



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



Ascension of the Lord [Year A] (24th May, 2020)

Thought for the Ascension: "Moses brought out of Egypt a timid nation, and in the space of forty years trained it to be full of valor for the task of conquering the promised land; Christ in forty days trains his apostles to be bold and patient instead of cowards. They mourned and wept at the beginning of the season, but at the end they are full of courage for the good fight; their spirits mount high with their Lord, and when he is received out of their sight, and their own trial begins, they return to Jerusalem with great joy, and are continually in the temple, praising and blessing God."
St. John Henry Newman

Liturgy Schedule for the Seventh Week of Easter [Year A] (24th May – 31st May)

Saturday 23rd May	Facebook Live	12 noon	Regina Coeli and Rosary
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass of the Ascension: John James Donnelly (23 rd Anniversary)
Sunday 24th May Ascension of the Lord [Year A]	Facebook Live	11.00am	Mass (Missa pro Populo)
		12 noon	Regina Coeli and Rosary
Monday 25th May	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass: Martin O'Hagan (15 th Anniversary)
		6.00pm	Adoration, Regina Coeli and Rosary before Eucharistic Walk (night 7)
Tuesday 26th May	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		6.00pm	Adoration, Regina Coeli and Rosary before Eucharistic Walk (night 8)
Wednesday 27th May	Facebook Live	5.00pm	Adoration
		6.45pm	Reflection and Benediction
		7.30pm	Mass
Thursday 28th May	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		6.00pm	Adoration, Regina Coeli and Rosary before Eucharistic Walk (night 9)
Friday 29th May	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		5.30pm	Parish Announcements
		6.00pm	Regina Coeli and Rosary
Saturday 30th May	Facebook Live	12 noon	Regina Coeli and Rosary
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 31st May Pentecost Sunday [Year A]	Facebook Live	11.00am	Mass (Missa pro Populo)
		12 noon	Regina Coeli and Rosary
		5.00pm	Pentecost Devotions (Trócaire)

Weekly Collection: £673

Thank you for your continued generosity

Remembering our Dead: We pray for the repose of the souls of **John James Donnelly (23rd)** and **Martin O'Hagan (15th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time and for all who have died due to Covid-19.

Church Reopening: During the course of this past week we have been preparing to put in place the necessary safeguards to allow for a safe reopening of our Parish Churches. At the beginning I pointed out that this could only take place if we had sufficient volunteers for the periodic cleaning of the church which would be necessary. Therefore I am able to announce that from Monday 25th May St. Patrick's Church will be open from 11.00am to 7.00pm each day and Our Lady of the Wayside from 11.00am to 7.00pm on Sunday, Monday and Saturday. For those visiting either church you are asked to follow the instructions on the posters inside including

One Way System: You are required to enter by the main porch and leave by the side porch

Hand Sanitiser: You must use the Hand Sanitiser entering and leaving the church

Seating: You may only use the benches indicated. When leaving please clean the bench, kneeler and surface in front.

Candles: Clean lighter before and after use

Social Distancing: At all times stay six feet away from the other people not of your household.

Your cooperation in these matters is vital to ensure we keep each other safe and keep our churches open for private prayer. This will be monitored and if not adhered to the church will have to be closed once more.

This is a small but important step forward. We look forward to the day when we can gather again for mass in some way.
Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP

Eucharistic Blessing Walk: I will be continuing our series of Eucharistic Blessing Walks this coming week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening. Thanks to all who came out for the blessing during the past week. It was very encouraging to witness. Like last week we will begin each evening at 6.00pm on Facebook Live from the Parochial House Oratory with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Regina Coeli and Rosary, a short period of silent Adoration and at 6.25pm an introduction to the route for the evening. I will carry a small monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament with me and silently bless each family as I pass by. As I will be carrying the Blessed Sacrament this walk will take place in silence, therefore I will not be stopping for a chat. As with the Rosary we will be seeking God's blessing on our parish and families and praying for our physical, spiritual and temporal well-being during these difficult times. Here are the routes for this week.
Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP

Monday 25th May Mullydoo Rd / Crockanboy Rd junction, left onto Blackbog Rd, left onto Gorticashel Rd, left onto Rock Rd, right onto Blackbog Rd, right onto Crockanboy Rd and the starting point.

Tuesday 26th May Broughderg Community Centre, Broughderg Rd, right onto Davagh Rd, left onto Blackrock Rd, left onto Broughderg Rd, right onto Davagh Rd, left onto Keerin Rd, left onto Broughderg Rd and the starting point.

Thursday 28th May Greencastle Rd (Jimmy Coyle's), left onto Barony Rd, left onto Leaghan Rd, left onto Cashel Rd and back to starting point.

Next Week's Readings: Acts 2:1-11 • Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34, R/ cf v 30 • 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23 • Lectionary 1:601 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Trócaire: Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at trocaire.org
2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)
4. As with your parish envelope please leave at Broughderg Post Office, St Patrick's Church Sacristy outside door postbox or the Parochial House. No boxes please.

Please also fill in Gift Aid details on envelope. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Virtual Pilgrimage: Bishop McKeown is inviting people to join him on Friday 29th May from St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, where he will lead his second 24 hour 'virtual pilgrimage', to fast and pray, asking God:

- to free us from this pandemic and to support those who are fighting it;
- to comfort those who have been afflicted with this pandemic; and
- to ask God for the wisdom to know how to live now and in the aftermath of the pandemic.

This time of prayer and penance at home will take its shape from core elements of the 3-day Lough Derg pilgrimage. The day will start with 6.00am Mass, Seven Stations through the 24 hour period and conclude Saturday 30th May with 6.00am Mass. You can follow and participate in the pilgrimage online at derrydiocese.org. A number of parishes across the diocese are participating from their own churches, and a Station from each of seven of these parishes will be live-streamed to the diocesan website (as well as their own parish website).

Full details of Mass, Station times and prayers are available at derrydiocese.org/news/day-of-prayer

Anniversary Masses and Names: As mass continues to be celebrated every day from the Parochial House Oratory it is still possible to request a mass for deceased loved ones. The mass can be offered as the intention for each day apart from Sunday which is Missa pro Populo (Mass for the People of the Parish). You can also continue to have the names of the deceased prayed for at the weekend masses and included in the Parish Bulletin Online / Facebook and in the restricted number of printed copies. Call Fr. Gallagher on (028) 8164 8474 or leave a note at the Parochial House or in the new letterbox on the side door of the Sacristy facing the road.

Regina Coeli Prayer: This prayer in honour of our Lady and our Lord to mark the Lord's Resurrection replaces the Angelus during the Easter Season which concludes on Pentecost Sunday.

Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia:

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

For He Whom you did merit to bear, alleluia,

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

Has risen as He said, alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, Who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Pope Francis' Intention for May (please remember this in your personal prayers)

For Deacons: We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Can't stop? There is a solution.

Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email csoofaa@btinternet.com. alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

Drink Wise, Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240

Accord Counselling Services: Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.

If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info

Epilepsy Action NI: Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury?

Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

Mid Ulster Agewell: Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Rural Support: We could help you with financial stress by

Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt
Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action

Email: info@ruralsupport.org.uk **Website:** ruralsupport.org.uk

To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.

Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk

Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.

If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure: If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.

If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting derryyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

KinderCare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:

Tel: (028) 90941690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration

12noon – 1.00pm Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life

1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage

2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people

4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth

6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

Red Cross: Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.

Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011

Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children – Use of Photography and Video:

The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.

Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of all to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

*From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the **Diocesan Safeguarding Committee***

Child Safeguarding: If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI / local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively, if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities. *See poster at entrance*

The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". *Pope St. John Paul II*

Towards Peace: A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free.

Website: towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@jecon.ie

Covid-19 – Notice: All GAA activities, card playing and community activities suspended until further notice

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):

Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies

Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)

A Prayer for Now: God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association: Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the Covid-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call. *For up to date info and advice visit www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus*

Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741 Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996 Briega Beggs: 07799 058 273

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	Weddings	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	Deaths and Burials	11

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

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Deanery of Tyrone Statistics

17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.

8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000

6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people

3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people

The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics

7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?

In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.

The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.

Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s

The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

Family Care Adoption Services *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*

For free info contact us **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)
Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk