monica [332-387]** Converted her pagan husband Patricius to the faith and by her prayers and tears brought her son St. Augustine to Christianity and a moral life. Patron saint of mothers.
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August – St. Augustine (bishop and doctor of the Church) [354-430]** Bishop of Hippo where he lived with a community until his death. His theological influence has been most significant in the Church, especially on understanding God's grace. Patron Saint of theologians.
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August – The Beheading of John the Baptist (martyr)** Herod had imprisoned John because he reproved Herod for divorcing his wife (Phasaelis), and unlawfully taking Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip I. On Herod's birthday, Herodias' daughter (traditionally named Salome) danced before the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased Herod so much that in his drunkenness he promised to give her anything she desired, up to half of his kingdom. When the daughter asked her mother what she should request, she was told to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Although Herod was appalled by the request, he reluctantly agreed and had John executed in the prison.

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

**Evangelisation – The Church:** Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

**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 call (028) 8224 2439 or email [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**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)

**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](http://radiomaria.ie) or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)*

**SUSE+ New Courses:** Are you currently unemployed? SUSE+ can offer help and support to get into further education, training and employment. We complete job searches, CV building, interview preparation. Mentors work 1-to-1 with participants to help secure opportunities in the local area.

New courses include Foundation Skills in Working with Children, Personal Success and Wellbeing, Digital Skills, Progression to Employment, Customer Service, Money Management and Business Administration.

*For more information email [tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk](mailto:tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk) or call 074 3653 3475*

**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

**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@iecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie)

**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)*

**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

**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.

**Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham**

**Masters in Catholic School Leadership:** This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn, 2021.

*For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 (028) 7126 4087 or email [tferry@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org)*

**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)*

**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*

**Prayer for the End of the Virus:** Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an end of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities, that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. *Amen*

**Barnardo's NI – Can You Foster?** Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support.

*To learn more call (028) 9065 2288 or visit [barnardos.org.uk/foster](http://barnardos.org.uk/foster)*

**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.

**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.

#### 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%

**Radio Maria Ireland:** An Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies based at St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. If you are not already a follower of the station Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family! Prayer / song requests welcome. "A Catholic voice in your home". Fr Eamonn McCarthy is Director.

You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:

Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210 / Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)  
Download FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"  
Streaming on radiomarie.ie (subscribe and donate here also)  
'Listen Live Radio' link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)  
Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).

#### 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

**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)*

**Certificate in Christian Thought:** Drumalis Retreat Centre, in association with St. Mary's University College, Belfast, invites applications for this two-year, part-time, intensive course which begins in September 2021. The course will be delivered over 7 Saturdays in each of two successive years, from 10.00am to 4.30pm. The Certificate in Christian Thought programme aims to offer a space where adults can explore, reflect upon, discuss and study faith and how it relates to life in today's world, both at a personal and community level. During the course, participants will cover topics on Spirituality, Pastoral Theology, The Eucharist, Living the Christian Life, The Sacraments, The Scriptures, Where in the World is God? And much more.

*Full details are available at [derrydiocese.org/news/certificate-in-christian-thought](http://derrydiocese.org/news/certificate-in-christian-thought)*

**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 to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:** *John Byrne OSA ([jpbyrneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpbyrneosa@gmail.com))*

1. In this chapter Jesus teaches that the meaning of his life, and the meaning of all human life, lies in being prepared to give of oneself. Perhaps you can identify with what Pope Francis says: 'Those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others.'  
*Pope Francis (The Joy of the Gospel, No.10)*
2. This teaching is difficult, complained his hearers, including some of his own followers. Perhaps at times you also have wondered if you could go along with it. What helped you to overcome your resistance?
3. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life.' In the midst of your doubts perhaps you have held on to your faith in Jesus because, like Peter, you found a more hopeful message in Jesus than you could find anywhere else. How has the gospel message been more attractive to you than any other?
4. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life'. Recall the words and phrases of Jesus that are words of life for you.

**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*

**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*

**Youth 2000 Summer Festival:** The festival is primarily taking place online! All talks, testimonies, Liturgies, prayer and worship will take place online for the course of the weekend and it is here that you can watch, engage with and participate in the Summer Festival in its entirety. However, in line with government and church regulations, this year we are able to add in-person elements. These in-person elements will be held at multiple satellite locations around Ireland with slightly different formats in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to ensure that all activities are in line with relevant government regulations there.

*For all info and register visit [youth2000.ie](http://youth2000.ie)*

**Catholic Engaged Encountered – Online Marriage Preparation Course via Zoom:**  
Planned for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship.

*For more information and to book call (028) 2763 8512 or visit [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie)*

**The Deep End – Leap of Faith:***Triona Doherty (trionad@gmail.com)*

Children are often adept at looking beyond the practicalities and seeing the possibilities. Where a parent or guardian might only see a messy room in need of tidying, a child sees an obstacle course, a castle, a jungle, a magical fairy forest. It can be refreshing to take a breath and remember that there is more to life than our physical, tangible world with its daily routines and to-do lists. Sometimes circumstances can leave us blinded to life's beauty or meaning.

In today's Gospel, some of Jesus' followers are finding it difficult to see beyond the physical. He has been teaching them that he is the living bread, but it is hard for them to accept. They dismiss it as 'intolerable language' and they wonder 'How could anyone accept it?' His teachings are too difficult to comprehend and they are annoyed and offended. Some of them even walk away.

But Jesus is offering something more than the practicalities, more than physical food or drink: he offers the bread of life, living bread, his very self. It is a difficult message, but Simon Peter gets to the heart of it: 'You have the message of eternal life, and we believe.' He is able to see beyond the obvious, to hear the truth at the heart of Jesus' words. Jesus demands a lot of his followers, who must each decide whether or not they want to follow. Are we ready to make that leap of faith?

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

2019	PARISH STATISTICS	2020
(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(17) 8 Boys • 9 Girls
(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(11) 4 Boys • 7 Girls
(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(14) 7 Boys • 7 Girls
1 within parish • 6 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	0 within parish • 1 outside parish
11	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	8