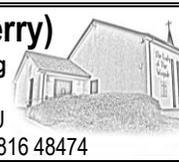


Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)


St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (25th July, 2021)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the Week: "In the millennia since Christ walked with us on this Earth, we've often tried to box up the "wind" [of the Spirit] in manageable doctrines. We've exchanged the fire of the Spirit for the ice of religious pride. We've turned the wine back into water, and then let the water go stagnant and lukewarm. We've traded the gentle dove of peace for the predatory hawk or eagle of empire. When we have done so, we have ended up with just another religious system, as problematic as any other: too often petty, argumentative, judgmental, cold, hostile, bureaucratic, self-seeking, an enemy of aliveness."
Brian McLaren

| | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|--|
| Saturday 24th July | St. Patrick's | 6.00pm | Vigil Mass: Jimmy Daly (5 th Anniversary) |
| Sunday 25th July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [B] | St. Patrick's | 11.00am | Mass |

There will be NO MASS from Monday 26th to Friday 30th July
Adoration will continue Wednesday 28th July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

| | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|---|
| Saturday 31st July | St. Patrick's | 6.00pm | Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 1st August Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [B] | St. Patrick's | 11.00am | Mass: Gerard Coyle (10 th Anniversary) |

Parish Anniversary Notices: Any further anniversary notices for next weekend's masses (31st July and 1st August) should be left with the mass celebrant before the mass. Any notices left on the parish phone, email and at the Parochial House after this weekend may not be picked up for reading out at mass. *Thank you for your cooperation*

Remembering Our Dead: Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the family, friends and neighbours of the late **Jimmy Coyle (Binnefreaghan and Greencastle Road)**. May God grant comfort and give strength to all who mourn at this time. We also pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Jimmy Daly (5th)** whose anniversary occurs at this time and all our deceased relatives, friends and neighbours.

The Lough Derg Pilgrim Path on the Lough Shore: Open daily. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option. Several info boards highlight features of particular interest. *Leaflets available at Visitors Centre*

Guided Walk Experience: Sunday 25th and Saturday 31st July with Mass outdoors weather permitting. *Further dates for late August and early September will follow*
 For bookings and further info email info@loughderg.org or call 0(0353) 71 9861518
loughderg.org Lough Derg Pilgrim Path, Pettigo, Co Donegal. F94 N289

Giving Thanks for Summer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. *Amen*

Pope Francis' Intention for August (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Evangelisation – The Church: Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Next Week's Readings: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15 • Psalm 77:3-4, 23-25, 54, R/ v 24 • Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
 John 6:24-35 • Lectionary 1:782 **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Townland Mass Rota

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 24th July | St. Patrick's | 6.00pm | Binnefreaghan, Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South |
| Sunday 25th July | St. Patrick's | 11.00am | Formil |
| Saturday 31st July | St. Patrick's | 6.00pm | Teebane East, Aughminacrorry, Muninamale, Aughascribba, Alworries |
| Sunday 1st August | Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's | 9.00am 11.00am | Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy, Coneyglen Sheskinshule, Crockanboy |

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

The Deep End – Take a Break: *Triona Doherty (trionad@gmail.com)*

We meet Jesus today in a situation of need. The crowds have followed him and they are hungry. Jesus challenges his disciples to provide a meal for them. When they object that they don't have enough money, and only a tiny amount of food, Jesus uses what they have to pull off a remarkable feat (and feast).

For us, this Gospel might bring to mind the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers who experience hunger and hardship today. We are left in no doubt about our obligation to protect and care for those in need, just as Jesus provided for the hungry crowds. This feeding account also has the elements of a Eucharistic meal, with Jesus taking the food, giving thanks, and distributing it to everyone. Jesus doesn't produce this meal from nothing, but transforms what the disciples provide into a blessing for many.

Sharing in Eucharist means sharing our resources. It means ensuring people are not left to fend for themselves in crisis situations. When we receive the body of Jesus, it is a gift of love. But if we do not give and love in return, we are wasting the gift. Where people are in need, it is our responsibility, as followers of Jesus, to share and to provide. God will provide beyond our imagining, no matter how little we think we have to give, but we're invited to take the first step.

If there is hunger anywhere in the world, then our celebration of the Eucharist is somehow incomplete everywhere in the world... We cannot properly receive the Bread of Life unless at the same time we give the bread of life to those in need wherever and whoever they may be.
Pedro Arrupe SJ

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 to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

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

Preparing Our Parishes for the Future: This week I share an overview of the Diocese of Derry up until 2018. The situation has changed little in the three years since with one ordination and one further priest from the Syro-Malabar community working in the Diocese. This survey of Irish Dioceses was taken in April, 2018 by the Irish Examiner:

"The Derry Diocese has 51 parishes with 76 priests. Nine priests have left ministry in the past five years. Eight new priests have entered ministry in the Diocese in the same period — and includes seven ordinations for the diocese. There have been no changes with regard to parish configuration over the past decade and "nothing significant" with regard to any alterations to Mass schedules or carrying out services such as weddings and baptisms. According to a spokesperson: "Focus is strategically changing from 'how do the laity help the priest to do his work' to 'how do the clergy prepare the laity to do their work in a missionary Church'. The Derry diocese has only two priests from overseas, one serving as chaplain to the Polish community and one serving the Syro-Malabar community, and has no plans to bring priests from overseas to take up full-time parish appointments."

In sharing this with you it places in context the challenge facing the Bishop in trying to ensure each parish has a resident priest. However what this survey doesn't tell us is the large number of retirements which are expected in the next five to ten years. While we continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood we also need parishioners to step up to assist where possible in the years ahead. This is the challenge for us here in the parishes of Greencastle and Badoney Lower in the near future.
Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP

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 call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Catholic Engaged Encountered – Online Marriage Preparation Course via Zoom:
Planned for Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship.
For more information and to book call (028) 2763 8512 or visit marriageencounter.ie

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

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

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)

SUSE+ New Courses: Are you currently unemployed? SUSE+ can offer help and support to get into further education, training and employment. We complete job searches, CV building, interview preparation. Mentors work 1-to-1 with participants to help secure opportunities in the local area. New courses include Foundation Skills in Working with Children, Personal Success and Wellbeing, Digital Skills, Progression to Employment, Customer Service, Money Management and Business Administration.
For more information email tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk or call 074 3653 3475

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

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

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

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

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.

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham
Masters in Catholic School Leadership: This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn, 2021.
For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

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

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*

Prayer for the End of the Virus: Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an end of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities, that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. *Amen*

Barnardo's NI – Can You Foster? Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support.
To learn more call (028) 9065 2288 or visit barnardos.org.uk/foster

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.

What is Spiritual Communion? It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

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%

Radio Maria Ireland: An Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies based at St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. If you are not already a follower of the station Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family! Prayer / song requests welcome. "A Catholic voice in your home". Fr Eamonn McCarthy is Director.

You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:
 Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210 / Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)
 Download FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"
 Streaming on radiomarie.ie (subscribe and donate here also)
 'Listen Live Radio' link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)
 Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).

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*

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

Certificate in Christian Thought: Drumalis Retreat Centre, in association with St. Mary's University College, Belfast, invites applications for this two-year, part-time, intensive course which begins in September 2021. The course will be delivered over 7 Saturdays in each of two successive years, from 10.00am to 4.30pm. The Certificate in Christian Thought programme aims to offer a space where adults can explore, reflect upon, discuss and study faith and how it relates to life in today's world, both at a personal and community level. During the course, participants will cover topics on Spirituality, Pastoral Theology, The Eucharist, Living the Christian Life, The Sacraments, The Scriptures, Where in the World is God? And much more.

Full details are available at derrydiocese.org/news/certificate-in-christian-thought

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 25th July – St. James (apostle) James, son of Zebedee and brother of John, was put to death by Herod Agrippa about the year 44, being the first of the Apostles to die for Christ. His shrine is at Compostela in Spain.

Thursday 29th July – St. Martha Sister of Lazarus and Mary, is a woman of faith who made her profession of faith in Christ as the son of God and in the resurrection. In welcoming a guest we welcome Christ; we show our Christian spirit of service; and we ready ourselves to be welcomed as guests in the Kingdom of God.

Sunday 1st August – St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori (bishop and doctor of the Church) [1696-1787] Founder of the Redemptorist Congregation, taught much on moral theology and the spiritual life. He is remembered as a popular preacher and influential writer of theology.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel: *John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)*

- At the heart of this story we are told that Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them. In our day this reminds us of the Eucharist, the bread of life, with which Jesus feeds us. Can you recall an experience of Eucharist that was especially significant for you? What was it that made it different? How did it influence your understanding of the Eucharist?
- Take, give thanks, distribute. The actions of Jesus also suggest an attitude to time, gifts and living. We take what we are given, give thanks, and use what we have. Have you found that having a grateful heart for what you have been given has made it easier for you to share with others?
- From what seemed meagre and inadequate resources many were fed. When have you found that when you gratefully use what little resources you have the results are beyond your expectations?
- Jesus chose to involve those around him in feeding the people. Have there been times when you have experienced benefits from calling on those around you to use their gifts to help with a task?

| 2019 | PARISH STATISTICS | 2020 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls | Baptisms | (17) 8 Boys • 9 Girls |
| (25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls | First Communion | (11) 4 Boys • 7 Girls |
| (16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls | Confirmation | (14) 7 Boys • 7 Girls |
| 1 within parish • 6 outside parish | Weddings | 0 within parish • 1 outside parish |
| 11 | Deaths and Burials | 8 |