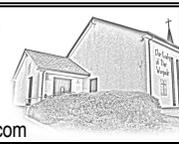


Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion [Year C] (24th March, 2013)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Shekskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com



Liturgy Schedule for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum [Year C] (25th March, 2013 – 31st March, 2013)

Saturday Evening (23rd March) Vigil Mass for Sunday	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass: Annie Morris (2 nd Anniv.)
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion [Year C]	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
<i>Penitential Services followed by the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation individually</i>	St. Patrick's, Greencastle St. Patrick's, Gortin Sacred Heart, Plumbridge	3.30pm 5.30pm 7.30pm
Monday 25th March In Holy Week	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Sacred Heart Church, Omagh	7.00am Mass followed by confessions* 8.00pm Penitential Service
Tuesday 26th March In Holy Week	St. Patrick's, Greencastle <i>To help us prepare, the following practices have been arranged at St. Patrick's, Greencastle</i>	10.00am Mass followed by confessions* 6.30pm – 7.30pm Altar-servers 7.30pm Readers for Holy Thursday 8.00pm Readers for Good Friday 8.30pm Readers for Holy Saturday
Wednesday 27th March In Holy Week	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Christ the King, Strathroy	10.00am Mass followed by confessions* 7.30pm Mass followed by confessions*
<i>Please support 7.30pm – 8.45pm Choir practice in Greencastle</i> <i>*Several priests are available for individual confession</i>		

Easter Triduum

Thursday 28th March Holy Thursday <i>Please feel welcome to spend some time in personal prayer before the 'Altar of Repose' until the Night Prayer</i>	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 11.45pm Night Prayer
Friday 29th March Good Friday <i>Day of Fast and Abstinence**</i>	St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside	10.00am Morning Prayer 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday 30th March Holy Saturday	St. Patrick's, Greencastle	10.00am Morning Prayer
Saturday Evening (30th March) Sunday 31st March Resurrection of the Lord [Year C]	St. Patrick's, Greencastle St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside	8.30am The Easter Vigil 9:00am Mass: 'Missa Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass

During Holy Week we Catholics are encouraged to understand the significance of this most important time in the Church year, the best way to do this is to participate in the liturgies of this week as timetabled above. Summer time begins at 1.00am on Sunday 31st March (clocks go forward one hour).

As Holy Week begins we Catholics are encouraged to understand the significance of this most important time in the Church year. One of the best ways to do this is to participate in the liturgies of this week.

Holy Thursday	We re-enact the washing of the feet – a vivid reminder of Jesus' command to love one another as he loved us. We also hear again the story of the Last Supper, which has special significance for the children in our parish who are preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time.
Good Friday	The most solemn of days. We listen to the story of the passion and death of Jesus and we are invited to venerate the cross.
Holy Saturday	The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night is the highlight of all our Easter celebrations, the night when we remember and retell our story from the very beginning. We keep vigil and move from darkness to light; we mark the beginning of new life in resurrection by lighting a new Paschal candle and blessing fresh baptismal water.

****Good Friday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence:** It is also recommended that Holy Saturday be so observed, so that the Church, with uplifted heart, will be ready to celebrate the joys on the Sunday of the Resurrection.

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£910**.
Annual Clerical Education and On-going Formation Collection: This amount to a very generous **£450**.
Good Friday Retiring Collection: After the 3.00pm celebration of the Lord's Passion in response to an appeal to help "our Christian brothers and sisters of the Holy Land who, along with other inhabitants of vast areas of the Middle East, have long aspired after that peace and tranquillity which are still so much under threat".

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Annie Morris**, whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Trócaire: Please empty your Trócaire boxes and reduce to the smallest denominations. Make returns on Holy Thursday evening in the special envelope that was in the package you received at the beginning of Lent. The humanitarian mission of Trócaire is to contribute to the saving of lives, the alleviation of suffering, and the protection of human dignity. *Thank you, please support our Lenten Campaign as generously as you can this year*

St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry – No Mass of Chrism: We have no bishop - Sede Vacante – but Monsignor Martin (Diocesan Administrator) has informed us that The ceremony of the Blessing of Oils will take place at St. Eugene's Cathedral on Friday 22nd March at 11.30am. Bishop Hegarty, Bishop Lagan and Bishop Daly will bless the oils.
You are invited to attend

Date of Easter: At the Council of Nicea in 325 the date for Easter was fixed as the Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox. Sunday 31st March is the feast of Easter this year. Next year it will be celebrated on Sunday 20th April, one of those few years when the Eastern Orthodox Church is celebrating Easter on the same day.

Please remember in your prayers our retired bishops who mark the anniversaries of their episcopal ordinations:
 Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Francis Lagan (20th March, 1988)
 Bishop Emeritus Seamus Hegarty (28th March, 1982) Bishop Emeritus Edward Daly (31st March, 1974)

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July): The cost is £575. 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. Gift vouchers are also available for whatever amount you wish to give, contact Rosemary. The office is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013: For information contact (028) 8224 1888 or Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Monsignor Danny Monaghan and Maria Bradley from Sept. 4th - 11th. Price £499 which includes Half Board and insurance.
Call Maria at (028) 8164 8357 for further details

April and May Pilgrimages: £470. Cost includes return flights, one week's accommodation, meals and transfers.
Call Group Leader Jim McGread (028) 8234 1888 for further details

Youth Trip to Croagh Pdraig: Following on from the hike last year we will be running a Diocesan Youth Trip to Croagh Pdraig again this year. The hike will take place on Friday 12th April and it will be for young adults aged 16+ and students registered for the Pope John Paul II Award. We are also looking for a few priests to accompany us and celebrate Mass on the summit, please let me k Booking forms and details for the hike are available from the Catechetical Centre.
Places will be limited so booking is essential. The pilgrimage will cost £25 per person

Year of the Gathering: When Irish people are being invited home. The Columba Community is inviting Christian missionaries to a special celebration at the IOSAS Centre, Lenamore Road, Muff 7th to 9th June. Please contact us if you have a family member who is a missionary. We would be delighted to invite them.
For further details contact Fr. Neal Carlin (00353)7493 84866

Next Sundays Readings: Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17-22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9; Lectionary I, page 417
(Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 1)

Lotto Results: A – C – K – O – R (10 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £3,100

The Stations Of The Cross – The fourteen Stations of the Cross are as follows:

- I** Jesus is condemned to death: Leaving the house of Caiphas, where he had been blasphemed, and the house of Herod, where he had been mocked, Jesus is dragged before Pilate, his back torn with scourges, his head crowned with thorns; and he is condemned to a disgraceful death.
- II** Jesus is made to carry his cross: A heavy cross is laid on the bruised shoulders of Jesus. He receives it with meekness: it is the instrument with which he is to redeem the world.
- III** Jesus falls the first time: Bowed down under the weight of the cross, Jesus slowly sets forth on the way to Calvary amidst the mockeries and insults of the crowd. His agony in the garden has exhausted his body and he is sore from blows and wounds; his strength fails him and he falls to the ground under the weight of the cross.
- IV** Jesus meets his Blessed Mother: Still burdened by his cross and wounded by his fall, Jesus proceeds on his way. He is met by his Mother. What a meeting that must have been! What a sword of anguish must have pierced her heart!
- V** Simon of Cyrene is made to help Jesus carry his cross: As the strength of Jesus fails and he is unable to proceed, the soldiers seize Simon of Cyrene from the crowd and make him help Jesus. The virtue of that cross changed his cross and the compulsory task became a privilege and a joy.
- VI** Veronica wipes the face of Jesus: As Jesus continues on the way and covered with the sweat of death, a woman moved by compassion, makes her way through the crowd and wipes his face with a towel. As a reward of her piety, the impression of his sacred countenance is miraculously imprinted upon the towel.
- VII** Jesus falls the second time: The pain of the wounds and the loss of blood increasing with every step, again his strength fails him and Jesus falls to the ground a second time.
- VIII** The women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus: At the sight of the sufferings of Jesus, some holy women in the crowd were so touched with sympathy that they openly bewailed and lamented him. Jesus, knowing the things that were to happen to Jerusalem because of its rejection of him, turned to them and said: "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."
- IX** Jesus falls the third time: Jesus had now almost arrived at the summit of Calvary, but before he reached the spot where he was to be crucified, his strength again fails him and falls the third time.
- X** Jesus is stripped of his garments: Having finally arrived at the place of crucifixion they prepared to crucify him. His garments are removed from his bleeding body and he stands naked before the people, while the soldiers cast lots to see who shall keep his garment.
- XI** Jesus is nailed to the cross: The cross is laid upon the ground and Jesus is stretched upon his bed of death. At one and the same time he offers his bruised body to his heavenly Father of behalf of all peoples, and to his executioners to be nailed by them to the wood.
- XII** Jesus dies on the cross: For three hours Jesus hung upon the cross, and in the midst of his sufferings he has forgiven those who condemned him, pardoned the good thief, and committed his Mother and the beloved disciple to each other's care. All is now consummated, and, bowing his head, he breathes his last.
- XIII** Jesus is taken down from the cross: The crowds have left Calvary and none remain except the beloved disciple and some holy women who support Jesus' blessed Mother. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus take down the lifeless body of Jesus and place it in his Mother's arms.
- XIV** Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre: The body of her Son is taken from his Mother and laid in the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. The tomb is closed and there the corpse remains until its glorious resurrection.

The traditional way of praying the Stations of the Cross in the church is to walk from station to station.

At each station one genuflects or bows and recites certain prayers which include an 'Our Father,' 'Hail Mary' and 'Glory Be to the Father.' People also pray the Stations at home using the same prayers and meditating for a moment on each station.

Lenten Sacrifice: Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 and older. Good Friday (2nd April this year) is also a day of fasting for those aged 18 to 59, who are limited to one full meatless meal that day. Lent is also a time for voluntary acts of self-denial and acts of prayer and charity, which can include attending daily Mass, Scripture study, Stations of the Cross, almsgiving and showing mercy and kindness to others.

Lent is the season of grace and conversion, of penance and reconciliation, of renewal of our baptismal promises. Lent is marked with seriousness, consciousness of the poorest of the poor, attention to prayer and liturgy, attentive listening to the word of God, and "with the gladness spiritual desire await holy Easter" (Rule of St. Benedict, 49).

Lenten Guidelines:

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by everyone aged 18 years of age and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, enough to maintain strength, may be taken, according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but consuming liquids, including milk and juices is allowed.

Abstinence is observed by everyone 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or the ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.

Lent 2013 – Some Practical Suggestions: There are many ways to keep a good Lent – here are a few: + try to abstain from a particular food or pleasure + do something extra, like attending the Monday evening Retreat in Strathroy or visiting the sick + spend some time reflecting on your own baptism...asking God to renew the gifts you have already received + take part in penitential services and Station of the Cross + whatever you do or give up, do it with joy and moderation.

Short-Term Pledge for Lent: Do something special this lent! Many people choose to abstain from alcohol for the duration of Lent. Take this opportunity to help someone you love with an alcohol or drug problem by offering up your sacrifice as a prayer for their freedom and wellbeing. Take the Short-Term pledge and make a difference to someone's life!

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

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com
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

Camowen Farmers Group Carrickmore: If you have a query contact Camowen Farmers, we are here to help.
camowen.com // Facebook // Twitter // Office: (028) 8076 1339 // Mobile: 07789 067 231

Rosary Crusade to Protect Ireland from Abortion: Begins with a 9 Day Novena of Rosaries on Friday 15th March and ends with a Rosary Vigil outside Dail Eireann in Dublin on Saturday 23rd March at 3.00pm. Join thousands of people from across Ireland to pray and be a voice for our unborn children at this critical time. Book your seat now on the bus travelling to the Vigil from your area.

Monsignor Eamon Martin has confirmed that he will come to our parish for the Confirmation of our young people on Wednesday 10th April at 6.00pm

We need a little bit of silence. We need a space without the constant bombardment of images.
Pope Benedict XVI encouraging the priests of the Rome diocese in "fasting from words and images"

Workout for the Soul in Search of God – Interview with Official from Ignatian Exercises Federation:

By Antonio Gaspari

Rome (Friday 5th February, 2010) [zenit.org]

Every year, a countless number of Catholics escape from their typical activities and take days to retreat into prayer following the system of the Ignatian spiritual exercises.

The Pope himself is one of these Catholics; Benedict XVI's annual spiritual exercises with the Roman Curia begin Feb. 21.

Just prior to the Holy Father's retreat, the Italian Federation of Spiritual Exercises will hold their annual assembly. The president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, will be one of the participants in the three-day meeting to discuss the relationship between spiritual exercises and the people of the Church. In order to understand better the history, timeliness and modern practice of spiritual exercises, ZENIT spoke with Passionist Fr. Stanislao Renzi, national secretary of the federation.

ZENIT: Many young people don't even know what the spiritual exercises are or why they are done. Can you explain them briefly?

Fr. Renzi: It's true that many young people no longer even know what the spiritual exercises are or why they are practiced: Today youth live in a world that loves noise, not silence and recollection, and many want to be free of laws and discipline. It is difficult to speak to them of the "search for the will of God in deciding their own life." However, there are many [young adults] -- between 20 and 30 years old -- who do the spiritual exercises by assiduously attending courses in retreat houses, at times on weekends. The representatives [of these retreats] offer the young people the possibility to pray and to reflect individually or in community, so that they discern their choices in life and make their own spiritual journey in the Church. The courses are open to all young people who wish to make their own lives mature according to God's plan.

It should also be remembered that, according to St. Ignatius, the spiritual exercises are not a time of study or of simple recollection and prayer. They are a search: "As walking and running are physical exercises, so any form of preparing and disposing the soul to get rid of all disordered affections and, after being rid of them, to seek the will of God in deciding on one's own life, for the salvation of one's soul, is called spiritual exercises." (Es. Sp. Ann.1).

ZENIT: Can you tell us the history of the spiritual exercises? When did they begin? What does the Bible say in this respect? Who are the saints who practiced the spiritual exercises?

Fr. Renzi: Spiritual exercises were already done by the Desert Fathers, but those we call the classic exercises go back to St. Ignatius of Loyola, who began to write them in a book in 1522 and perfected them in 1548. The book begins the exercises by posing first fundamental questions: For what has God created us?

The object of the exercises, in St. Ignatius' thought, is to order one's life according to God's plan, as man was created to serve God and only through this can he attain salvation.

He recommended that the exercises be done in a place other than one's usual environment. There were in fact "houses of exercises," where silence and stillness helped the exercises to be made.

St. Ignatius took from the Bible the ideas for the gradual composition of the book of spiritual exercises, in which are reflected his feelings when finding the secret to discern the will of God. Hence the Bible is a fundamental text for all types of spiritual exercises.

It would take a long time to find all the passages of the Bible that [could be referred] to the exercises. I find one concretely in Psalm 118:47-64. The Psalmist tells the Lord he has scrutinized his ways and will direct his steps to the Commandments; he says he is prepared to keep the secrets of the Lord. Finally he asks the Lord to show him his will, given that the earth is full of the Lord's love. Analogous is the itinerary of the one doing the exercises, who revises his own life to direct it in the sense of the will of God.

Other references might be the Virgin Mary, who meditated in her heart everything that happened around her. Mary, in fact, listened to and meditated the Scriptures, linking them to Jesus' words and to the events she went discovering in her history in relation with her Son. Another is Jesus' invitation to the disciples to withdraw in solitude to rest, which is spiritually salutary. Finally, the reference to the Scriptures in the conversation with the disciples of Emmaus, so that they understand what happened in his Death and Resurrection. St. Ignatius' exercises go over the whole life of Jesus as it is narrated in the Gospels.

In addition to St. Ignatius, many saints practiced the spiritual exercises as a renewal of Christian life. I will mention only a few: St. Dominic, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Paul of the Cross, St. Alphonsus Mary Liguori. All were tireless in preaching and in the confessional as ministers of God's mercy, helping men to find themselves, to struggle against sin and to advance on the way of the spiritual life. →

← **ZENIT:** In a world such as today's which is so secularized, what reasons do you give to promote and practice spiritual exercises?

Father Renzi: [Citing Benedict XVI.] secularization, which often becomes secularism, abandoning the positive meaning of the secular, harshly tests the Christian life of the faithful and pastors. ... Today it is a providential challenge to which convincing answers must be given to man's questions and hopes.

Spiritual exercises, insofar as [they are a time of] listening to the Word of God dwelled upon for a long time, allow one to discern the will of God and, conforming oneself to it, to overcome the mentality in which God is absent and, at the same time, to apply oneself to living in communion with God and with neighbor.

For this reason the Federation of Spiritual Exercises promotes the exercises and urges those in charge to plan exercises every year for each category of persons: priests, religious, laity, young people, the elderly, with a view to the renewal of Christian life, to give an answer to the serious challenges posed by secularized society and religious indifference.

"Don't ever forget that the exercises are an insistent petition, which the Church addresses not only to its sacred ministers, to men and women religious, to all consecrated persons, but also to those who wish to enter into themselves, to dedicate time to God with their soul open to the hope of finding him on their way, to love him and follow him more" (John Paul II, Audience to FIES on the 25th anniversary of its foundation).

In regard to the present importance of the exercises, Paul VI expressed it thus: "The practice of the exercises constitutes an invigorating and restorative pause for the spirit, in the midst of the dissipations of chaotic modern life, but also a school that even today is irreplaceable to introduce souls to greater intimacy with God, to the love of virtue and to the science of life, as gift of God and as response to his call."

In 1967 the bishops of Triveneto, Italy, wrote a letter on the "Validity of the Spiritual Exercises," and they recommended "perseverance in this apostolate, which day by day shows itself to be more important."

Without excluding the determination to experience ways that are adapted to our times, we insist "on the classic structure of the Ignatian Exercises, so valid and providential in their climate of reflection and profound silence"

Pietro Schiavone, S.J., "Il Progetto del Padre," pp. 12-13

How to return to the church

- Q. I have two friends who left the Catholic Church years ago, one because he became disillusioned with a priest, and the other just stopped attending Mass. Now they both want to return but don't know how. Someone said they must go through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process, which doesn't make sense to me. Another said they must talk with a priest, make a good confession and that is all. I'm sure other former Catholics would also like to know how to come back (Maryland).
- A. You are right. Many Catholics have departed from the practice of their faith and sometime later wish to return, but are discouraged because they envision some complicated process to do so. Most of us don't realize how hesitant and afraid Catholics can be who have been away, perhaps feel some guilt and frequently see themselves as somehow unworthy to be active in the church again. Encouragement and support from people such as you is invaluable. I thank you for being interested in their struggle, and I hope other Catholics who have friends like this will follow your example. The second person you refer to is basically correct.

Theoretically, all one needs to do is return to the sacraments — penance and the Eucharist — and resume a prayer life and regular participation in the Mass. In practice, however, most of the time something more is at least helpful, if not practically necessary. If one has been away for a number of years, for example, much may have happened in the intervening time that could be unfamiliar; they need to catch up.

Particularly, anyone who has not been to Mass for the past 30 years or so will have missed many changes in the liturgies of the Mass and sacraments that will confuse them if they're not prepared.

Perhaps most obviously, experiencing and trying to participate in the Mass in English will be puzzling unless someone helps them understand reasons for those changes and how they enhance and enrich our Catholic worship.

Another factor in helping them return could be the reason they stopped living a Catholic life in the first place. A real or perceived injury suffered from a priest or other representative of the church, or just a serious misunderstanding, is the reason a huge number of Catholic people stay away, often for years. They need help in healing. Whatever the reason, I believe it is well worthwhile for "former" Catholics to meet with a parish priest or other parish minister to find out what is necessary and ease their return. →

← Of course, a priest will also be able to help such individuals deal appropriately with other possible factors, previous marriages for example, that will necessarily be involved in renewing their practice of the Catholic faith.
*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61651 // jdietzen@aol.com.
 Catholic News Service*

Parish Liturgy for March, 2013	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Mary Slane	Caitriona McCullagh	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Emma McCullagh	Rosemary McCullagh	Elaine Coyle
Collectors	Francis McLaughlin Seamus Keenan	Michael Clarke	Pat McGuigan Eoin Clarke
Altar Society	Siobhan McKenna, Ciara McKenna and Caitriona McCullagh		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke

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 soon.

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.

Omagh Volunteer Centre Supports Volunteering in the Omagh Council Area: We are based at Community House in the town. Current opportunities include Promotional and Fundraising roles (Foyle Hospice) and Volunteer Mentoring (Include Youth). For further information on these and other volunteering opportunities, contact us on (028) 8224 0772. If you have a little spare time and think you might like to volunteer, or if you have volunteering opportunities that you would like us to promote for you, please get in touch.

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)

A Stitch in Time – Responding to Racism at a Local Level: Rural Community Network in partnership with EMBRACE NI invites all church and faith based organisations to an interactive workshop which will look at Racism and how we can respond to it locally. The workshop will be held on Thursday 21st February from 10.45am to 1.30pm in the Board Room of the Rural Community Network, 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown BT80 8EF.
To register please contact teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or for further details contact charmain@ruralcommunitynetwork.org. This workshop is free of charge to all participants

I always see advertisements for Bullying Prevention and We Teach Bully Prevention. Bullying, or the perception of bullying cannot be prevented as long as people interact with each other; the only possible way would be to stay isolated, forever. However, you can teach kids how to handle and deal with people who they feel are bullying.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2013

Sacramental Celebrations

Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter	Our Lady of the Wayside	2.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Monsignor Eamon Martin)
Sunday 12th May Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's	11.00am First Holy Communion

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday 5th May	St. Patrick's
Sunday 25th August	Our Lady of the Wayside

Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish

Wednesday 22nd May Thursday 11th July Friday 30th August Saturday 19th October	St. Patrick's
Sunday 7th April	Our Lady of the Wayside

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (6th and 7th July)

Saturday 6th July	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 7th July	Our Lady of the Wayside	Directly after 11.00am Mass
Saturday 2nd November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year)

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Saturday 23rd March	Sixth Palm Sunday	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Thursday 28th March	Holy Thursday	7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Saturday 13th April	Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Saturday 1st June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass

Dun Uladh – Upcoming Classes:

Refreshments served. For More info Contact (028) 8224 2777

Traditional Music Classes for banjo, flute, fiddle, concertina, singing, accordion, adult tin whistle and uilleann pipes	Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Irish Language	Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm Fridays from 10.00am to 11.30am
Ciorcal Comhrá	Fridays from 11.30am to 1.00pm

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*

The Deep End – Throwing Stones:

Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)

It is interesting that although it takes two people to commit adultery, there is no mention of the man in this story. A conspiracy is afoot here. Nevertheless the importance of the event lies in Jesus not condemning this woman to the death penalty as was demanded by Old Testament law (the man would have been subject to the same law by the way!) Once again the Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus. We may wonder what Jesus was writing on the ground as they continued to question him but he delivers a winning punch-line in this debate and the condemners are forced to leave one by one. I presume they had to think about it for a while before admitting defeat. We live in a stone-throwing society that cares little for circumstances that cause people to make wrong choices. We want someone to blame and the sooner the better. We only have to look at our economic situation in Ireland to see the blame game in progress daily. Those who accuse others often do so from a lack of self-knowledge and laziness, because it is very easy to be negative. We all need forgiveness and as we approach Easter we see more clearly what Jesus has done for us by freeing us from all these burdens. We make mistakes but we can always start again. When we relate compassionately to those who are in difficulty we can rediscover our common humanity.

Rouskey Centre – Upcoming Events:

FarmSafe Awareness is an opportunity for farm families and workers to gain a better understanding of how to farm safely and to develop awareness to reduce the risk of accidents. FarmSafe Awareness events offer practical demonstrations covering the everyday hazards faced by farmers and farming families. Topics covered will include: Working at Height; Slurry Risks; Handling Livestock; and Working with Machinery. FarmSafe Awareness is open to farmers and farm families aged 17 and over. Attendance is free and runs for one night for 2½ hours. FarmSafe Awareness can be run in Rouskey Community Centre. Need 10 to 15 people to run the class. Contact number below.

Beginners computers now taking names for classes after Easter. It's great opportunity in your community to learn computer skills. These computers courses have been great success in the past

Painted Crafts with Jennifer Johnson on Monday 11Feb at 7pm. £25 for 4 weeks. Hopefully include all materials. Need 10 people to run the class. Contact number below to register your name

Pilates on Monday 14th January with Breda at 7pm for 5 weeks. £25. Money must be paid in full. I will be in Centre Thursday 10th January from 7pm to 8pm.

Zumba will start on Monday 14th January at 8.15pm. £4 per night for all age groups. Zumba over 50's and people with physical conditions will start Friday 18th January at 10am.

Crocheting and knitting for beginners and everyone can knit or crochet. Mary will show beginners how to knit or crochet. This class open to all and this great opportunity to learn new stitches and may new pattern. Its great social afternoon. Will start on Friday 18th January at 2pm. £5.

Drama/dance with Clíodhna Academy classes will be back on Wednesday 16th January. P1-P3 6pm to 7pm. P4 upwards 7pm to 8pm. £2.50

Cook it!

Fun fast food for less. Cook it! is a community healthy eating, cooking skills programme that has been specially produced for use in Northern Ireland. Cook it! lasts 6 weeks and is delivered by specially trained local tutors.

During the programme you will learn about simple food hygiene at home, how to choose healthier foods and do hands on cooking (and tasting) of delicious recipes. So come to Cook it! - cook, eat and learn together. Rouskey Community Centre, Thursday evening 21st March 2013 For 6 weeks Time not arranged as yet. There are only 10 places available in this very popular programme so it is essential that you book your place now by calling Bridie on 0759 104 7556 or 0784 745 9482. The course is open to all but priority will be given to parents

FarmSafe Awareness

FarmSafe Awareness is an opportunity for farm families and workers to gain a better understanding of how to farm safely and to develop awareness to reduce the risk of accidents. FarmSafe Awareness events offer practical demonstrations covering the everyday hazards faced by farmers and farming families. Topics covered will include: Working at Height; Slurry Risks; Handling Livestock; and Working with Machinery. FarmSafe Awareness is open to farmers and farm families aged 17 and over. Attendance is free and runs for one night for 2½ hours.

FarmSafe Awareness can be run in Rouskey Community Centre. Need 10 to 15 people to run the class. Register your name contact Bridie.

Beginners Computers

Beginners computers now taking names for classes. This class will run in September It's great opportunity in your community to learn computer skills. These computers courses have been great success in the past.

Zumba

Zumba for all age groups on Monday at 8pm. £4 Zumba for all age groups Friday at 10am. £4 Why not come along and join us on Monday night or Friday morning.

Drama/ Dance

Clíodhna Academy are now working with our young people which they will all be involved in Community Showcase in April. We need all the young people to attend all classes from now onwards. Community Showcase has proven successful over past number of years and we will do the same this year again.

Flower Arranging

I have been asked to put on an other Flower arranging class on before Easter. Class for three weeks with Peral Feathers. £15. Need 10 or more people to run the class.

Contact: Bridie on 81648706 or 07847459428, 07591047556 or leave message on phone
Hire of centre or equipment contact Sheena 81648186

Papal Message for Lent 2013 – *Believing in Charity Calls Forth Charity:*

Vatican City (Friday 1st February, 2013) [VIS]

"Believing in Charity Calls Forth Charity: 'We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us' (1 Jn 4:16)" is the title of the Holy Father's Lenten Message this year. The document, published in eight languages (German, Arabic, Spanish, French, English, Italian, Polish, and Portuguese) is dated, from the Vatican, 15 October 2012. Following is the complete text of the document.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The celebration of Lent, in the context of the Year of Faith, offers us a valuable opportunity to meditate on the relationship between faith and charity: between believing in God (the God of Jesus Christ) and love, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and which guides us on the path of devotion to God and others.

1. Faith as a response to the love of God

In my first Encyclical, I offered some thoughts on the close relationship between the theological virtues of faith and charity. Setting out from Saint John's fundamental assertion: "We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us", I observed that "being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction ... Since God has first loved us, love is now no longer a mere 'command'; it is the response to the gift of love with which God draws near to us". Faith is this personal adherence (which involves all our faculties) to the revelation of God's gratuitous and "passionate" love for us, fully revealed in Jesus Christ.

The encounter with God who is Love engages not only the heart but also the intellect: "Acknowledgement of the living God is one path towards love, and the 'yes' of our will to his will unites our intellect, will and sentiments in the all-embracing act of love. But this process is always open-ended; love is never 'finished' and complete". Hence, for all Christians, and especially for "charity workers", there is a need for faith, for "that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others. As a result, love of neighbour will no longer be for them a commandment imposed, so to speak, from without, but a consequence deriving from their faith, a faith which becomes active through love". Christians are people who have been conquered by Christ's love and accordingly, under the influence of that love "Caritas Christi urget nos" they are profoundly open to loving their neighbour in concrete ways. This attitude arises primarily from the consciousness of being loved, forgiven, and even served by the Lord, who bends down to wash the feet of the Apostles and offers himself on the Cross to draw humanity into God's love.

"Faith tells us that God has given his Son for our sakes and gives us the victorious certainty that it is really true: God is love! ... Faith, which sees the love of God revealed in the pierced heart of Jesus on the Cross, gives rise to love. Love is the light and in the end, the only light that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working". All this helps us to understand that the principal distinguishing mark of Christians is precisely "love grounded in and shaped by faith".

2. Charity as life in faith

The entire Christian life is a response to God's love. The first response is precisely faith as the acceptance, filled with wonder and gratitude, of the unprecedented divine initiative that precedes us and summons us. And the "yes" of faith marks the beginning of a radiant story of friendship with the Lord, which fills and gives full meaning to our whole life. But it is not enough for God that we simply accept his gratuitous love. Not only does he love us, but he wants to draw us to himself, to transform us in such a profound way as to bring us to say with Saint Paul: "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me".

When we make room for the love of God, then we become like him, sharing in his own charity. If we open ourselves to his love, we allow him to live in us and to bring us to love with him, in him and like him; only then does our faith become truly "active through love"; only then does he abide in us.

Faith is knowing the truth and adhering to it; charity is "walking" in the truth. Through faith we enter into friendship with the Lord, through charity this friendship is lived and cultivated. Faith causes us to embrace the commandment of our Lord and Master; charity gives us the happiness of putting it into practice. In faith we are begotten as children of God; charity causes us to persevere concretely in our divine sonship, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Faith enables us to recognise the gifts that the good and generous God has entrusted to us; charity makes them fruitful.

3. The indissoluble interrelation of faith and charity

In light of the above, it is clear that we can never separate, let alone oppose, faith and charity. These two theological virtues are intimately linked, and it is misleading to posit a contrast or "dialectic" between them. →

← On the one hand, it would be too one-sided to place a strong emphasis on the priority and decisiveness of faith and to undervalue and almost despise concrete works of charity, reducing them to a vague humanitarianism. On the other hand, though, it is equally unhelpful to overstate the primacy of charity and the activity it generates, as if works could take the place of faith. For a healthy spiritual life, it is necessary to avoid both fideism and moral activism.

The Christian life consists in continuously scaling the mountain to meet God and then coming back down, bearing the love and strength drawn from him, so as to serve our brothers and sisters with God's own love. In sacred Scripture, we see how the zeal of the Apostles to proclaim the Gospel and awaken people's faith is closely related to their charitable concern to be of service to the poor. In the Church, contemplation and action, symbolized in some way by the Gospel figures of Mary and Martha, have to coexist and complement each other. The relationship with God must always be the priority, and any true sharing of goods, in the spirit of the Gospel, must be rooted in faith. Sometimes we tend, in fact, to reduce the term "charity" to solidarity or simply humanitarian aid. It is important, however, to remember that the greatest work of charity is evangelisation, which is the "ministry of the word". There is no action more beneficial – and therefore more charitable – towards one's neighbour than to break the bread of the word of God, to share with him the Good News of the Gospel, to introduce him to a relationship with God: evangelisation is the highest and the most integral promotion of the human person. As the Servant of God Pope Paul VI wrote in the Encyclical "Populorum Progressio", the proclamation of Christ is the first and principal contributor to development. It is the primordial truth of the love of God for us, lived and proclaimed, that opens our lives to receive this love and makes possible the integral development of humanity and of every man.

Essentially, everything proceeds from Love and tends towards Love. God's gratuitous love is made known to us through the proclamation of the Gospel. If we welcome it with faith, we receive the first and indispensable contact with the Divine, capable of making us "fall in love with Love", and then we dwell within this Love, we grow in it and we joyfully communicate it to others.

Concerning the relationship between faith and works of charity, there is a passage in the Letter to the Ephesians which provides perhaps the best account of the link between the two: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God; not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them". It can be seen here that the entire redemptive initiative comes from God, from his grace, from his forgiveness received in faith; but this initiative, far from limiting our freedom and our responsibility, is actually what makes them authentic and directs them towards works of charity. These are not primarily the result of human effort, in which to take pride, but they are born of faith and they flow from the grace that God gives in abundance. Faith without works is like a tree without fruit: the two virtues imply one another. Lent invites us, through the traditional practices of the Christian life, to nourish our faith by careful and extended listening to the word of God and by receiving the sacraments, and at the same time to grow in charity and in love for God and neighbour, not least through the specific practices of fasting, penance and almsgiving.

4. Priority of faith, primacy of charity

Like any gift of God, faith and charity have their origin in the action of one and the same Holy Spirit, the Spirit within us that cries out "Abba, Father", and makes us say: "Jesus is Lord!" and "Maranatha!".

Faith, as gift and response, causes us to know the truth of Christ as Love incarnate and crucified, as full and perfect obedience to the Father's will and infinite divine mercy towards neighbour; faith implants in hearts and minds the firm conviction that only this Love is able to conquer evil and death. Faith invites us to look towards the future with the virtue of hope, in the confident expectation that the victory of Christ's love will come to its fullness. For its part, charity ushers us into the love of God manifested in Christ and joins us in a personal and existential way to the total and unconditional self-giving of Jesus to the Father and to his brothers and sisters. By filling our hearts with his love, the Holy Spirit makes us sharers in Jesus' filial devotion to God and fraternal devotion to every man.

The relationship between these two virtues resembles that between the two fundamental sacraments of the Church: Baptism and Eucharist. Baptism ("sacramentum fidei") precedes the Eucharist ("sacramentum caritatis"), but is ordered to it, the Eucharist being the fullness of the Christian journey. In a similar way, faith precedes charity, but faith is genuine only if crowned by charity. Everything begins from the humble acceptance of faith ("knowing that one is loved by God"), but has to arrive at the truth of charity ("knowing how to love God and neighbour"), which remains for ever, as the fulfilment of all the virtues.

MARA (Maximising Access to Services, Grants and Benefits in Rural Areas)

The MARA Project is an inter-departmental regional project funded by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and delivered by the Public Health Agency (PHA). The MARA project was officially launched on Thursday 15th March 2012 by both the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle O'Neill and the Minister for Health, Edwin Poots.

What is the aim of the MARA Project?

The aim of the project is to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in rural deprived areas in Northern Ireland, by making them aware of, or helping them access local services, grants or benefits thus supporting those rural dwellers living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Who will deliver the MARA project?

PHA will commission 13 community lead organisations in rural areas, who will recruit and train enablers to undertake approximately 12,000 household visits. These visits will take place over the period April 2012 to November 2014 from which identified households will be signposted to various services, grants and benefits. The households identified for visits incorporate older people, carers, disabled people, lone parents, ethnic minorities, lone adults, farming families and/or low income families.

Why the MARA approach works?

The MARA project builds upon the success of Phase 1 which targeted the top 88 rurally deprived super output areas. The evidence and experience from Phase I indicates that access to the most difficult to reach and those suffering greatest inequalities and disadvantage requires a more innovative, extensive and personal approach to that traditionally used. The home visit which is carried out by trained enablers requires a supportive and sympathetic approach that will build trust and commitment and encourages people to avail of services, benefits and grants which they may not otherwise have known about or felt that they were not entitled to.

MARA Household Visit

During the household visit, identified households will complete an assessment form which will help assess eligibility for various grants or benefits they may be entitled to. The home visit will also identify local and regional services the rural dwellers may be interested in attending or availing of. Households will be asked to sign a consent form that details the referrals identified and these will then be either automated or manually made by the community lead organisation to various referral partners. The referral partners will then, as necessary, contact the householder directly to process the referral. The services, grants and benefits that householders may be referred to include rural community transport, smart pass (for free or reduced travel), energy savings schemes (warm homes), assessments from occupational therapists (OTs) for disabled facilities grants, home safety checks, benefit entitlement checks and any other local or regional services available in their area. Households who have been referred for services will receive a second visit to establish if the various referral partners have been in contact and to understand how referrals are progressing with a view to ensuring all referrals are processed in a timely manner. The second visit will also further address the social exclusion element of the MARA project i.e. referring householders to local services. It should be noted that the MARA Project cannot guarantee householders will receive any or all of the services, grants or benefits they are referred to. The referrals associated with the MARA Project may, in some instances, take some time to be processed.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 8:1-11:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. Compassion for human frailty combined with a gentle challenge to a better life marked the response of Jesus. From whom have you experienced a compassionate challenge? What was that like for you? To whom have you given such a challenge?
2. The Pharisees and scribes self-righteously condemned the woman until Jesus brought them in touch with their own sinfulness. This was a conversion moment for them and they turned away from their quest for the death of the woman. Have there been times when your awareness of your own fragility and sinfulness has helped you to be less judgemental of others?
3. "What do you say?" can be an embarrassing question. Jesus had the courage to voice an opinion, even though it was against the party line of the day. When have you seen that courage shown – by yourself or by another? What was the result?

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***

Questions people ask:

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

Q. Would St. Patrick have any special message if he were here in Ireland today?

A. He would be happy to see so many people faithfully striving to live Christian lives yet sad to see the drift towards violent crime, the materialism which dims the eye of conscience, the abuse of drugs and alcohol and the weakening of faith as a source of light and strength in life. During this Year of Faith he would encourage each one to be a missionary just as he was, dedicated to God in mind and action, working to bring the beautiful Christian message and ideals to all people.

Support Care for Cancer for just £3 a week: Care for Cancer facilities are available to all cancer patients and their carers within a 20mile radius of Omagh. Services currently offered by the charity include:

- Transport to hospital appointments
- Free provision of recliner chairs
- Professional counselling for patients, family and friends
- Massage and reflexology therapy / Bra fitting service
- Listening ear/ Public Information evenings/talks to heighten awareness and offer better understanding of cancer
- Courses / coffee mornings / fund raising events
- Care for Cancer Drop-in -Centre is located at 1 Campsie Place, Omagh (near Bank of Ireland) where you can call in for a cuppa and a supportive listening ear. Opening hours are 10.00-15.00hrs Mon-Friday.

In order to continue our vital work, Care for Cancer will recommence the lottery syndicate on Sat 2nd Feb 2013. If you think you could support the Charity by giving £3 per week for 12 months call Jean on 07711885239 or 028 82250696 in order to set up payment by 23rd January 2013 you will then be issued with a copy of the 50 lines of numbers entered each week.

The £3 is used as follows:

£1 is used to purchase a lottery line each Saturday of this year commencing on Saturday 2nd February 2013. Care for Cancer receives the other £2, the winnings will be divided at the end of the year among the syndicate members, for every 10 members the Charity receives £1000.

Your support is very much appreciated so that the Charity can continue the valuable work it undertakes locally.

Thank you

Ards Friary Retreat & Conference Centre, Creeslough. Co. Donegal – Retreats in 2013:	
Tel: 00353 7491 38909	Email: info@ardsfriary.ie
Website: ardsfriary.ie	
Ards Friary is open throughout the year for individuals and groups whether lay, religious, clerical, ecumenical or anyone who wishes to have some quiet time, rest and prayer in beautiful relaxed surroundings. The following retreats are available for 2013:	
Friday 15th – Monday 18th March	Healing Retreat for singles, single parents, pregnant with alone / separated / marital difficulties. <i>Walking in the Mercy of God.</i>
Saturday 23rd March <i>Open for everyone to attend</i>	Catholic Nurses Guild (directed by Fr. Eddie Butler, Birmingham Diocese) This one day retreat is dedicated to all the caring professions.
Sunday 24th March	Knights of Columbanus Retreat (directed by Fr. Eddie Butler, Birmingham Diocese)
Thursday 28th – Sunday 31st March	Easter Triduum Retreat
Friday 19th – Sunday 21st April	Directed by Bishop Brendan Comiskey <i>Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ (St. Jerome)</i>
Friday 26th – Sunday 28th April	Legion of Mary Retreat
Friday 3rd – Thursday 9th May	Open Retreat (directed by Fr. Dermot Lynch, OFM Capuchin)
Friday 17th – Sunday 19th May	Joe Dalton Healing and Renewal Weekend. Joe suffered depression for 31 years and tried everything medically to be cured. He was though, miraculously healed by God, Joe will share his gift of healing with others, on their journey to knowing God better
Sunday 2nd – Thursday 6th June	Inter-Diocesan Priests’ Retreat (directed by Monsignor John Armitage, Brentwood Diocese). <i>To love you is to serve you</i>
Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June	Cursillo Renewal Weekend (directed by Fr. Silvester O’Flynn, OFM Capuchin) <i>Christ is counting on You</i>
Monday 10th – Friday 14th June	Transformation Retreat (directed by Fr. Donal Dorr and Dr. Noel Bradley D.Theol)
Friday 21st – Thursday 27th June	Open Retreat (directed by Fr. Francis Maple, OFM Capuchin) <i>Living with Christ through the main events of his life</i>
Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July	Friends of Francis Hogan Reunion
Friday 12th – Saturday 13th July	One Day Silent and Guided Retreat for Women guided by Benedictine Monks of the Abbey of Saint Joseph, France. This retreat reflects Ignatian Spirituality by centering on Jesus with conferences, spiritual guidance and confessions.
Saturday 14th – Friday 19th July	Five Day Silent and Guided Retreat for Men guided by the Benedictine Monks of the Abbey of Saint Joseph. These five-day retreats are a shortened form of the full Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. The Exercises are a synthetic and practical presentation of the central truths of the Catholic faith.
Saturday 20th – Wednesday 7th August	Christendom College, USA
Friday 9th – Sunday 11th August	John Pridmore <i>Healing the Wounds of your past</i>
Sunday 11th – Sunday 18th August	Association of Iconographers – Learning to Write an Icon
Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd August	Course for priests in the Latin Mass
Monday 26th August – Thursday 1st September	The Foyer of Charity – Five Day Silent Retreat (directed by Fr. Kilian Byrne) <i>If you but knew the gift of God</i>
Thursday 3rd – Sunday 8th October	CURSILLO (men)
Thursday 10th – Sunday 13th October	CURSILLO (women)
Saturday 30th November – Sunday 1st December	Advent Retreat (directed by Fr. Kieran Shorten, OFM Capuchin)

Celebrations to mark the Tercentenary of the death of Dean Bryan Maguire

To mark the occasion a number of events are being organised which hopefully will bring home to all of us the immense contribution Dean Maguire made to the life of the Catholic Church in Ireland during the worst ravages of the Penal Times in the 17th and 18th centuries. He was born in the parish of Termonmagurk, probably in 1635. According to a local tradition Aughnacreggan was the townland of his birthplace. He received a thorough education in Ireland where many of the old Gaelic families cultivated a high standard of learning and in 1660 he was ordained priest. In the early years of his priesthood he ministered as parish priest of Termonmagurk, Errigal Ciaran and Aghaloo. Ten years after Dean Maguire's ordination, St Oliver Plunkett arrived in Armagh as Archbishop in 1670 and within two years he appointed Bryan Maguire Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Armagh. Two years later St Oliver Plunkett appointed Dean Maguire, whom he described as a 'learned and exemplary man', Vicar General of the Diocese of Raphoe and within a few years in 1679 he was appointed Vicar General of Derry. On the 13 February 1713, Dean Bryan Maguire died in Armagh Gaol.

*There's a story of a martyr At the church they built a monument
Back in the Penal times To that great man and his work
Who gave his life for his belief And every Christian passing by
Like many of his kind Remembers Dean Maguire*

April Pageant performed by pupils of Dean Maguire College
July Tour of local sights associated with Dean Bryan Maguire
August Festival of celebration involving clubs and societies

Saying 'I Believe in God the Father Almighty' is saying 'I Believe in the Power of God's Love'

Vatican City (Wednesday 30th January) [VIS]

The first and most fundamental definition that the Creed teaches us about God is that He is the Almighty Father. This was the theme of Benedict XVI's Wednesday catechesis during today's general audience that was held in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

"It isn't always easy today to speak about fatherhood," the Pope began, "...and, not having adequate role models, it even becomes problematic to imagine God as a father. For those who have had the experience of an overly authoritarian and inflexible father, or an indifferent, uncaring, or even absent one, it is not easy to calmly think of God as Father or to confidently surrender themselves to Him. But Biblical revelation helps us to overcome these difficulties by telling us about a God who shows us what it truly means to be a 'father'.

Above all it is the Gospel that reveals to us this face of God as Father, who loves us even to the point of giving us the gift of His Son for the salvation of humanity."

In the light of the Scriptures and the writings of the evangelists, the Holy Father explained that God is our Father because "He has blessed us and chosen us before the foundation of the world. He has truly made us His children in Jesus. And, as Father, God accompanies our existence with love, giving us His Word, His teaching, His grace, His Spirit. ...If He is so good as to 'make His sun rise on the bad and the good and ... rain to fall on the just and the unjust', then we can always, without fear and in complete faith, entrust ourselves to His forgiveness as Father when we choose the wrong path."

Tracing the history of salvation, Psalm 136 repeats "for his mercy endures forever", and the pontiff emphasized, "The love of God the Father never fails, never tires of us. ... Faith gives us this certainty that becomes the sure rock upon which to build our lives. We can face every difficulty and every danger, the experience of the darkness of times of crisis and pain, sustained by the confidence that God does not abandon us and is always near to save us and bring us to everlasting life."

The kind face of the Father who is in heaven is fully shown in the Lord Jesus. "Knowing Him we know the Father and seeing Him we can see the Father. ... Faith in God the Father requires that we believe in the Son, through the action of the Spirit, recognizing the Cross that saves as the definitive revelation of divine love. God is our Father, forgiving our sins and bringing us to the joy of the risen life."

"We can ask ourselves, how is it possible to imagine an all-powerful God by looking at the Cross of Christ? ... We would certainly like a divine omnipotence that corresponded to our thoughts and our desires; an 'almighty' God ... who vanquishes our adversaries, who changes the course of events, and who takes away our pain. ...

Faced with evil and suffering, ... it is difficult for many of us to believe in God the Father and to believe that He is all-powerful."

"Faith in God the Almighty, however, leads us to follow very different paths: learning to understand that God's thoughts and God's paths are different from ours and that even His omnipotence is different it isn't expressed →

← with mechanical or arbitrary force... Actually, God, in creating free creatures, in giving us freedom, gave up a part of His power, allowing us the power of our freedom. Thus He loves and respects love's free response to His call. His omnipotence isn't expressed in violence or destruction but rather through love, mercy, and forgiveness; through His tireless call to a change of heart, through an attitude that is only weak in appearance, and which is made of patience, clemency, and love."

"Only the truly powerful can endure evil and show compassion. Only the truly powerful can fully exercise the power of love. And God, to whom all things belong because He made them all, reveals His strength by loving everything and everyone, patiently awaiting our conversion because He wants us as His children. ...The omnipotence of love isn't a worldly power, but is that of total gift and Jesus, the Son of God, reveals to the world the Father's true omnipotence by giving His life for us sinners. This is the true ... divine power: responding to evil not with evil but with good, responding to murderous hatred with a love that gives life. Evil is thus truly vanquished, because it is washed by God's love. Death is thus definitively defeated, because it is transformed into the gift of life. God the Father resurrects His Son. Death, the great enemy, is swallowed up and deprived of its sting and we are freed from sin; we can grasp our reality as children of God."

"So, when we say 'I believe in God, the Father Almighty', we express our faith in the power of God's love who in His Son who died and rose again conquers hate, evil, and sin and gives us eternal life, a life as children who desire to remain forever in the 'Father's House'."

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Monday 18th March – St. Cyril of Jerusalem (bishop and Doctor of the Church)** St. Cyril became the Archbishop of Jerusalem at 35. He was present at the Council of Constantinople in 381, where Jerusalem was first recognised as a patriarchal See, along with Rome, Antioch, Alexandria and Constantinople. This council is responsible for the Nicene Creed which was promulgated in its final form. Died on the 18th March, 386 at the age of 70, after 35 years as a bishop, of which 16 were spent in exile.
- Tuesday 19th March – St. Joseph (husband of the Blessed Virgin)** The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a "just" man, which means he was a man who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. The main feast of St. Joseph is on this date - 19th March. It was believed his death occurred on this day. The feast was fixed in the 15th century and was extended to the whole Church by Pope Gregory XV in 1621. On December 8th 1870, Pope Pius IX ordered that this feast be celebrated throughout the Church. Holy Church also dedicates to St. Joseph the entire month of March. In addition, by custom, Wednesday of each week is dedicated to St. Joseph. The lineage of Mary's husband as the legal father of Jesus is traced in Matthew's gospel (1:18-25). Matthew sketches the confusion, humiliation and misery experienced by Joseph when he recognises that Mary is *with child*. This just man was simply, joyfully, and wholeheartedly obedient to God; in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth and in years of quiet faith and courage.
- Thursday 21st March – St. Enda (abbot)** Considered to be one of the three great late vocations (athlaech) of Ireland. His sister Faenche, a nun, set his thoughts on a religious vocation. He made a small foundation in Cell Aine, Co. Louth and after studies in Scotland under Ninian made several foundations in the Boyne valley. On Faenche's urging he went to Aran. Thought to have died in 520 and is considered as one of the early models of ascetic monasticism in Ireland.
- Saturday 23rd March – St. Turibius of Mongravejo (bishop) [1538-1606]** A layman when he was appointed archbishop of Lima, Peru by King Philip II. He combated all the abuses of the conquerors in Peru and built up the Church there.
- Sunday 24th March – St. Macartan (bishop)** Belongs to a very early generation of saints in Ireland and is recognised as the first 'Bishop of Clogher'. He is known as Patrick's 'Strong Man' for his dedication and faithfulness. [Not Celebrated this Year]