



**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
**St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Second Sunday of Lent [Year B] (25<sup>th</sup> February, 2018)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474



**Thought for Lent:** "You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun." *St. Josemaría Escrivá*

Liturgy Schedule for Second Week of Lent [Year B] (Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February – Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March)			
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Maggie Bradley (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> Second Sunday of Lent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.45am</b>	Mass • <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon to 7.20pm</b> <b>7.00pm to 7.20pm</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	Adoration Confessions Mass: Jim and Rose McGurk (21 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversaries)
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confessions until <b>11.00am</b>
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.45am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	Mass Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <i>Do This in Memory (week 7)</i>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	Mass followed by Confessions until <b>11.00am</b> Vigil Mass: Rose Morris (8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> Third Sunday of Lent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass

**Weekly Collection:** £1,170 *Thank you for your generosity*  
**World Meeting of Families:** A second collection after communion for the World Meeting of Families gathering in Dublin in August will take place on this weekend.  
*Please be as generous as possible to support preparations for this important event in the life of the church in Ireland*

**Baptism:** We welcome into God's family **Holly Alice McGarvey** who entered in to the family of God and the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February in St. Patrick's Church and congratulate her parents, godparents and family circle at this time of joy.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary Fox (Formil)** who was buried this week and for **Maggie Bradley (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jim Kirk (21<sup>st</sup>) and Rose Kirk (3<sup>rd</sup>)** whose anniversaries occur at this time

**Sick and Housebound:** Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at times indicated last month.

**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 free sessions are offered  
**Website:** towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@iecon.ie

**Vocations Information Day – Information Evening:** Bishop Donal invites men to an information evening offering an opportunity to explore the call to Diocesan Priesthood on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.  
**Address:** Parochial House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP  
 Enquiries can be made via the Diocesan Vocations Director: Fr Paul Farren  
**Tel:** (028) 71264087 • **Email:** dccc@derrydiocese.org • Fr Gallagher would be happy to provide transport for anyone interested

**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*  
**Accord Marriage Preparation Course (2018 / 2019):** 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May • 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June • 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June *accord-ni.co.uk*

**Pope Francis' Intention for March (please remember this in your personal prayers)**  
**Evangelisation – Formation in Spiritual Discernment:** That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

**Next Week's Readings:** Exodus 20:1-17 • Psalm 18:8-11, R/ • John 6:68 • 1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
 John 2:13-25 • Lectionary 1:251 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Parish Liturgy for March, 2018	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Roisin Scullion	Orla Scullion	Brendan/Helen McKenna
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	Michaela Gillen	Rosemary McCullagh	Colleen Brogan
<b>Collectors</b>	Megan Coyle Orla Coyle	Ronan Hollywood Patrick Tuohy	Brendan Daly Patrick McGuigan
<b>Altar Society</b>	Maria Morris, Kathleen Tracey, Louise O'Brien and Alannah Coyle		Ann McDermott, Martina McBride, Lucy-Marie McCrory and Leanne Morris

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February • <b>Aine McNamee</b>	Second Sunday of Lent	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February • <b>Séan Og Teague</b>
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March • <b>Aoibheann McNamee</b>	Third Sunday of Lent	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March • <b>Amy McGurk</b>
<i>If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented</i> <b>*Do This in Memory Programme (Week 7)</b> We need new volunteers in every aspect of life		

**Lenten Talk with guest speaker Mickey Harte – *The Family, Where We Learn, We Belong:***  
 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Rouskey.  
 Mickey Harte is a man who needs no introduction. A husband, father, brother, teacher, football manager and strategist and above all, a man of deep faith and integrity. His personal witness to hope has helped him, his family, his county and many communities to take both triumph and tribulation in their stride.  
 He draws his inspiration and strength from God through prayer and encourages others to do likewise.

**Cursillo – 3-Day Residential Weekend for Women at the Carmelite Retreat Centre in Termonbacca, Derry**  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March *For more information call 07708 066 939 or 07841 100 174*

**Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends**  
 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry  
*If you have a child wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Communion at this Mass call 0044 28 7126 4087*

**Owenkillew Play Actors – *Thy Will Be Done (by Michael Carey)*:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm in St. Joseph's Hall, Omagh. A very humorous play with a serious background. *£7 admission (pay at door)*

**Gaeltacht Summer Course:** If anyone (adult or child) is interested in attending to learn Irish please call Sinéad Warnock on 07849 394 001 and she will keep you updated on Scholarship opportunities. Ulster ladies currently have some available and the deadline for applications is Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**An Caisleán Glas Agus Sperrin Óg – Adult Registration:** *Everyone must attend to complete the new registration form*  
 Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February from 6.45pm to 7.45pm and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 9.45am to 10.45am. £35 per adult

**Cappagh / Badoney CCE – *Cherish the Ladies Concert*:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September in Mellon Country Hotel. *Tickets (€5)*  
*For more info call Tom Blee on 07704 526 870*

**ACCORD NI Catholic Marriage Care Service – Information Night:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm in the Accord Suite, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street, Omagh. We are recruiting counsellors and facilitators in the Omagh area.  
**Tel:** (028) 8224 2439 • **Email:** omagh@accordni.com

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

**Emma Hood Health and Fitness – 5-Week Bootcamp:** Begins Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 8.15pm.  
 Suitable for all ages and abilities • £20 payable on registration • To book call Emma on 07881 345 003

**Rouskey Community Centre – Card Making Workshop with Angela Rafferty:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Make your own personal cards for any celebration coming up. includes 3 cards and guidance of the tutor. *£10 • For more info call Bridie on 07591 047 556*

**South West College – Open Days:** Come along to learn about the excellent courses on offer.  
 Meet with the lecturers, talk to current students and view the brilliant facilities and equipment on site.  
*Both are Tuesdays from 2.00pm to 8.00pm*  
**Enniskillen Campus 27<sup>th</sup> February • Dungannon Campus 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**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

**Precious Life – Rally to “Save the 8<sup>th</sup>”:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Join thousands from across Ireland in support of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Irish Constitution that protects unborn babies. Coaches will be travelling to the rally from towns across NI. *For more info call the Rally for Life Committee on (028) 9027 8484 or click on rallyforlife.net*

**Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:**  
All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness  
*For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email michellemcginn@foylehospice.com*

**ACCORD – Relationship Counseling:** A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.  
*An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing omagh@accordni.com*

**Beginning Experience – Weekend Away for a Lifetime of Change:** The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March in Drumalis, Larne. The Support group continues Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm in St. Bride’s Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast.  
*To find out more call Phil on (028) 9020 7645, Marie on 07896 119 669 or email bebelfast@hotmail.com*

**Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Cost £669  
**Address:** 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ • **Email:** derrypilgrim@outlook.com • **Tel:** (028) 7126 0293  
**Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 11.00am to 1.00pm from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

**String Instrument Music Lessons:** Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall  
For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent  
**Beginners:** 6.00pm to 6.45pm • **Advanced:** 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place

**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

**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 • **Online:** familycaresociety.co.uk

**Red Cross:** Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.  
*Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011*

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

**ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training**  
To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.  
**Omagh Office:** (028) 8224 6535 • **Enniskillen Office:** (028) 6632 6478 • **Facebook:** Aspire Employability Programme  
*The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy*

**Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre – Traditional Music and Singing Classes:**  
Every Tuesday night. Why not learn an instrument or a song or two in 2018?  
*For details and booking call (028) 8224 2777 or visit dunuladh.ie*

**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*

**Institute of Irish Leadership – Upcoming Events** Email: kathleenburnsill@gmail.com • **Tel:** (028) 8775 7800  
**International** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> / Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 10 30am. Second-hand books, old magazines, cuttings from  
**Women’s Day:** local newspapers and old music tapes / LP’s wanted. Volunteers wanted for reading groups etc.  
**Walking Group:** Meet every Monday in Pomeroy Forest Car Park, 11.00am-12.00pm  
**Month’s Mind Masses:** Now taking bookings for light refreshments afterwards

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages:** 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person  
Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service  
*To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com*

**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*

**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@iecon.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*

**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*

**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

## DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2018

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> St. Patrick's Day		
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.00pm</b>
First Confession (Primary 4 Children and Families)	Easter Sunday	Confirmation
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon</b>	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August in Dublin</b>	
First Holy Communion	World Meeting of Families	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm in St. Patrick's Cemetery</b>		
Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead		
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 11.00am Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside</b>		
Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead followed by Broughderg Old Cemetery		

**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*

**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

**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*

**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

**This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March – St. Casimir [1458-1484]** Strove to promote peace and the unity of Western Europe. Though a young prince he chose a life of prayer and penance. Patron Saint of Poland.

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

**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

## 2017 PARISH STATISTICS

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

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Mark 9:2-10:** *John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)*

1. Some special spiritual experiences are well nigh impossible to describe in words. The Transfiguration was one of these. Jesus had a new and deeper insight into his relationship with his heavenly Father, one that would sustain him through what lay ahead of him. Have you had WOW moments that you found hard to describe to others? How have these sustained you in difficult times?
2. It can be both scary and wonderful to witness transformation in another, especially a person who is close. At times parents get a taste of this when a child's talent blossoms and is recognised by the child. We may also experience it when a dear friend recognises s/he is in a blind alley and gives up an addiction.
3. 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him.' Peter, James and John were particularly close to Jesus but they were not good at listening to Jesus, especially when he spoke of the painful road of servant discipleship. Jesus is the one we must listen to, even when his message is hard to hear, for it is in this message we find life. When have you found this to be true?
4. Strangely, this instruction came to the disciples when they were confused and 'in a cloud'. Perhaps you recall a moment of insight coming to you at a time when you were confused.

**Musings:** *Michael Conway (The Furrow) [September, 2017]*

For some we [priests] are the doorkeepers of a living tradition of faith-life that responds to the most powerful human commitment of all – namely, to the transcendent, to the absolute, to God. In this we might even be regarded as figures of holiness, generosity, paternal care, sanctity, virtue, benevolence, devotion, and so on. For others, however, we are viewed in an entirely different way: and we can be treated as power mongers, control freaks, and even parasites that belong to another time and to another world ... It is not easy to stand in a place that can evoke such diverse and powerful human reactions. There must be something visceral and, indeed, extraordinary about our lives, when others can see us through lenses of such polar opposition, and when they can project such powerful human sentiments onto us... In our culture we stand in the strangest of places, and we need, I believe, to understand this and our relationship to the institution that is the Church if we are to remain relatively at peace.

**The Deep End – Transfiguration:** *Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)*

Can you recall a time when you had an 'aha moment'? One of those moments when something suddenly makes perfect sense to you. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of a jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from prayer or spiritual practice. These are really special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but something in us changes. These 'aha' moments even move us outside of ourselves or beyond ourselves in some way. They are moments of transfiguration. This is what is happening to the disciples in today's gospel: a very deep and significant 'aha moment'. Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request, after such an occurrence of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment? As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountaintop. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter may have had in mind. No doubt these moments of transfiguration strengthen us all for walking the more difficult paths.