



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A] (23rd July, 2017)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474

Thought for the Week: "A single act of pure love pleases me more than a thousand imperfect prayers."
Jesus (according to St. Faustina)

Liturgy Schedule for Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time [Year A] (Sunday 23rd July – Sunday 30th July)

Saturday 22nd July St. Mary Magdalene	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 23rd July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am	Mass: Ferdinand and Lizzie McCrory (Anniversary)
Monday 24th July	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Tuesday 25th July St. James (apostle)	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass
Please note that there will be NO MASSES on any Wednesdays throughout July and August			
Thursday 27th July	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Friday 28th July	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Saturday 29th July St. Martha	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Jimmy Daly (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 30th July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am	Mass

Weekly Collection: £890

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has announced that special collections at all Masses will take place across Ireland this weekend to fund life-saving aid for people currently affected by the devastating hunger crisis in East Africa. The money raised will be donated to Trócaire which is delivering emergency food, water and health care to tens of thousands of the 25 million people affected.

For further information visit trocaire.org

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?"

"In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:37 / 40

Baptism: The parish welcomes into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism **Rebecca Tracey Ferguson** who was baptised on Saturday 15th July in St. Patrick's Church and congratulate her parents, godparents and family circle on this day of joy.

Wedding: We congratulate **Martin Conway (Greencastle) and Claire Kildunne (Badoney Upper)** who shared the Sacrament of Matrimony together on Saturday 15th July in St. Patrick's Church, Cranagh.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Nellie O'Brien (Aughascribba)** who was buried this week. We pray especially for her family, neighbours and friends that God will comfort them at this time of loss and grief. We also pray for the repose of the souls of **Ferdinand and Lizzie McCrory** whose anniversaries occur now.

First Anniversary Mass for Bishop Daly: Saturday 5th August at 7.30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral.

Pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo: Monday 18th September for 4 nights. 4 nights full board in Hotel Centro di Spiritulita. The pilgrimage will include visits to of Padre Pio and Monte Sant Angelo – the shrine in the cave where the birthplace St. Michael the Archangel appeared. **Spiritual Director:** Fr. Daniel Ilhunnia MSP • €689
If interested call JWT on 00353 1241 0816, Marie on 07799 112 224 or Clare on 07778 025 587

St. Pio Monthly Devotions: The monthly devotions through the intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina that take place the second Wednesday of each month in St. Patrick's Church will resume 13th Sept. after summer break.

Next Week's Readings: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 • Psalm 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130, R/ v 97 • Romans 8:28-30
 Matthew 13: 44-52 • Lectionary 1:682 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Traditional Music Festival: *Concert tickets and workshop spaces are limited*

Friday 11th August Concert featuring Zoe Conway, Mairtin O'Connor and Donal Lunny
 8.30pm in Plumbridge Parochial Hall *Tickets £15 (ticket only event)*

Saturday 12th August Music Workshops – Advanced / Intermediate
 10.00am to 12 noon in St. Peter's PS, Plumbridge Fiddle (Zoe Conway) • Button Accordion (Mairtin O'Connor)
 10.30am to 12.30pm in Glenelly St. Joseph's Clubrooms Lá Le Spraoi
 9.00pm in Plumbridge Parochial Hall Night of Song, Storytelling and Recitation
To reserve a ticket or workshop space call Tom on (028) 8164 8719 or 07704 526 870

Lough Derg One Day Pilgrimage from Greencastle Parish
 Saturday 2nd September. Departing from outside St. Patrick's Church at 8.15am, we leave the island at 4.30pm.
 Estimated cost including bus is £40 • Tea and scones are served on arrival with a light lunch included
 If interested please call Fr. Gallagher on (028) 8164 8474 • Booking essential • Not suitable for children

Pilgrimage to Knock: Monday 7th August, a day of prayer for priests. **Bus Fare: £15 • Meals: €30 (optional)**
Pick-up Point: Along Omagh / Cookstown Rd. *Call Mona (028) 8673 7954 or Una on 07743 575 969*

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Wednesday 6th to Wednesday 13th September
 Direct flights from Belfast, half board in the Leone Hotel and all tax and insurance £579
Contact Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038 for more details

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages: Airport Transport and 7 nights B&B €279 – Call for flight info.
Tel: 01 443 4510 • **Email:** reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Information Evening on Wind Turbine Noise: Monday 24th July at 8.00pm in the Broughderg Community Centre
Speakers: Professor Mariana Alves-Pereira from Lusofona University, Lisbon, Portugal
 Professor Alves-Pereira, specialist in biological responses to Infrasound and Low Frequency Noise
 Alun Evans MD (Professor Emeritus) Centre for Public Health, Queen's University, Belfast

A Rebel Without a Pause at The Patrician, Carrickmore: Sunday 23rd July at 8.30pm. In this whirlwind comedy drama award-winning actor Dan Gordon celebrates the man, the myth and the mouth that was Frank Carson.

IOSAS Centre and Celtic Garden – Summer Serenity: Monday 24th July and Thursday 10th and 24th August, light lunch at 1.00pm with music / storytelling followed by a visit to the Prayer Garden or Organic Garden.
Cost: €10 / £8 (booking essential • **Tel:** (00353) 7493 84866 for further info and booking • All Welcome

Picnic on the Hill – Family Fun Day with Open-Air Concert in Greencastle: Sunday 30th July from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Featuring some of the best musical acts Tyrone has to offer, this will be a fun-packed day out for the whole family. There'll be a wealth of activities to keep the kids happy – bouncy castles, face painting, craft tent etc. Check out our Facebook page 'Picnic on the Hill'. On the day follow signs from Greencastle Community Centre. Bring a picnic and leave the rest to us. *All proceeds to Charis Cancer Care and Chest, Heart & Stroke*

Youth 2000 Summer Festival: Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th August in the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. For young people aged 16-35; an opportunity not to be missed to experience the Catholic faith and meet many new people, with over 1,400 young people from all corners of Ireland expected to attend.
 Donation only • Just bring sleeping bag and pillow • Free buses travelling from all around Ireland
 For more information and to book online visit youth2000.ie or call 00353 1675 3690

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*

MA in Catholic School Leadership: Offered by the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre working in partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham. The third cohort will begin Autumn. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders.

Newsletter Notices for the weekends of 5th / 6th, 12th / 13th and 19th / 20th August should be with Fr. Gallagher no later than Thursday 27th July to ensure publication – Thank you
This includes Anniversary notices.

Pope Francis' Intention for July (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Lapsed Christians: That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.

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

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

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 **Website:** ruralsupport.org.uk
 To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

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 • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

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

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme of emigration.
If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office
Email: t.mcmenamin@derrydiocese.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

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

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

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

Parish Liturgy for July, 2017	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Mary Clarke	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Maeve McCullagh	Rachael Clarke	Cara-Rose Brogan
Collectors	Mary Bradley Patrick McElhatton	Brendan Conway Eugene Tracey	Perry McCrory Sean Clarke
Altar Society	Kathleen Beggs and Mary McCullagh		Anne McDermott Martina McBride

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

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

Family Care Society: We are presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For more information contact us via the following details (offices open weekdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm)
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** a.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

Family Care Society – Interested in Adoption? We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.
Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • **Julie or Brian (Derry Office):** (028) 7136 8592
Email: email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

10th Annual Award Ceremony for The Pope John Paul II Award Celebrations:
Rome Pilgrimage: [Group 1] Sunday 29th October to Thursday 2nd November
 [Group 2] Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November (including an audience with Holy Father, Pope Francis)
 God our Father, Saint John Paul II tells us to trust Christ;
 To listen attentively to his teachings, To fix our eyes on his face, To persevere in listening to his Word,
 To allow him to focus our search and our aspirations and all our ideas and the desires of our heart.
 Help us Father, to do this so that all the actions and decisions of our lives are done
 with Jesus who is our Saviour and friend for ever and ever. *Amen*
 Our Lady of Knock pray for us and for the young people in Ireland

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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Matthew 13:24-43: John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. The owner of the field who allowed the wheat and the darnel to grow together is a reminder to us to be patient with ourselves and with others when we see everything is not right. Sometimes a preoccupation with the negative (the darnel) can blind us to seeing the positive in our own lives and in the lives of others. When have you found that a willingness to live with the messiness of the present created the conditions for future growth?
2. Have you ever found that it was through accepting the darnel that you learned important lessons for life, e.g., learning by making mistakes, or asking stupid questions, or taking foolish risks?
3. The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven are reminders that seemingly insignificant things can have very positive results. Have you ever been surprised by the benefit to yourself or others of a kind gesture, a small initiative, or a word of encouragement?

Musings – The Good Seed: From *Women in the Bible* by Elizabeth Fletcher

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God. *Pope Francis*

Jesus' parable of the sower is aimed at the people who listen, or ignore, his word. There are different ways of hearing God's word and they produce different kinds of fruit.

Working too hard to have time to hear God's word: There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to the things of God.

The shallow hearer fails to think things out or think them through and lacks spiritual depth. They may initially respond with an enthusiasm, but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else.

Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is forever too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God's word. They may work so hard that they are too tired to even think of anything else but their work.

Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn. They listen in order to understand.

The Deep End – The Generous Sower: Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

Can you picture it? I love the image of Jesus sitting in a boat, addressing the crowds on the beach. He certainly knew how to hold their attention. And he knew they would understand him more clearly if he used the language of stories. Those listening would have been familiar with the cycle of planting seeds and waiting for them to produce a crop. One of the purposes of parables is to challenge the hearers to reflect and respond with faith. So this parable of the sower requires Jesus' audience to decide what kind of soil they are. There is a message of judgment for those who are hardened like the rocky soil, and a message of hope for those who are receptive like the rich soil.

The figure of the sower is important too. The sower does not confine the seeds to soil that is fertile and ready for growth. Rather, the seeds are scattered everywhere – on the path, patches of rock, and among thorns. Jesus does not discriminate. His love is given out for all. He knows that some of it may be rejected, or accepted only on a superficial level, but he offers it anyway. That offer of love is never withdrawn. It might take a while to bear fruit, but it is always there.

Always there are doors that are not closed. Look for the doors that are at least a little bit open, enter and talk about common things and go on. Step by step. *Pope Francis*

2016 Parish Statistics

Baptisms (18)	First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (16)	Confirmations (21)
7 Boys 11 Girls	10 Boys 6 Girls	10 Boys 11 Girls
Marriages (16)	Funerals (10)	Station Masses in October
7 within parish 9 outside parish	8 within parish 2 outside parish	8

Events The death of retired Bishop of Derry Most Rev. Dr. Edward Daly is announced on Monday 8th August Mass with Padre Pio Relic Celebrated in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday 5th October

Greencastle St. Patrick's GAC and Greencastle Community Association are working together to begin developing a shared Community Hub

This is essentially a 10-15 year plan to improve the facilities in our community for the benefit of our residents.

We now have eighteen groups who use the facilities at the community centre and our resources are stretched to accommodate everyone—we need more space.

An Caisleán Glas Community Hub will take the form of a 3-phase development with the first phase incorporating a new shared / educational space, a multi-purpose gym/spinning studio, an exhibition area and additional multi-purpose rooms.

To allow this development plan to proceed we need as many people as possible to complete our community questionnaire which will be available at the community centre through the various groups/classes, the shop and school.

The questionnaire will also be available online

Everyone who fully completes the questionnaire is entered into a draw to win £50.

We would also like to invite people to come along to the club rooms to see the plans at 'design concept stage' and participate in a unique opportunity to influence this plan.

SUSE+ Community Programme: Are you aged between 16-65? Unemployed or working under 16 hours a week?

If yes, you may be eligible to attend free courses in the Rowan Tree Centre.

Paediatric First Aid • Manual Handling • Food Safety • CV / Interview Preparation Workshops • Emergency First Aid
If you would like to come to any of these courses, please book your place with Conall via the details below

Address: SUSE+ Community Programme, South West College, Cookstown

Email: conall.mcelholm@swc.ac.uk • **Tel:** 07834 129 213 *Courses will be run, subject to minimum number interested*

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

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The Apostolate prayer card offers us a special opportunity to spend ten minutes each day in pray for a priest.

The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are: *prayerforpriests.com*

Rosemary Johnson 07810 387 825 - brendan_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk • **Ethna Hill** 07528 249 838 - ethna776@yahoo.com
Siobhan Sweeney 07880 588 041 - siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk • **Eamon Cassidy** 077435 02165 - e_cassidy@hotmail.com

Pope Francis – 'Vocations are born in prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit'

The Irish Bishops' Council for Vocations has launched a prayer initiative for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in Ireland. In this centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, parishes, schools and families are invited to pray a decade of the Rosary, for vocations in Ireland, on the 13th of each month from May until October.

Those taking part in the prayer initiative are invited to use the social media hashtag #Pray4Vocations

Three Patrons Parish – Come and join us to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Fatima Apparitions

Every 13th of the month from May to October with the exception of 19th August) in St Brigid's, Carnhill Derry beginning on Saturday 13th May with Vigil Mass at 6.00pm followed by Candlelight Rosary Procession and Eucharistic Adoration until Midnight with Rosary every hour

Celebrant: Most Rev. Donal Mc Keown • *All are welcome*

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

Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Classes: Call Bridie on 07591 047 556, 07847 469 428 or (028) 8164 8706

<p>Child Care Level 2 Proposed by Rouskey CDA through South West College in Rouskey Community Centre in September</p>	<p>Provides learners with the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare them for employment or to provide career development opportunities to progress onto a relevant Level 3 programme. As work placement is a vital part of this programme, learners will get the opportunity for both 'learning' and 'doing'.</p>
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<p>Health and Social Care Level 2 Diploma Proposed by Rouskey CDA through South West College</p>	<p>Suited to learners who are working in the care field and do not have any qualifications in Health and Social Care or for learners wish to pursue a career in a range of caring.</p>
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<p>Essential Skills Levels 1 and 2 in English and 2 in IT</p>	<p>These September courses are free</p>
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This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Tuesday 25th July – St. James (apostle) James, son of Zebedee and brother of John, was put to death by Herod Agrippa about the year 44, being the first of the Apostles to die for Christ. His shrine is at Compostela in Spain.

Wednesday 26th July – St. Joachim and St. Anne (parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary) Both received the vision of an angel, who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a most wondrous child. The couple rejoiced at the birth of their daughter, whom Anne named Mary. When the child was three years old, Joachim and Anne, in fulfilment of her divine promise, brought Mary to the Temple at Jerusalem, where they left her to be brought up. This event became so important in church doctrine that by 1585 Pope Sixtus V included in the Western church calendar the liturgical feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary (21st November). Although this festival originated early in the East, probably at Jerusalem in 543, its first Western observance was recorded in England in the 11th century. Anne is the Patron of Brittany and Canada and of women in labour.

Saturday 29th July – St. Martha Sister of Lazarus and Mary, is a woman of faith who made her profession of faith in Christ as the son of God and in the resurrection. In welcoming a guest we welcome Christ; we show our Christian spirit of service; and we ready ourselves to be welcomed as guests in the Kingdom of God.

Sunday 30th July – St. Peter Chrysologus (bishop and doctor of the Church) 'Golden-Mouthed' died c. 450, bishop of Ravenna, famous for his preaching.