



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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year A] (22nd December, 2013)

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

Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Liturgy Schedule for Fourth Week of Advent [Year A] (23 rd December – 29 th December)		
Saturday Evening (21st December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: Anna-Rose McCullagh (12 th Anniversary)
Sunday 22nd December Third Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 23rd December Fourth Week of Advent	Our Lady of the Wayside	8.00pm Mass: Peter Daly (1 st Anniversary)
Tuesday Morning (24th December) Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS		
Tuesday Evening (24th December) Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Carol Service 8.00pm Vigil Mass
Wednesday 25th December Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass
Thursday 26th December St. Stephen (first martyr)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 27th December St. John (Apostle and evangelist)	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass
Saturday Morning (28th December) The Holy Innocents (martyrs)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (28th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 29th December Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,130**.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Anna-Rose McCullagh** and **Peter Daly**, whose anniversaries occur now.

Christmas Candles: There is a tradition in Ireland of a lighted candle being placed on the window of every home on Christmas Eve, it is a symbol of welcome for the newborn Christ child. Lighting the candle on Christmas has a one true meaning, no matter how it is lighted, it symbolises one's faith in God and the fact that human life is not stable. It is sure to melt away with time like the candle. *If you plan to follow this practice in your home be careful*

IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – Follow the Star Christmas Trail: Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd December.
An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas.
Pre-booking essential. For more information call the IOSAS Centre on (00353) 74938 4866

Greencastle Community Centre – Upcoming Event **Sunday 22nd December** Card playing from 7.00pm.

Broughderg Community Centre Upcoming Events:	Friday 27th December	Card playing at 8.00pm. <i>Refreshments served</i>
	Sunday 29th December	PTAA family disco from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24;
Sunday: Year A • Weekday: Year 1

Lotto Results: B • D • F • H • Y (5 drawn winning £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,350

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 21 st December The family of Cody McAleer	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 22 nd December The family of Caitlin Warnock
<u>Tuesday 24th December (8.00pm)</u> The family of ---	Feast of the Nativity of the Lord	<u>Wednesday 25th December (11.00am)</u> The family of Caoimhe Warnock
<u>Saturday 28th December (6.00pm)</u> The family of Molly McCullagh	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	<u>Sunday 29th December</u> The family of Meaghan Clarke
<u>Saturday 4th January</u> The family of Ronan Coyle	Second Sunday of Christmas	<u>Sunday 5th January</u> The family of Aine Lucas
<u>Saturday 11th January</u> The family of Ryan McGlinchey	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	<u>Sunday 12th January</u> The family of Micael McCann
<u>Saturday 18th January</u> The family of Orla Morris	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 19th January</u> The family of Daniel McCrory
As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership. What can you volunteer to do in your parish? Thanks to all who participates in the life and work of our parish faith-community. <i>We need new volunteers in every aspect of life</i>		

Dalradian Gold Limited: A very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year, thank you to everyone for their support in 2013. In 2014, your community contact will be Dwayne McKenna and he can be reached at the Gortin office on (028) 8164 7799 or dmckenna@dalradian.com. Dr. Anne Monaghan will remain with the company as Director of Stakeholder Engagement. Dalradian is developing a register of residential properties that employees can refer to if they wish to relocate to the Gortin area. People are encouraged to register their residential and commercial properties with Dalradian. Please also register your email address with Dwayne to receive community updates and announcements.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (1st to 6th July, 2014) – Gift Vouchers: Now available at The Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. **Tel:** (028) 71362475
Vouchers can be obtained for any amount

Prayer from the Community at Taize: God of love, we are disconcerted by the violence in Syria and elsewhere in the world. So we turn to you - you do not let us give in to discouragement. You bring us to understand that our prayer and our compassion count. Be close to those who are suffering and send your Holy Spirit, that all humans may be inspired to make signs of peace.

The Advent Candles: Candles are lit to symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ. On the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent a purple candle is lit (each Sunday the candle from the previous Sunday is re-lit) the colour purple as used during the period of Lent, reminds us to prepare a welcome for Jesus during the Advent season. On the third Sunday of Advent a pink candle is lit. Pink is the colour of joy to remind us that we should be ready to welcome Christ at Christmas. On Christmas Eve the white candle is lit to celebrate the Birth of Christ – the Light of the World.

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. There are two stages in Advent: the first runs until 16th December, the second which, is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts runs from 17th December until 24th December.

The Advent Wreath: Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes especially in Germanic countries and in North America – we do so in Church each year. The Advent wreath with its progressive lighting of four candles, each Sunday until Christmas is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of Justice (cf Mal 3:20; Luke 1:18).

Children in Crossfire – Advent Appeal: This work is incredible and life-enhancing. I was in awe at what Children in Crossfire is doing on the ground to bring life and hope to people.
Judith Hill, UTV, after visiting Children in Crossfire projects earlier this year
If you would like to find out more please contact us on (028) 7126 9898 or visit our website at childrenincrossfire.org

<p>Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>General – Victimised Children: That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need.</p> <p>Missionary – Prepare the Saviour's Coming: That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Saviour's coming.</p>

<p>Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children: - Use of photography and video</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed. <p><i>The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</i></p>
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<p>Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half Marathon: Friday 14th February to Monday 17th February, 2014. Please contact Eileen at events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898 / 07840 182 004</p>
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<p>Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time <i>Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)</i></p> <p>God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura. Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help. Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time. Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.</p> <p>Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.</p>

<p>Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying?</p> <p><i>For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo on 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the Bureau</i></p>
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<p>Appeal on behalf of Family Care Society: Family Care Society is a voluntary adoption agency with its roots in the Catholic Church and we provide an adoption service throughout all of Northern Ireland. A core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. These children are often from the care system and may have had a difficult start in life. We are experienced in finding families for these children but given the number of children being referred and their specific needs we are always looking for families to come forward. We would like to thank you for the support you have provided to date. It has proved to be a very successful way of finding adoptive families. Given however our urgent need presently to find families for more young children, we are again respectfully asking for your help.</p> <p>Adoption: Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged between 2 to 6 years and need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?</p> <p>Tel: (028) 9069 1133 [Belfast] // (028) 7136 8592 [Derry] • Email: email@familycaresociety.org • Web: familycaresociety.co.uk</p>
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Parish Liturgy for December, 2013	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	John Enright	Nuala Glass	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	TBC	Shanley Clarke	TBC
Collectors	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Mickey Beggs Cathal Keenan	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
Anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries should make themselves known			

<p>The Deep End – Rejoice: <i>Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)</i></p> <p>Las Posadas, from the Spanish word meaning 'shelter' or 'lodging', is an Advent tradition in parts of Central America. It starts tomorrow, December 16, and takes place over nine days until Christmas Eve. During the days, which symbolise the nine months of Mary's pregnancy, Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem is re-enacted. Participants process from house to house, being turned away by 'innkeepers' before finally being welcomed in for a celebration and feast.</p> <p>A special song is sung outside each house, the final verse of which includes the (translated) lyrics:</p> <p><i>Enter holy pilgrims... Tonight is for joy, for pleasure and rejoicing for tonight we will give lodging to the Mother of God the Son.'</i></p> <p>The custom really captures the drama and the joy of the Christmas story.</p> <p>Today is known as Gaudete Sunday or 'Rejoice Sunday'. In our churches, the rose coloured candle is lit on the Advent wreath to symbolise joy. Today's readings bring out this sense of joyful anticipation of the Lord's coming. The people of Jesus' time would have been familiar with Isaiah's talk of 'everlasting joy'. And Jesus tells us: 'Happy is the man who does not lose faith in me'. We have reason to be happy. Let us make this Gaudete Sunday a real celebration.</p>

<p>Musings <i>Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)</i></p> <p>The Gospel today brings to mind that familiar saying attributed to St Francis of Assisi: 'Go out and preach a sermon and, only if necessary, use words'. When John asks if Christ is really the one who is to come, he does not receive a direct answer. Rather, his attention is drawn to the fruits that are witnessed to by those who have encountered Christ. It may not be a bad question to also ask ourselves: what effect does our being Christian have on our family, friends, community, etc. Does Christ continue to live in our community through us?</p>

<p>Sharing the Good News: A new monthly one page newsletter from the Catholic Communications Office. This newsletter, which is for the benefit of parishioners, will be published monthly to promote Church teaching and the pastoral work of bishops as well as the councils, agencies, offices and initiatives of the Bishops' Conference.</p>

<p>Omagh Volunteering Centre: Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and make a real difference within your local community. There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities currently available across the Omagh District area. Volunteer Befrienders, Coaches and Mentors are required by organisations including Mencap, Guide Dogs NI and Action on Hearing Loss, to enable them to deliver vital services for people with a learning or sensory disability. Organisations such as RNIB and NI Hospice need local volunteers to help set up local Support Groups, raise vital funds and awareness of their work in the Omagh area. Training and support is provided for all of the Volunteer roles.</p> <p>Tel (Michelle): (078) 5444 6821 or (028) 8224 0772 Email: omatghvc2@yahoo.co.uk Office: First Floor of Community House</p>
<p>Tuesday's Child – All Ireland Christmas Art Competition: Children and young people (aged 3-21) are invited to</p>

get creative and sign up. Great prizes to be won across all age categories including 1,000 euro family voucher kindly donated from Marian pilgrimages for trip to Rome, Fatima, Medjugorje, Lourdes, Holy Land, hand-made cribs from Bethlehem and painting sets. Proceeds to Tuesday's Child's Christmas Appeal for children in Gaza, Syria and Kenya. Beautiful Christmas cards of the Holy Family, 100% to catholic missionaries helping families in Tacloban, Philippines. **Online:** tuesdayschild.ie **Email:** info@tuesdayschild.ie **Text Orla or Patricia:** 07545 452 362

3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?
4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era?

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 23rd December – St. John of Kanty (priest) [1390-1473] Taught Theology and Scripture in the university of Cracow, Poland. He is also remembered for his austerity of life and generosity.

**Wednesday 25th December – The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS**

Today the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,

when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

the whole world being at peace,

Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,

desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,

being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception,

was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary,

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Thursday 26th December – St. Stephen (first martyr) The first Christian martyr, was one of the disciples Who was in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for forgiveness of his enemies. Patron Saint of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

Friday 27th December – St. John (Apostle and Evangelist) John was the brother of James, son of Zebedee. The disciple whom Jesus loved, is traditionally said to have died in Ephesus. He is considered to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the book of Revelation and three letters. The letters especially teach us the law of love; John is said in his old age to have preached only one message: 'love one another'.

Saturday 28th December – The Feast of the Innocents (martyrs) The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Holy Innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people.

Engaged Encounter – Rules for Arguing: Couples who discover they have a disagreement are invited by Engaged Encounter to share their opinions in the following manner. The sentences following the rules are Jay Keenan's comments from his perspective as an Engaged Encounter leader with his wife Suzanne.

NO NAME CALLING	This includes using affectionate names sarcastically
NO THIRD PARTIES	The argument is between the two of you
NO PAST HISTORY	If it's already been settled, don't bring it up again
STICK TO THE SUBJECT	Identify the real problem — don't go to other issues
NO CHEAP SHOTS	Don't use the other's weakness to gain advantage; you may win the argument, but injure your relationship
DON'T GO TO BED ANGRY	Finish the argument or call a truce and agree on a time to continue
MAINTAIN A SENSE OF HUMOUR	Don't take yourselves too seriously; laughter can be the best medicine
HOLD HANDS WHILE ARGUING	This helps to keep your focus where it belongs — on the person who means more to you than anyone in the world

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 11:2-11:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.
2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in your journey of faith.