

**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderr  
**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] – Mission Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474

**Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis**      Misericordiae Vultus (paragraph 24)  
 "At the foot of the Cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him show us the point to which the mercy of God can reach."

**Liturgy Schedule for the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016 – 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2016)**

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| <b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b><br>Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time             | St. Patrick's       | <b>5.30pm – 5.45pm</b> Confessions<br><b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Francis O'Hagan (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)                                                     |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b><br>Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] | St. Patrick's       | <b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)<br><b>10.30am – 10.45am</b> Confession                                                                                      |
| <b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b><br>Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time               | Our Lady of Wayside | <b>11.00am</b> Mass: John Gerald Conway (6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)                                                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b><br>Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time              | St. Patrick's       | <b>NO MASS</b>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b><br>Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time            | St. Patrick's       | <b>9.00am</b> Mass                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b><br>Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time             | St. Patrick's       | <b>7.30pm</b> Mass                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b><br>St. Simon and St. Jude (apostles)             | St. Patrick's       | <b>10.00am</b> Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until <b>11.00am</b>                                                                          |
| <b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b><br>St. Colman (bishop)                         | St. Patrick's       | <b>10.00am</b> Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until <b>11.00am</b><br><b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Jim McCullagh (3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary) |
| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b><br>Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] | St. Patrick's       | <b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)<br><b>10.30am – 10.45am</b> Confession                                                                                      |
|                                                                                        | Our Lady of Wayside | <b>11.00am</b> Mass                                                                                                                                               |

**Rosary Walk:** Get some spiritual inspiration in peaceful surroundings on our Walking Rosary. This is a time for parishioners to come together and reflect, sharing in the most powerful and beautiful prayer of all.  
 We will be leaving from Greencastle Community Centre at 4.00pm  
 If unable to walk to the Green Road a shuttle service will be provided  
*"Blessed Mother, hold my hand, walk me closer to Jesus every day"*

**Parish Collection:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's parish collection of **£980**.  
*If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more*

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the repose of the souls of **Francis O'Hagan, John Gerald Conway, Kevin Coyle** and **Mary McBride** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Sick and Housebound Visits:** Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October at the usual times.

**Annual Mass of Intercession for the Faithful Departed:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's.

**Baptism:** Our best wishes and prayers go to the family and friends of **Emma Louise Campbell** who was baptised on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October in Our Lady of the Wayside Church.

**Annual Pioneer Retreat:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December in Termonbacca.      *Contact any Committee Member to book*

**Station Masses:** Please gather for Mass at 7.30pm in the following homes.  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October (Binnefreaghan)** Martin and Roisin Hood  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October (Sheskinshule)** Monica Coyle (Mullydoo Road)

**Next Week's Readings:** Wisdom 11:22-12:2 • Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14, R/ cf. v 1  
 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2 • Luke 19:1-10 • Lectionary I, page 928      **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

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| <b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b><br>Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October<br>The family of <b>Caillin McDonald</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Offertory Gift Rota</b><br>Thirtieth Sunday<br>In Ordinary Time | <b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b><br>Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October<br>The family of <b>Neamh Donnelly</b> |
| <b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October*</b><br>The family of <b>Alice McGlinchey</b>                                                                                                                                 | Thirty-First Sunday<br>In Ordinary Time                            | Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> October<br>The family of <b>Aimee Gumley</b>                                   |
| <b>If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented</b><br><b>*Do This In Memory Programme (Week 2)</b> We need new volunteers in every aspect of life |                                                                    |                                                                                                        |

**Irish Pilgrimage Trust:** Have you ever wanted to volunteer and help others? If you are interested in volunteering with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust to travel to Lourdes as a carer for a week next Easter please contact Mary on 00353 87796 2047 for more information. All volunteers pay their own fare which is €650 / £560stg (€425 or £360stg for students). Visit [irishpilgrimagetrust.ie](http://irishpilgrimagetrust.ie)

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Easter Sunday):** Applications are now welcome from young people with A medical condition, physical disability or illness (aged 9-18) • A learning disability (aged 11-21)  
 Very seriously ill (under age 9) - accompanied by a parent or close relative  
 Young adults between the age of 19 and 30 with a disability or illness.  
 The young person travels without their family but are accompanied by experienced adult carers in the group. The Irish Pilgrimage Trust covers the cost of those young people selected to travel. Contact Margaret Rose on 07922 237 986 or Alice O'Hagan on 00353 86346 0522 for further details and an application form. Closing date for applications is Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

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

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – St. John of Capistrano (priest) [1386-1456]** Studied civil and canon law and joined The Franciscan Order. In a battle at Belgrade he contracted fever and died there. Patron Saint of jurists and military chaplains. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October – St. Otteran (monk)** Irish monk associated with Columba of Iona. Some claim that he was an abbot from County Meath but that is not definite. Patron Saint of graves and cemeteries.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October – St. Simon and St. Jude (Apostles)** The teaching of the apostles is the living gospel for all to hear. Their authority comes from their fidelity to Christ and his message. We pray today that they continue to watch over the Church and give it protection against error. St. Jude is Patron Saint of hopeless causes.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October – St. Colman (bishop)** Hailed from Kilmacduagh, Co. Clare in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. After studying in Aran, where he founded two churches on Inis Mhor, he returned to make a foundation at Kilmacduagh.

**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)

**ACCORD – Marriage Preparation Course:** Each year over 20,000 people marry in the Catholic Church in Ireland. Despite the recession, numbers getting married have only fallen slightly in recent years. ACCORD Omagh provides Marriage Preparation Courses for couples marrying in the Catholic Church. Feedback from participants is very positive. Courses take place at the address below and can be booked via the following information.  
**Address:** Accord Suite, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre • **Website:** [accord.ie](http://accord.ie) • **Tel:** (028) 8224 2439  
**Date:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November

**Ancient Clan O'Neill – Greencastle Samhain / Halloween Festival:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm in the Greencastle Community Centre. Fires will be lit on some hilltops to honour our ancient ancestors and pay respect to the land as was done in times of old. Celebrations include a parade, kids entertainment and an evening of music and craic.

**Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca – Cursillo Women's 3-Day Residential Weekend**  
 Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October      07708 066 939 / 07841 100 174

**White Oaks and YARD Project Confidential Counselling for Families Affected by Addiction**  
 If you are concerned about a loved one's use of alcohol, drugs or gambling please contact us. Confidential counselling, advice and information provided by a qualified addiction counsellor. Provided at Columba House, 11 Queen St. Derry • For an appointment or further information call (028) 7126 240

**Pope Francis' Intentions for October (please remember these in your personal prayer)**  
**Universal – Journalist:** That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.  
**Evangelisation – World Mission Day:** That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

**The Net – October Edition:** Now on sale, with coverage including:  
 Omagh Ulster Project Thanksgiving • Urney and Castlefinn Parish Retreats  
 Dregish celebrates Fr. Macaville's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary • Maghera Lough Derg Retreat  
 Dungiven Mass Rock ceremony • Burt Biker Blessing • Merville Mercy Walk and Shrove Oratory feature  
 Glenullin tribute to Fr. Haan • Bellaghy Mercy Walk • Desertegney Mass in memory of Sr. Anne  
 Ardmore Lough Derg Retreat • Melmont Faith Story • Fatima Rosary Rally • Walk to Knock feature  
 Cursillo weekend • City Mercy Pilgrimage • Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome  
 Irish Wakes of Bygone Days feature • Divine Providence feature  
 Children's Catechism Club • Parish Post-its • Diocesan Diary

*For coverage of your parish or school faith activities just send an email to editorthenet15@gmail.com or call/text 07809 292 852*

**Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership:** In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. 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 who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.  
*For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org*

**Greencastle Community Association – Proposal to Create Capital Development Plan for Community Centre:**  
 We are proposing this plan will have short, medium and long term objectives that benefit all our community. In order to allow us to develop these plans and secure potential funding we are calling on the help of our local community. If there are specific requirements / suggestions in relation to capital developments and or services that you or your group feel should be included within the plan the Community Association want to hear from you. *For info email fionatea@live.co.uk*

**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*

**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

**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

**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

**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:** email@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

| Parish Liturgy for October, 2016 | St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) | St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)  | Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Readers</b>                   | Aisling McDermott-Donaghy         | Siobhan McKenna              | Geraldine Scullion                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>      | Kathleen Bradley                  | Louise Coyle                 | Peter Noel McAleer                     |
| <b>Prayers of Intercession</b>   | Erin Hood                         | Lauryn Hollywood             | Conan Maguire                          |
| <b>Collectors</b>                | John Bradley<br>Colum Devlin      | Peter Tracey<br>Leo Donnelly | Sean Clarke<br>Brian Gillen            |
| <b>Altar Society</b>             | Kathleen Beggs and Mary McCory    |                              | Anne McDermott<br>Carmel McCrory       |

**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/or 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 entrances*

**Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Events:** *To register call Bridie on 07591 047 556, 07847 459 428 or (028) 8164 8706*

|                              |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Crocheting / Knitting</b> | Fridays at 2.00pm. £4 inc. cup of tea.<br>Wednesday nights. £25 for 6 weeks. Money must be paid advance.                    | <i>New and advanced crocheters and knitters welcome<br/>People needed to run class</i> |
| <b>Children's Jiving</b>     | Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September for 5 weeks from 6.00pm to 7.00pm for P3 to P10.<br>£4 per child and £10 for family of 3. | <i>To reserve a place call Donna on 07845 391 778</i>                                  |

**Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership:** In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. 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 who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.  
*For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org*

**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

| 2015 Parish Statistics                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                    |                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Baptisms</b><br>6 Boys<br>8 Girls  | <b>Confirmations</b><br>8 Boys<br>8 Girls                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>First Holy Communion / Reconciliation</b><br>10 Boys<br>9 Girls | <b>Marriages</b><br>10 within parish<br>5 outside parish |
| <b>Station Masses in October</b><br>7 | <b>Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE</b><br>Celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry on Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle                              |                                                                    |                                                          |
| <b>Funerals</b><br>13                 | <b>Farewell Concert and Presentation Night for Fr. Eugene Hasson</b><br>Former Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE and now Parish Priest of the Parishes of Lavey and Greenlough took place on Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November in GREENCASTLE Community Centre |                                                                    |                                                          |

**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)

**Craft Training Ltd:** A leading training organisation that provides 16-18 year olds with the opportunity to fulfil their potential in a vocational area, through the Training for Success programme. Gain the skills you need to kick start your career free of charge and earn £40 per week, range of qualifications include ICT, Hairdressing, Joinery, Painting and Decorating, Hospitality and Catering, Retail and much more.  
**Tel:** (028) 8225 9377 • **Office:** Kelvin Avenue, Omagh • **Email:** [joincraft@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joincraft@hotmail.co.uk)

**St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests:** The Apostolate offers us a special opportunity to pray for a priest each day. The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are as follows.  
Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • [otmail\\_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:otmail_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk)  
Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • [siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk)  
Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • [ethna776@yahoo.com](mailto:ethna776@yahoo.com)  
Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • [e\\_cassidy@hotmail.com](mailto:e_cassidy@hotmail.com) [prayerforpriests.com](http://prayerforpriests.com)

**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 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding  
Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass  
**Our Lady of the Wayside:** Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass

**Musings – From Bargaining:** *Fr. Tom Clancy (Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, Cork)*  
Hard bargaining is inimical to robust loving. Effective bargaining is built on perceived strengths. Enriching love thrives on trustful acceptance. A bargaining heart misses out on the fulfilment of generosity. Self-righteousness blocks out the balm of enriching friendship.  
The Pharisee in this Sunday's Gospel sets out his stall very well. His fidelity to the accepted norms is above reproach. His report card merits ten out of ten at least. He is a cut above the rest. He can bargain with the Lord from strength. What he wants in prayer is affirmation in self-righteousness, approval from his peers and first place in the pecking order.  
The man at the back of the temple has no bargaining chips. He believes in a different God. His heart is just open to healing mercy; to a tender welcome; to new beginnings; to ongoing, enriching love; true friendships, human and divine.  
The two men may be in the temple at the same time, but have very different agendas.

**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*

**The Deep End** *Sr. Carmen Lee SSPS (World Missions Ireland • [pr@wmi.ie](mailto:pr@wmi.ie))*  
In 1973, I decided to enter the convent. The last thing I wanted to do before I left my wonderful job was to go out to dinner with the boss. So there we sat having dinner together and he said to me, 'I am puzzled that you want to enter a convent'. I said, 'why's that?', he said, 'because nuns are usually humble!'. You can imagine my shocked expression. I have been working on that point since that night.  
I have made a discovery though over those 43 years. God really does exalt the humble. In very small ways I have realised that it is the very thing we do not want to do that God is waiting for us to do and in that very thing is our healing. He is waiting there in the middle of that issue with his healing oils. I have noticed humble people succeeding and I have rejoiced that I noticed. It's a start.  
To call a spade a spade: we exclude people from our lives. We are so subtle and clever. Nobody knows except me and God. I would rather drown or be burnt alive than invite someone who would make me feel uncomfortable and I avoid going where they are. But there are ways of getting around it. In the same way we are so clever to exclude, we can be creative to include. Think! You might be the only person who can help that person. They are, after all, flesh and blood like us. Are we really going to spend our God-given energy on avoidance? There are so many other wonderful things to do with it. But we have to get over this mountain. What is stopping us? – a little word called pride. I challenge you. This week – you know your weakness and I know mine. Let us focus on how we can climb that mountain so that we can get on with our lives in freedom, love and mercy.