



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderr
Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C] (23rd December, 2012)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Advent [Year C] (24th December, 2012 – 30th December, 2012)

Saturday Evening (22nd December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass: Kitty Teague (Month's Mind)
Sunday 23rd December Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday Morning (24th December) Fourth Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Monday Evening (24th December) Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Carol Service 8.00pm Vigil Mass
Tuesday 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
Wednesday 26th December St. Stephen (first martyr)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Annie Tracey (Month's Mind)
Thursday 27th December St. John (Apostle and evangelist)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 28th December The Holy Innocents (martyrs)	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Mass
Saturday Morning (29th December) St. Thomas à Becket (bishop and martyr)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (29th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass
Sunday 30th December Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year C]	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 **£810**.

Please support your community by using your envelope, even if you must attend Mass outside your parish.

Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.

Please remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more to your parish.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Peter Daly**, who entered eternal life last Friday, we extend to his family our deepest sympathy and prayerful support in their bereavement.
 We also pray for **Anna Rose McCullagh** and **Annie Tracey**, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com
 11th and 12th January 8th and 9th February 8th and 9th March
 12th and 13th April 10th and 11th May 7th and 8th June
 Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD
 Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding

Our Parish cemeteries are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

Next Sundays Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm 89; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52;
 (Lectionary I, page 73) **(Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 1)**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 22 nd December The family of Claire O'Brien	Offertory Gifts Rota Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 23 rd December The family of Eunan Morris
<u>Saturday 24th December (8.00pm)</u> The family of Laoise O'Brien	Feast of the Nativity of the Lord	<u>Sunday 25th December</u> The family of Serene Morris
<u>Saturday 29th December (6.00pm)</u> The family of Eimear Tracey	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	<u>Sunday 30th December</u> The family of Luke O'Connor
<u>Saturday 5th January</u> The family of Ciaran Warnock	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	<u>Sunday 6th January</u> The family of Lauren O'Neill
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.		

The Pope Joins Twitter with a Blessing

Vatican City (Wednesday 12th December) [VIS]

"Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart".

This was Benedict XVI's first tweet, published after the blessing that concluded today's general audience. The Pope used a tablet to send his first tweet, which was transmitted into eight languages (English, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Polish and Arabic), and displayed on a screen installed in the Paul VI Hall. Throughout the day the Pope will respond to three questions - submitted from three different continents - selected from those sent during recent days. The Holy Father already has over one million followers on Twitter.

Pilgrimage to Rome and San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy (Monday 26th August – Monday 2nd September):

With Father Francis Bradley. Staying four nights at the Irish College, Rome taking in the sights of the Eternal City and an Audience with the Holy Father, and three nights at the Shrine of Padre Pio, taking in the shrine of Manoppello and the Abbey of Montecassino. Price £850, including all coach transfers to/from Dublin and whilst in Italy, flights with Aer Lingus, accommodation on a half board basis in Rome and full board in San Giovanni, and the assistance of a Travel Representative throughout (single supplement at £20 per night). A £200 deposit before Thursday 31st January will secure you a seat.

For more info call Fr. Bradley on (028) 7136 2475 [W] / (028) 7135 1718 [H] or email fbradley@derrydiocese.org

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013: For information on Pilgrimages for 2013 please contact 0044 288 2241 888

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July): The cost is £585. An application form is available from Rosemary at The Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ – (028) 7136 2475 (Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1.30pm). *Special forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available*

Forty Days of Prayer for LIFE: Monsignor Eamon Martin invites the people and priests of the Diocese of Derry to join together in forty days of prayer for LIFE in the early New Year. The intention is *That all human life will be respected from the first moment of conception until the moment of natural death*. You are invited to offer the rosary every day for this intention for forty days beginning on Saturday 5th January and ending on Ash Wednesday (13th February). You are also asked to undertake some form of fasting or penance on Wednesdays and/or Fridays during the forty days. To begin the forty days of prayer, a Vigil of Prayer and Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place at St. Patrick's Church, Buncrana Road, Pennyburn, Derry on the evening of Friday 4th January. The Vigil will begin with First Friday Mass at 7.00pm concelebrated by Monsignor Martin followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 12.00 midnight. The Vigil will close immediately afterwards with First Saturday Mass at 12.05am.

Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half-Marathon: Sunday 17th February, £100 deposit secures your place.

For more information please contact events@childrenincrossfire.org or call (028) 7126 9898

Thank you for your time on this it is greatly appreciated

Trócaire Global Gifts: Last Christmas Trócaire Global Gifts helped change lives, please be generous again this year and pick up a leaflet from the church porch.

Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Free Computer Classes: Commencing January.

BADA An Bruach Derg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:

Every Friday Night at 8.30pm Card playing with light supper served

Lotto Results: E – M – V – W – Z (9 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £2,500

NOTE: The next draw will be on Wednesday 2nd January

<p>Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)</p> <p>General – <i>Migrants</i>: That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities.</p> <p>Missionary – <i>Christ, the Light for all Humanity</i>: That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church.</p>

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 16 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).

Family Care Society – *Adoption*: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged under 8 and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?

For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry) email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Gratitude has been expressed for your support of the clothes bank located in the car park at St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle. *Their clothes shop is in Castle Street, Omagh.*

Their ministry is important approaching Christmas

Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time

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.

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.

Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)

Barnardo's Main Office Line for the Child Bereavement Service in Belfast Number Change:

Please note that this number is no longer (028) 9069 4000 anymore and is now (028) 9066 8333.

London Marathon (Sunday 21st April): Why not join team Foyle Hospice for a thrill of a lifetime running/walking one of the world's most exciting marathons, the Virgin London Marathon which takes place Sunday 21st April? This run takes in all the major sites and attractions in London with thousands of spectators all along the course. Places in this event will be difficult to get, but Foyle Hospice has some guaranteed entries for the marathon.

*For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager
noel@foylehospice.com, (028) 7135 9888*

Parish Liturgy for December, 2012	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Mary Clarke	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Caoileann Conway	Emma Clarke	Elaine Coyle
Collectors	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Peter Tracey Colum Keenan	Jimmy Donnelly
Altar Society	Mary Bradley Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
New choir members will always be welcome, contact Sinead			
Altar Servers Needed: Please notice the important role of altar servers in the prayer life of our faithful community, we currently need new volunteers to strengthen the teams already serving so if you will commit, please do so as soon as possible.			

Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider *The Mystery of Work*: This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux) Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon. For 5 or more copies at discounted prices, see our website. logosinstitute.org

The Pope to Olympic Athletes "*Be models of faith in sport*": Vatican City (Monday 17th December) [VIS]

"Any sporting activity, be it at amateur or professional level, requires loyalty in competition, respect for one's own body, a sense of solidarity and altruism; it and then also brings joy, satisfaction and celebration. All this presupposes a path of true human development, requiring sacrifice, tenacity, patience, and above all humility, which does not receive applause but which is the secret of victory".

This morning, with these words, the Pope received the athletes who represented Italy in the London 2012 Olympics, and who won a total of 28 medals, eight of them gold. The athletes were accompanied by the directors of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI).

"The Church regards sport as a part of man's entire being, and recognises that sporting activity is linked to education, the formation of the person, relationships between people and spirituality", said the Holy Father. "The athlete who lives his experience fully pays attention to God's plan for his life, learns to listen to His voice throughout the long periods of training, to recognise Him in the face of his companions and even that of his adversaries. ... I think of you, dear athletes, as both champions and witnesses, with a mission to accomplish: with the admiration you inspire, become valid models to imitate, ... masters of an honest and transparent sporting practice".

The Pope reiterated to the athletes that the pressure to obtain impressive results should not induce them "to take short cuts, as in the case of 'doping'. The team spirit that should encourage avoidance of these blind alleys should also give support to those who are aware of having made this mistake so that they might be heard and assisted. In relation to the Year of Faith, the Holy Father emphasised that sport could also play a role in educating in "spiritual 'professionalism', or rather, living each day seeking the triumph of good over evil, truth over lies and love over hate, above all in ourselves. Considering the commitment to new evangelisation, the world of sport may also be considered as a modern "Courtyard of the Gentiles", that is, a valuable forum open to all, believers and non-believers, where it is possible to experience the joy and difficulties of encountering people of diverse cultures, languages and religious orientations".

Finally, the Pope recalled Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, "a young man who embodied both passion for sport - especially mountaineering - and passion for God", and invited the athletes to read his biography. "Blessed Pier Giorgio shows us that being Christians means loving life, loving nature, and above all, loving one's neighbour, and especially those in difficulty. I hope that each one of you will experience the greatest joy of all: that of improving and loving more day by day".

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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

*The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 1:39-44:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. The greeting of Elizabeth to Mary 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb' is a joyful welcome of the child to come. Bringing new life into the world through pregnancy and birth is one of the most awesome human experiences. How have you experienced this for yourself or in someone close to you?
2. The image of the pregnant Mary going a distance to visit her cousin is a symbol of willingness to look beyond one's own needs to the needs of others. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have been able to act in this way yourself?
3. Mary is praised for her faith, because she believed the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises?

Questions people ask:

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

- Q. Easter is supposed to be the high point of the Church's year. How is it that Christmas seems to mean more to people?
- A. In the realm of theology Easter is the most important feast but it seems to pass over the heads of many people. Christmas appeals more powerfully to the human heart. The Christmas story touches the familiar world of family, birth, animals, travelling, looking for accommodation, rejoicing and rejection (Herod). It brings the story of God's intervention into human history with the naming of Roman rulers and local bosses. It locates the incarnation in places that can be visited to this day. Christmas appeals to the child within each of us.

The Deep End – 'About her glowed so much:

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

Mary is sometimes described as the first evangelist, as she was the first to bring the good news of Jesus to others. In that first visit to Elizabeth, she becomes 'the model for those in the Church who set out to bring Christ's light and joy to the people of every time and place'

Pope John Paul II

The joy of that visit and its implications for us is beautifully captured in Ruth Mary Fox's poem 'Carrying Christ'.

Into the hillside country Mary went
Carrying Christ, and all along the road
The Christ she carried generously bestowed
His grace on those she met. She had not meant
To tell she carried Christ. She was content
To hide His love for her. But about her glowed
Such joy that into stony hearts love flowed,
And even to the unborn John Christ's grace was sent.

Christ in His Sacrament of love each day
Dwells in my soul a little space and then
I walk life's crowded highway, jostling men
Who seldom think of God. To these I pray
That I may carry Christ, for it may be
Some would not know of Him except through me.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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'.

Friday 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.

Saturday 29th December – St. Thomas à Becket (bishop and martyr) [1118-1170] As Archbishop of Canterbury he came in conflict with King Henry II over Church rights. Was killed in his cathedral on this date.

Sunday 30th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community and the Church.