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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg Corpus Christi [Year C] (23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019)

Thank you for your generosity

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

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

Thought for Corpus Christi: "The Blessed Sacrament is indeed the stimulus for us all, for me as it should be for you, to forsake all worldly ambitions. Without the constant presence of our Divine Master upon the altar in my poor chapels, I never could have persevered casting my lot with the lepers of Molokai; the foreseen consequence of which begins now to appear on my skin, and is felt throughout the body. Holy Communion being the daily bread of a priest, I feel myself happy, well pleased, and resigned in the rather exceptional circumstances in which it has pleased Divine Providence to put me." St. Fr. Damien of Molokai (Apostle of the Lepers)

Liturgy Schedule for Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2019 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019)				
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Sally Glass (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)		
Do This in Memory (week 9)		. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)		
Corpus Christi [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>11.00am</b> Mass		
Monday 24th June	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass		
Nativity of St. John the Baptist				
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	St. Patrick's	NO MASS		
Wednesday 26th June	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.15pm Adoration		
		<b>7.30pm</b> Mass		
Thursday 27th June	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass		
Friday 28th June	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass		
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus				
Saturday 29th June	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Celia Strauss (4th Anniversary)		
St. Peter and St. Paul (Apostles)		followed by Blessing of the Graves		
Sunday 30th June		9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)		
13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass followed by Blessing of the Graves		

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of Jane McNulty (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Sally Glass (4<sup>th</sup>) whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Weekly Collection: £1,200

Blessing of the Graves: Saturday 29th June after 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St. Patrick's Church and Sunday 30th June after 11.00am Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside Church (afterwards to the Cemetery at the old St. Mary's Church). Weather permitting the ceremonies will take place outside. Families are asked to bring Holy Water with them so that they can sprinkle their family graves at the appropriate time. As we gather in prayer for our beloved faithful departed let us offer a prayer especially for those who lost a loved one since our ceremonies last year. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July. £679 pp sharing. Limited number of places left. Cost £679 pp sharing. Anyone interested in travelling, please call the Lourdes office on (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com. In preparation for the pilgrimage all pilgrims and their families are welcome to Mass Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in Our Lady of Lourdes, Steelstown, Derry. Tickets will be distributed to pilgrims after the Mass. We ask for everyone in the diocese to pray for the pilgrimage

Institute of Irish Leadership: Enrol now for Feile Gaeltacht Thir Eoghain, first week in July

For further details call (028) 8775 7800 or email saconlon15@hotmail.co.uk

Next Week's Readings: 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21 • Psalm 15:1-2, 5, 7-11, R/ cf. v 5 • Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Luke 9:51-62 • Lectionary 1:87 Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June (DTiM week 9)	Solemnity of	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
The family of Aine McGlinchey	Corpus Christi	The family of Rian Slane
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Thirteenth Sunday	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> June
The family of Hollie McAleer	in Ordinary Time	The family of Myles McElduff

If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented

Malawi Backpack Project: Patricia Donnelly will collect the childrens gifts at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School on the last day of term.

For more info call Patricia Donnelly on (028) 8164 8471

**Parish Bus to Knock:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June. One-Day Pilgrimage. Bus at Newtownstewart at 7.45am with pickup in Omagh (Toolbox, Derry Road Roundabout) at 8.05am. Cooked breakfast en-route and evening meal on return. Bring a packed lunch. Accompanied by Fr. Roland Colhoun. Cost: £39 (£30 for children under 12). Money transferable but not refundable. Bookings taken with full payment after Masses in Newtownstewart Parish.

Tel: (028) 8166 1445 • Email: ardstraweast@derrydiocese.org

In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II – 10 Night Pilgrimage to Poland: Tuesday 21st April to Friday 1st May.

Follow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, visit the capital of Divine Mercy, venerate the messenger of Mercy,

St. Faustina's relics, see the cell that imprisoned St. Maximillian Kolbe (martyr) as well as visit the largest

Marian shrines and sanctuaries in Poland – daily Mass and spiritual activities.

Flights from Belfast, luxury coach travel and excellent accommodation.

For more info, a detailed itinerary and price email Fr. Micheál McGayigan at michealmcgayigan@icloud.com

**Sean Davis 4-Day Outdoor "July Fun Soccer Academy":** Monday 1st to Thursday 4th July, 10.00am to 3.00pm daily at Youth Sport Omagh Cookstown Road – for boys and girls aged 5 to 17 years.

For bookings and further details call Sean Davis FAI, IFA, FA European A Licence Coach on (028) 7126 3044

# St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth – Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis

Applications are now being accepted for this two-year, part-time, intensive course which begins in September Website: drumalis.co.uk • Email: maura@drumalis.co.uk • Tel: (028) 2827 2196 / 2827 6455

# An Casileán Glas agus Sperrin Óg - Dates for the Diary:

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June Club Barbeque followed by music by Damien Quinn. Price: £20

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, Cultural Summer Camp for children enrolled P1 – P3

10.00am to 3.00pm Registration is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. £10

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November Gala at Silver Birches. Omagh celebrating 50 continuous years of An Caisleán Glas

Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September. £579 (includes half board in Leone Hotel, tax and insurance). Spiritual Director Fr. John Forbes. Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or WhatsApp on 07768 395 038 for more info

Precious Life – All-Ireland Pro-Life Rally: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July in Dublin. Join thousands from across Ireland to 'Stand for Life' for unborn children. Coaches will be travelling to the Rally from towns across Northern Ireland.

For more info call the Rally for Life Committee on (028) 9027 8484 or visit rallyforlife.net

Flaxpullers Festival Events: All events will be held in the Flaxmill Centre, Drumduff, Sixmilecross

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30pm Old Tyme Dance with music by Sprig of Heather

Saturday 29th June BBQ and Dance with music by Cajun Country – Steaks served from 9.00pm to 10.30pm Call (028) 8075 7014 or (028) 8076 1848 to learn more

**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

Catholic Marriage Encounter, Ireland Weekend: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September in Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November in the Lake Hotel, Killarney.

For more information and / or booking visit marriageencounter, je or call 07702 812 321 or (087) 784 0408

Pope Francis' Intention for June (please remember this in your personal prayers)
The Mode of Life of Priests: That priests, through the modesty and humility of their
lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

#### Owenkillew Credit Union - Death Benefit Insurance (DBI):

DBI is an insurance scheme whereby for a small premium, your nominee will receive an additional £2,000 to help defray funeral expenses. Can all members who have not paid their premium please call to either office and do so.

**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

# ASPIRE Employability Programme - Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training

To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.

Omagh Office: (028) 8224 6535 • Enniskillen Office: (028) 6632 6478 • Facebook: Aspire Employability Programme The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows.

St. Patrick's: Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass on request after Mass

Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass on request after Mass

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages: 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.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: qillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • Website: kindercareni.co.uk

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

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)

Join our faith family!

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

**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 or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

The Big Knit for Age NI Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p.

To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/bigknit

Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:

All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice

provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness

For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com

ACCORD – Relationship Counseling: A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.

An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com

Parish Liturgy for June, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Roisin Scullion	Monica Coyle	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Lauren O'Neill	Erin Hood	Colleen Brogan
Collectors	Mary Bradley	Frank Keenan	Brian Donnelly
	Shea McElhatton	Michael Clarke	Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Siobhan McKenna, Ciara McKenna		Anne McDermott
	and Clodagh McKenna		Josephine Clarke

Rural Support: We could help you with financial stress by

Providing free, confidential face-to-face support

Begin free, confidential face-to-face support

Begin free, confidential face-to-face support

Supporting you to take action

Begin free, confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

**Foyle Hospice** – **Become a Compassionate Neighbour**: Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers.

Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com

Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday

Sean-Nós and Set Dancing 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Singing in Irish 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels 8.00pm to 9.30pm

Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghomagh.com

Tel: 07747 899 249

**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 • Tel: 01 505 3028 • Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie

MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas): Find out if you're missing out on benefits, services or grants by booking your FREE home visit. Referrals can be made for benefits checks, home safety visits, occupational therapy assessments as well as others. You'll also receive a FREE bag containing £25 worth of items to help keep you warm this winter.

Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book

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

Armchair Exercises: Continue every Monday night in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Suitable for all ages

String Instrument Music Lessons: Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall
For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent
Beginners: 6.00pm to 6.45pm • Advanced: 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place

**Trócaire** – **Recruiting Volunteers**: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland. If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info

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

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

John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)

- 1. Jesus welcomed the crowd, taught them, and cured those in need of healing. Bring to mind the ways in which the story of Jesus and his message have brought you enlightenment and healing.
- 2. The miracle is symbolic of the abundance of blessings coming to us from God through Jesus. How has your faith in Jesus been a source of nourishment to you? What blessings have you received through your faith?
- 3. When the disciples became aware of the problem, they wanted to send the crowd away. Instead Jesus told them: 'You give them something to eat.' They thought what they had was insufficient, but Jesus used the little they had to feed the crowd. Have you ever found that when you gave the little you have to a situation, the results were beyond your expectations?

## The Deep End - Feast of Love:

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

Pope Benedict XVI once described today's feast as 'a day on which heaven and earth work together.' He said: 'Corpus Christi is an expression of faith in God, in love, in the fact that God is love. Love does not consume: it gives and, in giving, receives.'

This is a wonderful way to approach Communion. When we receive the body and blood of Jesus, it is a gift of love. But if we keep this gift for ourselves, and do not give in return, that is not love. The disciples in today's Gospel have a small amount of food, five loaves and two fish – maybe enough to feed themselves, at a stretch. But Jesus had a very different idea. Notice that Jesus hands this gift over to them to distribute among the hungry crowd. It is the disciples' responsibility to feed the hungry, to give to those in need, and to love the very crowds that they had earlier suggested sending away.

The Feast of Corpus Christi reminds us of our need to be in communion with the whole body of Christ. There is room for everyone at the banquet, especially the poor and the hungry, and it is up to us to help those in need. Having received this gift of love, we are expected to pass it on. There is more than enough bread for everyone.

If there is hunger anywhere in the world, then our celebration of the Eucharist is somehow incomplete everywhere in the world... We cannot properly receive the Bread of Life unless at he same time we give the bread of life to those in need, wherever and whoever they may be.'

Pedro Arrupe SJ

### 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

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

Parents Prayer: Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings. We thank and praise you. Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity.

May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen

#### PARISH EVENTS IN 2018

Thursday 1st February Service of Light for P7	Thursday 8th March First Confession for P4			
Monday 12th March 5 Parishioners receive Pope John Paul Awards in Armagh Cathedral				
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April Confirmation by Bishop McKeown	Saturday 19th May First Holy Communion			
Thursday 14th June P7 attend Fan the Flame Mass in Celtic Park Derry				
Thursday 21st June Presentations to P7 Leavers and Mr. Noel McGinn on retirement as principal				
Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st J	Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July Cemetery Prayers in Parish Cemeteries			
Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th August Parishioners, along with Fr Gallagher				
attend Festival of Families in Croke Park and Papal Mass in Phoenix Park				
Saturday 1st September Mr. Neil McCloy officially takes up role as principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School				
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September All-Ireland Final – Tyrone v. Du	iblin Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November Mass for Parish Deceased			
10th November Sr. Bride Counihan makes Mission Appeal				
Wednesday 21st November Inaugural Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council				
Sunday 16th December Advent Penance Service	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2 New Altar servers welcomed			
31 December Large congregation gathers for Mass at final sunset of 2018				

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2017
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	Weddings	2 within parish • 3 outside parish
10	Deaths and Burials	12

# 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

Young Person's Prayer: Here I am Lord, standing at the crossroads of my life, the time has come for me to choose the road which leads to you. I hesitate for fear of what lies ahead of me, for I am much afraid of the unknown. Take my hand in yours and walk with me for the road is long and there are no shortcuts.

I place myself into your hands. You know the way. You are the Way. Amen

## Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2019

Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace 'Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the pólis... When animated by charity. commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have." This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity. In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002: "Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role. Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility. Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest. Blessed be the politician who remains consistent. Blessed be the politician who works for unity. Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change. Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening. Blessed be the politician who is without fear." Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.'

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October): 7 nights B&B and Airport
Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing.
any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service.
Call us on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com for further info and book dates that suit

Pilgrimage to Rome and Tuscany: Tuesday 18th June for nights, ex Dublin (includes Assisi, Florence and Pisa). Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Donnelly. Guide: Kieran Troy £1,090 per person sharing (single room supplement £280). Includes guided tours and most meals. Call Paul or Marie at Downe Travel on (028) 4461 3288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

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

Monday 24th June – Nativity of St. John the Baptist We rejoice at the coming of John the Baptist, a man of self-denial, integrity of life and purpose, and an uncompromising prophetic voice. John means, 'The Lord has shown favour'. This feast relates to summer solstice, when days begin to grow shorter, recalling John's words, 'He must increase, but I must decrease'.

Saturday 29th June – St. Peter and St. Paul (Apostles)

**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

#### **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
For a free information contact
us using any of these details

Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children

Tel: (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)

Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • Website: familycaresociety.co.uk

Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm: If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.

Address: IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal

Tel: (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • Website: celticprayergarden.com • Facebook: IOSASCentre • Twitter: IOSASCentre

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.

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