



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year C] (23rd December, 2018)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474

Pope Francis speaks to Ireland *Croke Park [Saturday 25th August]*
 "All of us are called to find, in the family, our fulfilment in love. God's grace helps us daily to live as one in mind and heart. Even daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law! No one said this would be easy. You know that better than I. It is like making tea: it is easy to bring the water to a boil, but a good cup of tea takes time and patience; it needs to brew! So it is that each day Jesus warms us with his love and lets it penetrate our whole being."

Liturgy Schedule for Fourth Week of Advent [Year C] (23rd December – 30th December)

Saturday 22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass followed by Confession 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sunday 23rd December	Our Lady of Wayside Newtownstewart	11.00am Mass: Peter Daly (Anniversary) 6.30pm Penitential Service
Monday 24th December	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass 7.00pm Carol Service • 7.30pm Vigil Mass
Tuesday 25th December Solemnity of Christmas Nativity	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass: Barney McCrory (1 st Anniversary) 11.00am Mass
Wednesday 26th December St. Stephen (first martyr)	St. Patrick's	NO MASS OR ADORATION
Thursday 27th December St. John (Apostle and Evangelist)	St. Patrick's	12.00 noon Mass
Friday 28th December Holy Innocents	St. Patrick's	11.30am Wedding
Saturday 29th December St. Thomas Becket (pope)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Sunday 30th December Holy Family [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am Mass

Christmas Message: As the great Solemnity of the Nativity draws very near a word of encouragement in these difficult times in our community, country and world. Christmas is meant especially to be the time for peace and goodwill. At this moment in time there are so many things which are pulling away at the fabric of our community and society. When the unravelling is left unattended the fabric falls to pieces. May the Christ Child who we honour at Christmas time by the exchange of gifts grant to all of us the gifts of unity and concord, wisdom and understanding, courage and right judgement. May the Prince of Peace ever remind us that peace is a gift never to be taken for granted. May we each work for it to grow in our family life, parish and country. On a personal level may I thank you for your continuing kindness and tolerance. The parish faces many challenges on many fronts in the near future, I pray we can work through them together to strengthen the fabric of the Parish of Greencastle and play our part in the wider diocese and church. May you and your families have a blessed and peaceful Christmas and in these uncertain Brexit times, a prosperous New Year.

An t-Athair Eamon O'Gallchoir SP / Fr. Edward Gallagher PP

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Barney McCrory (Crock)** whose first anniversary Mass will be celebrated during the Christmas morning mass at 9.00am in Our Lady of the Wayside and for the soul of **Anna Rose McCullagh (11th)** and **Peter Daly** whose anniversaries occur at this time

Final Mass of 2018 / First Mass of 2019: To mark the ending of 2018 and to seek God's grace and strength for the new year in 2019 Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church on Monday 31st December at 4.00pm which is around the time of the final sunset of 2018. The First Mass of the New Year 2019 will be celebrated Tuesday 1st January at 12 noon in St. Patrick's Church. *All welcome, Christmas Carols and hymns to Our Lady will be sung*

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 22 nd December The family of Aoife Slane	Offertory Gift Rota Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 23 rd December The family of Tiernan Coyle
Monday 24 th December (7.30pm) The family of Aine McGlinchey	Solemnity of the Christmas Nativity	Tuesday 25 th December (11.00am) The family of Ella Kane

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

Baptism: We congratulate the family and friends of **Jack Joseph McCullagh** who was welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday 16th December in St. Patrick's Church.

Weekly Collection: £1,145

Thank you for your generosity

Next Week's Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 • Psalm 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10, R/ v 5 • 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
 Luke 2:41-52 • Lectionary 1:122 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

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@downtourtravel.co.uk

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October): 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing. Book 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

Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thursday 4th to Tuesday 9th July. The Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry is now taking enquiries and initial expressions of interest from anyone who might intend to participate in it. Christmas vouchers that you can give as a gift to someone wishing to participate in the pilgrimage can now be ordered. The opening hours of the Pilgrimage Office are Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Children in Crossfire – Advent Boxes: Children in Crossfire advent boxes are still available at the back of the chapel. You can return your box in January, donations will help Children in Ethiopia and Tanzania have access to education, food, clean water and health care. *Take one home over Christmas and return it to church in January*

The Priests – Twelve Days of Christmas Concert

Thursday 3rd January in the Guildhall, Derry • Tickets available at the Millennium Forum, (028) 7126 4455

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

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

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

The Priests – Christmas Concert: Sunday 30th December at 7.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh. Tickets: £25, available from Drumragh Parish Office, 48 Brook St., Omagh, (028) 8224 2092 (office hours), or Top News, George St, Omagh, (028) 8224 0084. Purchase early to avoid disappointment. *Perfect as a Christmas gift*

First Aid Awareness Training: For parents, grandparents and carers in Omagh. Covering CPR, recovery position, choking, febrile seizures and much more. 2 hours training at £20 per person, includes refreshments and paediatric first aid book. Group bookings available for 4 up. *Call Ann on 07866 410 105 or email ann@acresconsultancy.com*

A Christmas Prayer: When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.

Pope Francis' Intention for December (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Evangelisation – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith:
 That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

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:** gillian.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/thebigknit

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

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

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

Catholic Engaged Encounter Course: For details / booking: marriageencounter.ie • (028 2763 8512
 Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March in Our Lady and St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

Parish Liturgy for December, 2018	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Roisin Hood	Mary Clarke	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Lauryn Hollywood	Colleen Brogan
Collectors	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Frank Keenan Eoghan Clarke	Brian Donnelly Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Mary Bradley, Helen Tracey, Louise O'Brien, Alannah Coyle and Clodagh McKenna		Ann McDermott, Carmel McCrory, Lucy-Marie McCrory and Leanne Morris

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

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@jecon.ie

Family Care Adoption Services Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children
 For a free information contact **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)
 us using any of these details **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.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

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/aspireemployability)
The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy

Foster Carers Needed: The Western Trust urgently needs people to come forward who can offer a loving home to foster children. At present there is a greater number of children in need of homes than there are foster carers available. If you have room in your home and in your heart to care for a child, please contact:
 Vanessa Nelis – WHSCT Recruitment Officer for Fostering
Tel: (028) 8283 5264 **Mob:** 07554 552 989 **Email:** vanessa.nelis@westerntrust.hscni.net

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

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

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

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

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 – Holy Innocents Also called Childermas, or Innocents' Day, festival commemorating the massacre of the children by King Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus.

Saturday 29th December – St. Thomas Becket (pope) Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170. Engaged in conflict with Henry II of England over the rights and privileges of the Church and was murdered by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral. Soon after his death, he was canonised by Pope Alexander III.

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

John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)

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 her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises?

The Deep End – The Reason for the Season: *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

In his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis issues a warning that might resonate with us as we continue our Advent journey. Caught up in consumerism, he says, it is easy for us to forget what is truly important:

'The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.'

In the lead-up to Christmas we often get caught up in a flurry of 'interests and concerns'. True, much of the joy of Christmas comes from giving to others, but there is so much focus on material goods and spending money that it can be difficult to remember the good news at the heart of the season. It is so easy to become distracted by the bright lights and advertising.

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday – Gaudete means 'Rejoice'. It's the perfect time to recapture some of the 'quiet joy' that Pope Francis talks about. 'The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus,' he reminds us. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today's Gospel. This is the reason for our joy – the reason for the season!

IMPORTANT DATES

Service of Light (P7) Thursday 31st January, 7.30pm • **First Confession** Thursday 28th March, 7.30pm
Confirmation Saturday 6th April, 12 noon • **First Holy Communion** Saturday 11th May, 12 noon

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*

2017 PARISH STATISTICS

Baptisms (26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls	First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	Confirmations (15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls
Marriages (5) 2 within parish • 3 outside parish	Funerals (12) 11 within parish • 1 outside parish	
April: Parishioners and pupils of Dean Maguire College took part in Holy Thursday mass in RTÉ Studio in Dublin on Thursday 13 th April		
December: Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began 13 th December in St Patrick's Church		