



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year B] (24th December, 2017)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474

Thought for Christmas: "In switching on the light of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the crib."
Pope Francis

Liturgy Schedule for the Fourth Week of Advent [Year B] (Sunday 24th December – Sunday 31st December)

Saturday 23rd December St. John of Kanty (priest)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass: Peter Daly (5 th Anniversary) 7.30pm Carol Service • 8.00pm Vigil Mass
Monday 25th December Solemnity of the Christmas Nativity	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass 11.00am Mass
Please note that there will be NO MASS on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th December There will also be NO ADORATION on Wednesday 27th December		
Thursday 28th December Holy Innocents	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass
Friday 29th December St. Thomas Becket (pope)	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass: Harry Donaghy (1 st Anniversary)
Saturday 30th December	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 31st December Holy Family [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass

Weekly Collection: £990 *Thank you for your continued generosity*

Remembering Our Dead: At this time of year we remember and pray for all who have died since last Christmas. We also pray for the repose of the souls of **Harry Donaghy (1st)** and **Peter Daly (5th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time

Christmas and New Year's Message: As Christmas comes around once more may I simply take this opportunity to pray that all our parishioners both at home and abroad may receive the graces and blessings of celebrating the birth of our Saviour. I thank all who contribute so much of their time and energy to make this parish the special place that it is. On a personal level can I acknowledge all of you who have continued to be so kind, welcoming and generous to me. I pray that as we approach the New Year and look forward to a possible visit from Pope Francis to our country for the World Meeting of Families in August that our families and parish family may be strengthened during 2018.
 Nollaig Shona agus Athbhlian faoi mhaise daoibh. *Fr. Edward Gallagher PP / An t-Athair Eamonn O'Gallchoir SP*

Broughderg Old Cemetery: Some time in the early part of the New Year an operation will begin to remove trees both on the periphery of and within the Broughderg Old Cemetery. Many of these trees have been causing some difficulty at various graves and keeping them neat and tidy has also been troublesome for families. Some of the trees have also become dangerously tall and could cause damage if they were to fall. This is going to be a costly operation and is the first stage of a 3-stage scheme. Stage 2 will include drainage and stage 3 some pathways. Some additional fundraising will be required and we look forward to organising some such events in due course

Trocaire's Christmas Appeal – Until Love Conquers Fear: Raising money to support people all over the developing world who face fear every day of their lives – like the fear of not being able to feed their children or the fear of having to flee their homes because of conflict. *To find out more visit trocaire.org*
 "In love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear..." *John 4:18*

Next Week's Readings: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 • Psalm 104:1-6,8-9, R/ vv 7, 8
 Hebrews 18:11-12, 17-19 • Luke 2:22-40 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Parish Liturgy for January, 2018	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Mary Slane	Siobhan McKenna	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	Kyra Donnelly	Erin Hood	Cara-Rose Brogan
Collectors	Mary Bradley Patrick McElhatton	Eoghan Clarke Seamus Keenan	Sean McKenna Tony Donnelly
Altar Society	Mary McNamee, Patta McDermott and Mary McCrory		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Sunday 24 th December The family of Katie Donnelly	Solemnity of the Christmas Nativity	Monday 25 th December (11.00am) The family of Maebh Warnock
Saturday 30 th December The family of Leah Fox	Feast of the 64 Holy Family	Sunday 31 st December The family of Sorcha Hughes
Saturday 23 rd December The family of Marcus Conway	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 24 th December The family of Trea Clarke
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented		

Road Gritter: Recently a Gritter salting the road in Greencastle was pelted with snowballs and as a consequence vehicle glass was broken. Whilst this may be thought of as harmless fun it can have serious consequences. Gritter drivers have a difficult job and snowballing their vehicle is not acceptable. Further damage could impact the gritting service for the area. *Road gritting is a valuable and much appreciated service*

Greencastle Community Association – Christmas Hooley: Thursday 28th December			
Mini Disco From 6.00pm	Dancing to 5 Star Country From 7.00pm onward	Duff Balloons, crafts and bouncy castle	Bar and tuck shop open Adults £10 Under 18s free
Greencastle 5 Mile Road Run • Tuesday 26 th December • 10.30am walk • 12noon run • £12 entry fee Enter online at greencastle5.com • Proceeds in aid of Care for Cancer • Call 07767 718 029 to find out more			

Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH): Anyone wishing to join must email tyronecountyboardaoh1@yahoo.com.
We will pass your information onto your nearest or preferred AOH Division

Seisiún na Nollag: Join us for our New Year's Night Session with music by Francie Sheridan and Sheila McElhinny. "In Session" in the Teach Ceoil at Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre. A free event with music starting at 9.30pm.

ASPIRE: Kickstart your career for the new year with the launch of new learning and training opportunities. ASPIRE provide assistance to anyone aged 16 years old and over who is currently unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week and is seeking paid work. The ASPIRE programme is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.
For further information on the ASPIRE Programme, please contact the Omagh Office on (028) 8224 6535 or the Enniskillen Office on (028) 6632 6478. Alternatively, you can find us on Facebook

Green Elves Playgroup – Bingo Club: Every Wednesday at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.30pm).

Family Care Adoption Services: We are seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children
 For a free information pack contact us using any of the following details
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 / (028) 7136 8592 • **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk

World Meeting of Families 2018 Prayer

God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray [PAUSE AND REMEMBER FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHERS BY NAME].
 Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen. Mary, mother and guide, pray for us. Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.
 Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us. Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us

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

The Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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

Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday

Sean-Nós and Set Dancing 6.00pm to 7.00pm • **Singing in Irish** 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels 8.00pm to 9.30pm

Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** 07747 899 249

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ACCORD – Relationship Counseling: A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.

An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com

Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:

All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness

For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows.

St. Patrick's: Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass

First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding

Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass on request after Mass

Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass on request after Mass

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

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

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

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

MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas): Find out if you're missing out on benefits, services or grants by booking your FREE home visit. Referrals can be made for benefits checks, home safety visits, occupational therapy assessments as well as others. You'll also receive a FREE bag containing £25 worth of items to help keep you warm this winter.

Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book

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*

St. Joseph's Primary School, Galbally – Seated Concert with Philomena Begley *In aid of school funds*
Monday 26th February in Galbally Community Centre. Guest appearances from the elites of country music.

Tickets are £20 and are available now from the following places.

St. Joseph's Primary School • Mace Shop, Galbally and Pomeroy • Donna's Hair Studio • Gene Stewarts Music Shop, Dungannon

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

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme.

If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office

Email: t.mcmenamain@derrydiocese.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 2302 • **Website:** catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

Children in Crossfire Recruitment – Office Based Volunteer and Parish-Based Volunteers for Advent:

Please call (028) 7126 9898 or email shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org as soon as possible

By volunteering together we can make a difference! Thank you.

Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm: If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.

Address: IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal

Tel: (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • **Website:** celticprayergarden.com • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2018

Thursday 2nd February at 7.30pm Service of Light (Primary 7 Children and Families)	Thursday 8th March at 7.00pm First Confession (Primary 4 Children and Families)
Sunday 22nd April at 2.00pm Confirmation	Saturday 19th May at 12 noon First Holy Communion
Saturday 30th June at 6.00pm in St. Patrick's Cemetery Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead	
Sunday 1st July at 11.00am Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead followed by Broughderg Old Cemetery	

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 25th December – The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS

Today the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,

when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

the whole world being at peace,

Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,

desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,

being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception,

was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary,

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Tuesday 26th December – St. Stephen (first martyr) The first Christian martyr, was one of the disciples who was in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for forgiveness of his enemies. Patron Saint of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

Wednesday 27th December – St. John (Apostle and Evangelist) John was the brother of James, son of Zebedee. The disciple whom Jesus loved, is traditionally said to have died in Ephesus. He is considered to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the book of Revelation and three letters. The letters especially teach us the law of love; John is said in his old age to have preached only one message: 'love one another'.

Thursday 28th December – Holy Innocents Also called Childermas, or Innocents' Day, festival commemorating the massacre of the children by King Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus.

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

Sunday 31st December – Holy Family Celebrates the human family unit, as well as the ultimate family unit of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Usually celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. If Christmas is a Sunday, then the feast is celebrated on 30th December.

St. Sylvester (pope) Died in 335 after being Pope for 21 years. Being elected in the year after the Edict of Milan he was free to build many churches in Rome.

2016 PARISH STATISTICS

Baptisms (18) 7 Boys 11 Girls	First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (16) 10 Boys 6 Girls	Confirmations (21) 10 Boys 11 Girls
Marriages (16) 7 within parish 9 outside parish	Funerals (10) 8 within parish 2 outside parish	Station Masses in October 8
Events The death of retired Bishop of Derry Most Rev. Dr. Edward Daly is announced on Monday 8 th August Mass with Padre Pio Relic Celebrated in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday 5 th October		

Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour: Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers.

Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28: John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know about Jesus but do we know him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?
2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

The Deep End – Born on the Margins:

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a shocking way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news, as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. So the fact that God would send his messenger there is controversial in itself. Galilean Jews were considered to be less faithful than others, so it is ironic that in this particular situation Mary's response is the exact opposite. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times. On the first Sunday of Advent we were invited to 'keep awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this Advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God present this Advent? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again?

Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh – this time, within me – as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago. *Edward Hays*