

## Diocese of Derry, Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone

Saint Patrick's Church  
Greencastle

Our Lady of the Wayside Church  
Broughderg

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2009

World Communications Day

The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

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### Liturgy Schedule for the Seventh Week of Easter. 25<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2009

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May Seventh Week of Easter	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May St. Philip Neri, priest	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May Seventh Week of Easter	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May Seventh Week of Easter	Brandywell Stadium, Derry Saint Patrick's	11.00am open-air Mass with Bishop Hegarty 8.00pm Mass for the DDS (members and benefactors)
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> May Seventh Week of Easter	Saint Patrick's	10.00am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May Feast of Pentecost	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' 11:00am Mass: (Nora O'Neill – 8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

### Praying the Rosary during the Month of May

During the month of May members of the Legion of Mary supported by others in our congregation will lead us praying the Rosary **30 minutes before** the beginning of Mass each day. Please join them or make the Rosary your special family prayer for the final six days of this month. **Thank you for your commitment**

### Confession Schedule

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Saint Patrick's	5:30pm (before Vigil Mass)
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Our Lady of the Wayside	8:30am (before Mass)

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£985** and the further **£250** for the Diocesan Purposes Collection.

**Sick and housebound** will be attended Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray this week for **John Donnelly, Enda McDermott** and **Martin O'Hagan** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Bishop Hegarty** extends an invitation to all children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the diocese this year to come to Brandywell Stadium in Derry for an open-air Mass on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am.**

**Dean Maguire College – 'X-Factor' Talent Competition:** The Dean 'X-Factor' talent competition takes place in the assembly hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. Admission is £3.00 and £1.00.

**Mission Awareness:** Fr. Joe McMennamin of the White Fathers will visit the parish for Mass next weekend.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; Psalm 103; Galatians 5:16-25;  
John 15:26-27, 16:12-15 (Lectionary I, page 601)

**Lotto Numbers:** 1, 8, 11, 16 (4 winners with 3 numbers – £15 each) **Next Jackpot:** £1,100

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock:** Bishop Hegarty asks for your support on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

(there will be no Lourdes Pilgrimage in 2009). The timetable is:

**2.30pm:** Anointing of those who are sick.

**3.00pm:** Concelebrated Mass with Bishop Hegarty.

**4.00pm:** Solemn Blessing of those who are sick, Benediction, Rosary and Procession to the Shrine.

A Bus will leave from Gortin, Greencastle and Mountfield.

To book seats with Pat McSwiggan call (028) 8164 7099 as soon as possible.

**Diocesan Youth Mass and Blessing for Young Drivers:** On Pentecost Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> May) in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry there will be a Diocesan Youth Mass and Blessing for Young Drivers at 7.00pm. All young drivers are invited to bring their license or car keys to this Mass for a special blessing. 'Rejoice', the Diocesan Youth Choir will lead the music and Bishop Hegarty will be the main celebrant. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre after Mass. **Everyone welcome.**

**Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, Co. Mayo:** The pilgrimage season continues until 11<sup>th</sup> October. See the poster on church notice boards or visit [knock-shrine.ie](http://knock-shrine.ie). Telephone 00353 94938 8100. Fax 00353 94938 8295. Also check out **Knock Summer Youth Festival** (23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July, 2009), book now! [knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival](http://knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival)

**Family Care Society – Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life?** Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families for children aged between 2 and 6 years and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you? Please contact the Family Care Society at (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592. **W:** [www.family-care-society.net](http://www.family-care-society.net) **E:** [email@family-care-society.org](mailto:email@family-care-society.org)

**This is an appeal on behalf of Family Care Society:** Family Care Society is a voluntary adoption agency with its roots in the Catholic Church and we provide an adoption service throughout all of Northern Ireland. A core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. These children are often from the care system and may have had a difficult start in life. We are experienced in finding families for these children but given the number of children being referred and their specific needs we are always looking for families to come forward. In October 2008 we wrote to you seeking your help in our recruitment of new adoptive families via advertising in your Sunday bulletin and we would like to thank you for the support you provided. It proved to be a very successful way of finding adoptive families. Given however our urgent need presently to find families for more young children, we are again respectfully asking for your help. We would be really grateful if you could include the following insertion in the Sunday bulletin.

*Anne O'Hagan (Assistant Chief Officer, Family Care Society, 1A Miller Street, Derry)*

**\*\*Derry Diocesan Society for sick & infirm priests:** 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges, by paying a one-time fee of **£20**. 2. Likewise, any person whosoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. These Masses go on all the time.

**Privileges of members – deceased:** 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (**this will take place in Our Lady of the Wayside on 29<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**).

2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. **Living:** 1. Mass will be offered each month, as listed on church notice board.

2. When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

### Prayer:

Risen Christ, through your Holy Spirit you remain in us always, and you enable us to remain in you. And you never cease reminding us that such a communion can last forever.

*Letter from Taizé*

### Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry – Upcoming Events:

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May** | Funday (contact (028) 71262512 during office hours)

### BADA An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May** | Usual fortnightly dance. Music by *Lakelanders*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May** | BADA Committee Meeting

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June** | Annual Guest tickets available from all committee members and Broughderg Post Office 02886751633

**New Technologies and Relationships: Respect and Dialogue (VATICAN CITY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JAN 2009 (VIS)):**

Made public today was the Holy Father's Message for the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Day of Social Communications, which will be celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> May and has as its theme: "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship". The Message, dated 24<sup>th</sup> January, Feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists, has been published in English, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German. Excerpts from the Message are given below: "The new digital technologies are bringing about fundamental shifts in patterns of communication and human relationships. ... In this year's message, I am conscious of those who constitute the so-called 'digital generation' and I would like to share with them, in particular, some ideas concerning the extraordinary potential of the new technologies, if they are used to promote human understanding and solidarity. These technologies are truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavour to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities, especially those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable". "Young people, in particular, have grasped the enormous capacity of the new media to foster connectedness, communication and understanding between individuals and communities, and they are turning to them as means of communicating with existing friends, of meeting new friends, of forming communities and networks, of seeking information and news, and of sharing their ideas and opinions". "The desire for connectedness and the instinct for communication that are so obvious in contemporary culture are best understood as modern manifestations of the basic and enduring propensity of humans to reach beyond themselves and to seek communion with others. In reality, when we open ourselves to others, we are fulfilling our deepest need and becoming more fully human. Loving is, in fact, what we are designed for by our Creator". "Reflecting on the significance of the new technologies, it is important to focus not just on their undoubted capacity to foster contact between people, but on the quality of the content that is put into circulation using these means. I would encourage all people of good will who are active in the emerging environment of digital communication to commit themselves to promoting a culture of respect, dialogue and friendship. "Those who are active in the production and dissemination of new media content, therefore, should strive to respect the dignity and worth of the human person. If the new technologies are to serve the good of individuals and of society, all users will avoid the sharing of words and images that are degrading of human beings, that promote hatred and intolerance, that debase the goodness and intimacy of human sexuality or that exploit the weak and vulnerable. "The new technologies have also opened the way for dialogue between people from different countries, cultures and religions. The new digital arena, the so-called cyberspace, allows them to encounter and to know each other's traditions and values. Such encounters, if they are to be fruitful, require honest and appropriate forms of expression together with attentive and respectful listening. The dialogue must be rooted in a genuine and mutual searching for truth if it is to realise its potential to promote growth in understanding and tolerance. Life is not just a succession of events or experiences: it is a search for the true, the good and the beautiful. It is to this end that we make our choices; it is for this that we exercise our freedom; it is in this - in truth, in goodness, and in beauty - that we find happiness and joy. We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by those who see us merely as consumers in a market of undifferentiated possibilities, where choice itself becomes the good, novelty usurps beauty, and subjective experience displaces truth. "The concept of friendship has enjoyed a renewed prominence in the vocabulary of the new digital social networks that have emerged in the last few years. The concept is one of the noblest achievements of human culture. ... We should be careful, therefore, never to trivialise the concept or the experience of friendship. It would be sad if our desire to sustain and develop on-line friendships were to be at the cost of our availability to engage with our families, our neighbours and those we meet in the daily reality of our places of work, education and recreation. If the desire for virtual connectedness becomes obsessive, it may in fact function to isolate individuals from real social interaction while also disrupting the patterns of rest, silence and reflection that are necessary for healthy human development."Friendship is a great human good, but it would be emptied of its ultimate value if it were to be understood as an end in itself. ... It is gratifying to note the emergence of new digital networks that seek to promote human solidarity, peace and justice, human rights and respect for human life and the good of creation. These networks can facilitate forms of co-operation between people from different geographical and cultural contexts that enable them to deepen their common humanity and their sense of shared responsibility for the good of all. "We must, therefore, strive to ensure that the digital world, where such networks can be established, is a world that is truly open to all. It would be a tragedy for the future of humanity if the new instruments of communication, which permit the sharing of knowledge and information in a more rapid and effective manner, were not made accessible to those who are already economically and socially marginalized, or if it should

contribute only to increasing the gap separating the poor from the new networks that are developing at the service of human socialisation and information. "I address myself in particular to young Catholic believers: to encourage them to bring the witness of their faith to the digital world. Dear brothers and sisters, I ask you to introduce into the culture of this new environment of communications and information technology the values on which you have built your lives". "The proclamation of Christ in the world of new technologies requires a profound knowledge of this world if the technologies are to serve our mission adequately. It falls, in particular, to young people ... to take on the responsibility for the evangelisation of this 'digital continent'. Be sure to announce the Gospel to your contemporaries with enthusiasm", "The greatest gift you can give to them is to share with them the 'Good News' of a God Who became man, Who suffered, died and rose again to save all people. Human hearts are yearning for a world where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth, and where identity is found in respectful communion. Our faith can respond to these expectations: may you become its heralds! The Pope accompanies you with his prayers and his blessing".

**Reflection on Exams:** Exams are a test of knowledge or skill. They have their importance. However, they are not a measure of the worth of the individual. They indicate one aspect of us, but we are much more than any exam can show. Success or failure does not give the full measure of our worth. Each one of us is unique and precious with our own gifts and talents. God made us that way. God wants us to use those talents. Exams can be an anxious time. But remember, we are more than our exam results. We are loved for who we are, not for our achievements. God wants us to discover all our wonderful gifts. *Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Support Centre*

**Addiction – The first step in recovery:**

Learn from the past, plan for the future, live in the present

Dependence on alcohol, other drugs or gambling presents life threatening physical and mental health challenges for individuals, stress and relationship difficulties in families, financial problems for all concerned, educational issues for children and young people, deaths on roads and crime on our streets.

An honest response to the following questions will confirm evidence of addiction.

1. Have you ever felt you should cut down on your use of alcohol, other drugs or the time and money spent gambling?
2. Have people annoyed you by criticizing your dependence on alcohol, other drugs or the time and money spent on gambling?
3. Have you ever felt guilty about your dependence on alcohol, other drugs or on gambling?
4. Have you needed alcohol or other drug first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover?

If you are concerned about your dependence on alcohol, other drugs or gambling, staff in White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre (R.O.I Tel: (074) 9384 400 or N.I. Tel 00353 74938 4400) provide a confidential counselling service for individuals, couples or families. It has been said that a journey of 1000 Km begins with the first step, begin the journey into recovery today.

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 16:15-20:**

1. In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this he commissioned them to bring the Good News to the whole world. Witnesses to the Good News do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement to us in this. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?
2. Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bringing them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in ourselves and in God. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?
3. The ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he was with them in other ways. 'The Lord worked with them.' Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend, or an inspiring leader after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

*John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

**Questions people ask:**

Q. What does the Ascension add to the Resurrection of Jesus? Surely it means something more than his body floating up into the sky?

A. Forty days in the Bible is a block of time when something important is happening. These days from Easter to Ascension were an important transition period for the disciples. Jesus was no longer physically present with them but in various appearances he showed that he had not deserted them, and he prepared them to continue his mission. The Ascension, on the fortieth day, marks the closure of this period of transition. After some days of prayerful preparation they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit to commence their new mission.

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

**The Deep End – Strange Attraction:**

In his book, *Jesus Today*, Albert Nolan writes, 'It seems that systems of various kinds often exist in a state of chaos or, as they say, "on the edge of chaos," and then suddenly and unpredictably there emerges something called a "strange attractor" that rearranges the chaos into some new order.' Today, on the feast of the Ascension we celebrate not the arrival but the departure of the strange attractor: the Risen Lord.

Change 'systems' to 'individuals' above and you have many a person's life story. Confusion and doubt are necessary for intellectual and psychological growth. As Timothy Ferris writes in *Coming of Age in the Milky Way*, 'Yet it is turmoil and confusion and not calm assurance that mark the growth of the mind.'

Into our personal confusion steps the 'strange attractor'. As we flounder, his helping hand pulls us up and out of our confusion – not, however, on to a placid and permanent plateau, but to a higher level of confusion. No sooner are our feet placed firmly on Mother Earth than we are whisked to heights that make us dizzy. If our faith doesn't s-t-r-e-t-c-h our mind, we're not people of faith, but people of reason.

Belief in the Ascension should make us gasp. Do we realise what we're saying we actually believe in! First: that someone flatline dead didn't just revive and return to his former state but resurrected to a higher, super-human, everlasting one. Second: having done so, then 'ascended' to a totally new quantum-leap environment we call 'heaven'.

Wow! Wow! Wow! is all I can say.

*Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon (tomcee@eircom.net)*