



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ [Year B] (25th December, 2011)
The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474 **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



| Liturgy Schedule for the Christmas Octave [Year B] (25 th December, 2011 – 1 st January, 2012) | | |
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| Saturday Evening (24th December) | St. Patrick's | 7.30pm Carol Service 8:00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 25th December The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ [Year B] | Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's | 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass |
| Monday 26th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Tuesday 27th December St. John (Apostle and evangelist) | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Wednesday 28th December The Holy Innocents (martyrs) | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Thursday 29th December St. John of Kanty (priest) | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Friday 30th December Fifth Day after Christmas | St. Patrick's | 8.00pm Mass: Maureen Morris (1 st Anniversary) |
| Saturday 31st December Sixth Day after Christmas | St. Patrick's | 10.00am Mass |
| Saturday Evening (31st December) | St. Patrick's | 5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 1st January Mary the Mother of God [Year B] | St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside | 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass |

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£750**.
Please support your community by using your envelope, even if you must attend Mass outside your parish.
Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.
Please remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more to your parish.

Invitation to Mass: If you are a homemaker, not presently working or are retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily during Advent, this is the best way to prepare for Christmas.

Sick and housebound: These will be attended **Monday 2nd January**. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

Baptisms: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family **Peter Tomas Fox** who was baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptised and his parents and godparents prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Maureen Morris, Frank Conway** and **Margaret Donnelly**, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for January (please remember these in your personal prayer)
General: Victims of Natural Disasters: That victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.
Missionary: Dedication to Peace: That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will.

Next Sunday's Readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66:2-3, 5, 6, 7, 8, r/v2; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21;
(Lectiory I, page 139) (Sunday: Year B) (Weekday: Year 2)

Lotto Results: A – G – K – O – V (3 people with 3 letters – £20 each) **Next Jackpot:** £6,500

| Parish Liturgy for January, 2012 | St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) | St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass) | Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass) |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Readers | John Enright | Nuala Glass | Sean Clarke |
| Prayers of the Faithful | Ciaran Tuohey | Lucy Hood | Volunteer needed |
| Eucharistic Ministry | Brigid Keenan | Eugene McCullagh | Patricia Donnelly |
| Collectors | Margaret Morris Michael McNamee | Mickey Beggs Cathal Keenan | Tony Donnelly Brendan Daly |
| Altar Society | Mary Conway, Mary Meenan and Brenda Conway | | Anne McDermott Mary Bradley |
| Thank you for all you do in our community, anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries must make it known | | | |

| 6.00pm Saturday Vigil | Offertory Gifts Rota | 9.00am Sunday Morning |
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| <u>Saturday 24th December</u> The family of Caitlin Clarke | Feast of Christmas | <u>Sunday 25th January</u> The family of Megan Coyle |

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| <u>Saturday 31st December</u> The family of Joseph Warnock | Mary the Mother of God | <u>Sunday 1st January</u> The family of Alannah Coyle |
| <u>Saturday 7th January</u> The family of Niamh Tracey | Feast of the Baptism of the Lord | <u>Sunday 8th January</u> The family of Aidan Conway |
| <u>Saturday 14th January</u> The family of Kieran Mullholland | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | <u>Sunday 15th January</u> The family of Rachael Clarke |
| <u>Saturday 21st January</u> The family of David Morris | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | <u>Sunday 22nd January</u> The family of Ciaran Bradley |
| <u>Saturday 28th January</u> The family of Stephan Meenan | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | <u>Sunday 29th January</u> The family of Orla Warnock |
| As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task. | | |

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Sunday 1st – Friday 6th July): Gift vouchers are available from the Thornhill Centre ((028) 7135 1233) and The Diocesan Pastoral Centre ((028) 7136 2475).
Vouchers can be used as part or full payment

Trócaire: You are invited to give someone special in your life a very special gift this Christmas by choosing from their offer of the nine life-changing gifts.
A leaflet is available at the church door

Do This In Memory of Me – Our Parish's First Holy Communion Preparation Programme:
Our next gathering will be at the Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Saturday 14th January).

If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI or 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. Familiarise yourself with it by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church.

Greencastle 5 Mile Road Race (Monday 26th December): The Mullydoo Road will be closed to traffic from 10.30am to 2.30pm and the stretch of Crockanboy Road from Peter Teague's house to Mickey Clarke's House will be closed to traffic from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. This closure is to facilitate walkers and runners participating in the Road Run. Local residents only will be allowed access during these times.
Your co-operation with the stewards would be greatly appreciated

Owenkillew Credit Union Greencastle Office:
This will be closed Monday 26th December and will reopen on Monday 2nd January from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The Gortin office will be open Saturday 24th and 31st December from 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

Gaelic Start Programme: Sinéad Donnelly has informed us that this has now been suspended until January.

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| An Bruach Dearg Community Centre <i>Upcoming Events</i> | Every Friday Night Beginning February | Card playing at 8.30pm Pilates/Yoga classes |
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Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests: 1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying £20. 2. Likewise, any person whomsoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members. **Privileges of members: Deceased:** 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (*this will take place in Greencastle on Wednesday 8th February*). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. **Living:** 1. Mass will be offered each month, as listed on the Church notice board. 2. When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

Family Care Society – Adoption: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged under 8 and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?
For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry) email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net

Vincent's, Castle Street, Omagh: Vincent's is the only SVP shop in this district. It depends on donations from you. Our customers really appreciate your gifts, especially good quality clothing. The shops profits are a steady source of income towards the work of SVP (St. Vincent DePaul Society). We realise there is a lot of competition from commercial and charity sources for your donations. We thank you for your ongoing support and appeal to you to continue to support SVP work in the seven SVP conferences in Omagh and district.
Please leave your donations at the shop or place them in the blue bin near St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle.
Our SVP van can collect larger amounts of goods or furniture. Our shop number is (028) 8224 9839.

ACCORD – Time for a New Challenge: ACCORD is a voluntary agency of the Catholic Church providing services to couples preparing for or seeking a deeper commitment within the sacrament of marriage. The Omagh Centre is seeking new members to train as facilitators. We are looking for people who are currently married 5 years in the Catholic Church or currently in a marriage recognised by the Catholic Church, have the ability to convey a positive attitude to marriage, have an openness and commitment to working within a Catholic organisation, relate easily to people, are able to be part of a team and are sensitive, warm, caring and accepting. An Information evening regarding this will be held in Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street, Omagh on Tuesday 3rd May at 8.00pm. Please feel free to come along, no commitment needed, have your questions answered and learn more about what ACCORD can offer you. Tel: 028 82242439

Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying? For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo. Phone 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at www.knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the Bureau.

Catholic Schools Week 2012 – Diocesan Mass for Catholic Schools Week: This will be held in St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Tuesday 7th February at 10.00am.
The theme is *Catholic Schools – Christ's Body Active in Our World*

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: In 2012 the diocese will be going on pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 1st to Friday 6th July. The cost is £599. There are early payment schemes available in the Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry; Pastoral Centre, Maghera; St Eugene's Cathedral; Thornhill Centre and Strabane.
For further details contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org.
Gift vouchers are also available for purchase through Thornhill Centre.

Foyle Hospice – Free Adult Counseling Service: Offered on Tuesdays to help support those with a life limiting illness and their families / carers. Counseling is also available for the bereaved and there is a children's bereavement support group.
For more info please contact the Hospice on (028) 7135 1010

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses (St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028 8224 2439)):
13th and 14th January, 10th and 11th February, 9th and 10th March,
20th and 21st April, 11th and 12th May, and 1st and 2nd June
Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date

Important Dates for the Diary in 2012

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| Friday 22nd March | St. Patrick's | 6.30pm First Confession |
| Wednesday 29th March | Our Lady of the Wayside | 5.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop Hegarty) |
| Sunday 5th June | Our Lady of the Wayside | 11.00am First Holy Communion |
| Feast of the Ascension | | |

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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| Sunday 13th May | St. Patrick's |
| Sunday 2nd September | Our Lady of the Wayside |

Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish

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| Tuesday 20 th December | Wednesday 8 th February | Friday 30 th March |
| Tuesday 22 nd May | Wednesday 11 th July | Thursday 30 th August |
| Friday 19 th October | | |
| The weekday Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church unless a Requiem is needed on the date | | |

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (30th June and 1st July)

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| Saturday 30th June | St. Patrick's | Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 1st July | Our Lady of the Wayside | Directly after 11.00am Mass |
| Friday 2nd November | St. Patrick's | 8.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year) |

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

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| Saturday 14th January | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Saturday 11th February | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Saturday 10th March | Second Sunday in Lent | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Friday 23rd March | | 6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation) |
| Saturday 31st March | Palm Sunday | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Saturday 5th May | Fifth Sunday of Easter | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 20th May | Feast of the Ascension of the Lord | 11.00am First Holy Communion |
| Saturday 9th June | Feast of Corpus Christi | 6.00pm Vigil Mass |

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre News

- A new Diocesan Youth Co-Ordinator, Dominic O'Reilly has been appointed to replace Justin McMahon.
- Annual Award Ceremony for Pope John Paul II Award will take place on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th February in the Millennium Forum Derry.

50th International Eucharistic Congress: Bookings to attend the 50th International Eucharistic Congress are live at iec2012.ie. You can book for 7 days, for 3 days or for a single day. You can decide to come as an individual, as a family or as a group. Clergy bookings are live as well. Do not leave it to the last minute! Read more about the different possibilities of booking for the Congress and book now!

Teresa Menendez I Senior Marketing and Publications Officer I 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012
Sandymount Building I RDS I Simmonscourt Road I Dublin 4.
T: +353 1 234 9904 (Direct) I T: + 353 1 234 9900 (Main)
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The 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012: This will take place in Dublin from 10th to 17th June under the theme 'The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another' and expects 25,000 pilgrims to participate each day, both from Ireland and from overseas.
It is an international gathering of people, which aims to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church; help improve our understanding and celebration of the liturgy and draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist.



These aims are achieved through a programme of pastoral preparation in the years leading up to the Congress and the actual week of the Congress that consists of a programme of Prayer, Eucharist, workshops, discussion groups, catechesis and testimonies, cultural events, a youth space, tours, exhibitions, a Eucharistic Procession, a massive closing ceremony in Croke Park and more.
For more information visit iec2012.ie

Volunteers urgently needed for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012:

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 (IEC2012) will take place in Dublin from 10th to 17th June. Volunteers will have an integral role to play in the success of the Congress. Between two and three thousand volunteers will be needed during the week of the Congress and also to assist in preparations in the months leading up to the Congress. The Congress is now recruiting volunteers for a wide range of roles such as administration, data entry, stewards, marketing, transport, meet and greet, multimedia, pastoral preparation and much more!

If you would like to get involved please visit the IEC2012 website iec2012.ie/volunteer and fill out an online application or request an application form from the Congress office. Induction training sessions will begin **19th November in the RDS**. For more information please contact the IEC2012 offices on (01) 2349900.

Introduction of the new edition of the Roman Missal:

Posture during Mass: Bishop Hegarty commends the following common posture, as set down in the *General Instruction* (43) for observation throughout the diocese:

1. Standing from the beginning until the end of the Collect;
2. Standing from the *Oratione Fratres* (pray brothers and sisters...) until the end of the *Sanctus*;
3. Standing from Concluding Prayer until the end of Mass.
4. The practice of kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion is laudably retained.

Silence: Attention is drawn to articles 45 and 56 of the *General Instruction* which commend the observation of sacred silence at certain times before and during Mass.

Age NI First Connect Service: First Connect offers emotional and practical support at difficult times to people later in life. The First Connect Coordinator will visit each client at home or at an alternative suitable venue, to discuss their needs and provide them with information on the services that are available. This could be as simple as involving them in the community by organising access to a day centre or community group, a benefits check to ensure they are getting what they are entitled to, providing home safety measures, etc. In agreement with the client, the First Connect Coordinator will signpost them to the services and make sure they are in place.

For more information or to make a referral to the First Connect service contact Age NI at: Freephone 0808 808 7575. Alternatively you can contact the First Connect Coordinator for the Western Area, Eimear McKearney on 07425 620 194 or email eimear.mckearney@ageni.org

This Week's Calendar of Saints and Feasts:

- Monday 26th December** – **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community and the Church.
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.
- Tuesday 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'.
- Wednesday 28th December** – **The Feast of the Innocents (martyrs)** The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Holy Innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people.
- Thursday 29th December** – **St. Thomas à Becket (bishop and martyr) [1118-1170]** As Archbishop of Canterbury he came in conflict with King Henry II over Church rights. Was killed in his cathedral on this date.
- Saturday 31st 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.
- Sunday 1st January** – **Mary the Mother of God** At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer
Lumen Gentium (52) *Not celebrated this year*

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 1:26-38:

1. A child is born and the heavens break into song. Remember the celebrations you have witnessed at the birth of a child.
2. This was no ordinary child. It is the birth of the Son of God. In order to take in the implications of that we can do well to recall Meister Eckhart's reflection and ask ourselves how the birth of Jesus takes place in us:
What good is it to me
if the eternal birth of the divine Son
takes place unceasingly
but does not take place
within myself?
And
what good is it to me
if Mary is full of grace
and if I am not also full of grace?
3. Something great was happening in most inauspicious circumstances. Perhaps you can recall an important development in your life that started in a very humble way.
4. The shepherds were both frightened and thrilled. Good news can sometimes be terrifying. Pregnancy and the birth of a child can give rise to both feelings. Hopefully the joy and wonder at new life outweigh the fear and apprehension. What has been your experience?
John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

Questions people ask:

- Q. Do we know for certain that Jesus was born on 25th December?
- A. We have no way of knowing the actual date. Two reasons are given for the selection of this date. It took over from the Roman feast of the Unconquered Sun at the winter solstice. Christians decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus as the light of God who came to conquer the darkness of sin. The second reason is that it is nine months after the feast of the Annunciation and the conception of Jesus. The Annunciation was an older feast than Christmas. It was celebrated on 25 March to connect with the Jewish tradition that this was the first day of creation and the day when Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Thus the conception of Jesus was linked with creation and sacrificial death.

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

The Deep End – The X Factor:

Some people may not acknowledge today as Christ's Day, that He is the X-Factor of the X-Mass scene. This world is crying out for Light, for Hope, for Joy, for Love and today we celebrate that God is present with us in this world: EMMANUEL. We must allow that Love to penetrate our hearts and celebrate with our family and friends the Joy that lives amongst us. And when we have finished celebrating the X Factor of Christmas, remember that then the real work of Christmas begins:

When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and princes are home.
When the shepherds are back with their flocks.
The work of Christmas begins;
to find the lost;
to heal the broken;
to feed the hungry;
to release the prisoner;
to rebuild the nations;
to bring peace among people;
to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)