

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (27th January, 2013)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com

Catholic Schools Week – Catholic Schools in the Community of Faith: Sharing the Good News: Catholic Schools Week 2013 will be mindful of two major issues for the year 2013 (a) Year of Faith and (b) Share the Good News. The theme of CSW 2013 reflects both. CSW 2013 will begin on Sunday 27th January and end on Sunday 3rd February.

Monsignor Eamon Martin responded by this email to the support from our parish faith-community last week
 Thanks very much for your kind good wishes and prayers. It will be a great challenge, but with the help of God and the prayerful support and encouragement that surrounds me, I will take it one day and one step at a time.
Every blessing to all the people of the parish of Greencastle

Liturgy Schedule for the Third Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (28th January, 2013 – 3rd February, 2013)

Saturday Evening (26th January) Vigil Mass for Sunday	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass
Sunday 27th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 28th January St. Thomas Aquinas (priest and doctor of the Church)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Malachy Coyle (8 th Anniversary)
Tuesday 29th January Third Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 30th January Third Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Lourdes PS	10.00am Mass 10.45am Assembly for Catholic Schools Week <i>Grandparents of children are invited to attend</i>
Thursday 31st January St. John Bosco (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 1st February St. Brigid (abbess Secondary Patron of Ireland)	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Confessions 8.00pm Mass: Nellie Tracey (Month's Mind) <i>St. Brigid's crosses will be blessed after Holy Communion</i>
Saturday Morning (2nd February) Presentation of the Lord	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Mass-Candles will be blessed
Saturday Evening (2nd February) Vigil Mass for Sunday	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass: Service of Light and Commitment for Confirmation Candidates
Sunday 3rd February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] St. Blaise [Not celebrated this year]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£740**.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Malachy Coyle, John Francis Fox, Margaret Casey, Nellie Tracey** and **Charlie Conway** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sick and Housebound: These will be attended **Sunday 3rd February**, this is because Fr. Hasson will attend a Diocesan Priests' Conference on Monday 4th February. Please let them know if you live nearby.

Do This In Memory: Our First Holy Communion parish programme will continue at the Vigil Mass in Greencastle this weekend (Saturday 26th January).

St. Valentine's Ball: Youth 2000 invites all young adults between the ages of 18-35 to this showpiece event on Saturday 9th February in the Armagh City Hotel. *For more details visit youth2000.ie or call 00353 1675 3690*

IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden Derryvane, Muff – St Brigid's Cross-Making Workshop:
 Thursday 31st January, 6:15pm-7:15pm followed by Mass in St Canice's Oratory at 7:30pm.

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for February (please remember these in your personal prayer)
General – Migrant Families: That migrant families, in particular mothers, may be sustained and accompanied in their difficulties.
Missionary – Peace: That people experiencing war and conflicts may lead the way in building a future of peace.

Next Sundays Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 | Psalm 70:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Luke 4:21-30; (Lectionary I, page 845) **(Sunday: Year C) (Weekday: Year 1)**

Lotto Results: C – D – G – H – N (4 people with 3 letters – £15 each) **Next Jackpot:** £2,650

Parish Liturgy for February, 2013	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Aisling Donaghy	Monica Coyle	Martina McBride
Eucharistic Ministry	Kathleen Bradley	Louise Coyle	Peter Noel McAleer
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Aidan Clarke	Enda Bradley
Collectors	Gerry McDermott Noel McElhatton	Patrick Tuohy Michael Bradley	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Rosemary, Shauna and Ciara McNally		Anne McDermott Martina McBride

New choir members will always be welcome, contact Sinead

Altar Servers Needed: Please notice the important role of altar servers in the prayer life of our faithful community, we currently need new volunteers to strengthen the teams already serving so if you will commit, please do so as soon as possible.

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 26 th January* The family of Molly Clarke	Offertory Gifts Rota Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 27 th January The family of Matthew Conway
Saturday 2nd February The family of Ryan Coyle	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 3rd February The family of Eoin McCullagh
Saturday 9th February The family of Cayla Donnelly	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 10th February The family of Shea McElhatton
Saturday 16th February The family of Cathal Keenan	First Sunday of Lent	Sunday 17th February The family of Sorcha-Rose Meenan
Saturday 23rd February** The family of Shea McAleer	Second Sunday of Lent	Sunday 24th February The family of Eunan Morris

First Confessions (Reconciliation) is scheduled for Friday 1st March at 6.30pm

Saturday 2nd March The family of Cathair McAleer	Third Sunday of Lent	Sunday 3rd March The family of Serene Morris
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As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.
Do This In Memory Program (week 5)** *Do This In Memory Program (week 6)**

Service of Light and Commitment: Eleven young parishioners will receive the sacrament of confirmation in our parish on Sunday 21st April (Fourth Sunday of Easter) this year. As part of their formal religious education our young people receive instruction in the classroom but a child's faith and religious development depends upon the three elements of home, school and parish working together. Every effort is made in school to help our children develop as mature and responsible members of our faith community. Thank you to parents and families for doing the same at home. The Service of Light and Commitment takes place at 6.00pm Mass next Saturday (2nd February) will highlight the importance of all three elements. This year's Confirmation candidates, their families and where possible their Confirmation sponsors are invited to attend. After the Gospel the children will be called forward to stand before the sanctuary. The parents will then be invited to stand behind your child and if the child's sponsor can be present, he or she will be invited to form a third row. Fr. Hasson will lead the prayers. A candle symbolising the one used at your child's baptism will be supplied for use during the short ceremony. Please bring the child's baptismal candle and a beeswax candle for yourself.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 1st – Saturday 6th July): The cost is £575. An application form is available from Rosemary at The Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ – (028) 7136 2475 (Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1.30pm). Special forms for registered sick, youth and helpers are also available. Gift vouchers are also available for whatever amount you wish to give, contact Rosemary. The office is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

CertIFICATE in Lectio Divina Facilitation at Drumalis: Drumalis, in association with St. Mary's University College are delighted to announce the launch of a new certificate course in Lectio Divina Facilitation, beginning in January 2013. For further details or to book a place, please contact Drumalis on (028) 2827 2196 / (028) 2827 6455 (Mon- Fri, 9.00am-5.00pm), maura@drumalis.co.uk. *Registration forms and course outline can also be downloaded from drumalis.co.uk*

Dalradian Gold Ltd. – Public Meeting: Tuesday 5th February at 8.00pm in Owenkillew Community Centre, 62 Main Street, Gortin, BT79 8NH. An update on their planned exploration programmes including plans to submit an application to Planning Services for the extension of the existing exploration tunnel at Curraghinalt will be shared. (028) 8224 6289 // dalradian.com

Greencastle Youth Club Rota	Monday 28 th January	P6 and P7	Shauna McCullagh and Karen O'Neill
	Tuesday 29 th January	P4 and P5 Years 8, 9 and 10	Martina Cullen Cathy McBride

BADA – Upcoming Events: **Every Friday Night at 8.30pm** Card playing with light supper served

Parish Buildings and Maintenance Committee Meeting: Monday 28th January at 9.00pm

Additional Parish Notices: Notices came from the following organisations requesting inclusion in the newsheet this week: **Dun Uladh** and **Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann**, we do not have room to print but they are available on the online version.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013: For information contact (028) 8224 1888 or Pilgrimage to Medugorje with Monsignor Danny Monaghan and Maria Bradley from Sept. 4th - 11th. Price £499 which includes Half Board and insurance.
Call Maria at (028) 8164 8357 for further details
April and May Pilgrimages: £470. Cost includes return flights, one week's accommodation, meals and transfers.
Call Group Leader Jim McGread (028) 8234 1888 for further details

God speaks in the silence of the heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. And this listening and this speaking is what prayer is meant to be...
Mother Teresa

Pilgrimage to Rome and San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy (Monday 26th August – Monday 2nd September):
 With Father Francis Bradley. Staying four nights at the Irish College, Rome taking in the sights of the Eternal City and an Audience with the Holy Father, and three nights at the Shrine of Padre Pio, taking in the shrine of Manoppello and the Abbey of Montecassino. Price £850, including all coach transfers to/from Dublin and whilst in Italy, flights with Aer Lingus, accommodation on a half board basis in Rome and full board in San Giovanni, and the assistance of a Travel Representative throughout (single supplement at £20 per night). A £200 deposit before Thursday 31st January will secure you a seat.
For more info call Fr. Bradley on (028) 7136 2475 [W] / (028) 7135 1718 [H] or email fbradley@derrydiocese.org

Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Upcoming Events:

A Talk on the Men who Built Britain | 6 Week Funded Community Pharmacy Project (enrol now)
History of Irish Labour in the British Construction by Ultan Cowley

Full / half day conference facilities available

T: 028 87 757800 **E:** kathleenburnsill@gmail.com

20 The Diamond, Pomeroy. Co Tyrone <http://instituteofirishleadership.org/>

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

St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends: Saturday 9th March at 3.00pm. Bishop Lagan will celebrate. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion at this Mass please contact the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email ddcc@derrydiocese.org.

Our Parish cemeteries are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.

Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time

God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura.

Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help.

Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time.

Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop.

We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.

Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)

Barnardo's Main Office Line for the Child Bereavement Service in Belfast Number Change:
 Please note that this number is no longer (028) 9069 4000 anymore and is now (028) 9066 8333.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013 (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@btopenworld.com
 8th and 9th March 12th and 13th April 10th and 11th May 7th and 8th June
 Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD
 Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding

Dun Uladh – Upcoming Classes:	Refreshments served. For More info Contact (028) 8224 2777
Traditional Music Classes for banjo, flute, fiddle, concertina, singing, accordion, adult tin whistle and uilleann pipes	Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Irish Language	Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm Fridays from 10.00am to 11.30am
Ciorcal Comhrá	Fridays from 11.30am to 1.00pm

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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.
The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

London Marathon (Sunday 21st April): Why not join team Foyle Hospice for a thrill of a lifetime running/walking one of the world's most exciting marathons, the Virgin London Marathon which takes place Sunday 21st April? This run takes in all the major sites and attractions in London with thousands of spectators all along the course. Places in this event will be difficult to get, but Foyle Hospice has some guaranteed entries for the marathon.
For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager noel@foylehospice.com, (028) 7135 9888

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann: Guitar lessons will be commencing in St. Peter's Primary School on Monday 28th January at 6.30pm. Anyone interested should call (028) 8164 8719 or 07842 903 949.
 Sean Nós dancing recommences in Gortin-Rouskey Social Centre on Sunday 27th January.
 Beginners 5.00pm-5.45pm / Improvers 5.45pm -6.30pm.

South West College (Cookstown, Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh): Now enrolling for January and February short courses. 40% off tuition fees on all courses. *For more info call 0845 603 1881 or visit swc.ac.uk*

Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Classes:	
Pilates with Breda	Monday 14 th January at 7.00pm for 5 weeks at £25 (money must be paid in full). I will be in Centre Thursday 10 th January from 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Zumba	Begins Monday 14 th January at 8.15pm. £4 per night for all age groups. Classes for over 50s and people with physical conditions will start Friday 18 th January at 10.00am
Crocheting and Knitting with Mary	Begins Friday 18 th January at 2.00pm for £5. For beginners and amateurs. Open to all and a great opportunity to learn new stitches and patterns.
Drama / Dance with Clíodhna	Academy classes will return Wednesday 16 th January, £2.50. P1, P2 and P3 (6.00pm to 7.00pm) // P4 upwards (7.00pm to 8.00pm).
Contact Bridie on (028) 8164 8706 or 07847459428 / 07591047556 or leave and message on phone. For the hire of the centre or equipment contact Sheena on (028) 8164 8186.	

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2013

Sacramental Celebrations

Friday 1st March	St. Patrick's	6.30pm First Confession
Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter	Our Lady of the Wayside	2.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Monsignor Eamon Martin)
Sunday 12th May Feast of the Ascension	St. Patrick's	11.00am First Holy Communion

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday 5th May	St. Patrick's
Sunday 25th August	Our Lady of the Wayside

Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish

Wednesday 22nd May Thursday 11th July Friday 30th August Saturday 19th October	St. Patrick's
Sunday 7th April	Our Lady of the Wayside

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (6th and 7th July)

Saturday 6th July	St. Patrick's	Directly after 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 7th July	Our Lady of the Wayside	Directly after 11.00am Mass
Saturday 2nd November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm 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

Saturday 23rd March	Sixth Palm Sunday	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Thursday 28th March	Holy Thursday	7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Saturday 13th April	Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Saturday 1st June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass

Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider *The Mystery of Work*: This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux) Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21: *John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. Jesus was filled with the Spirit and sent. He came bursting with a message to communicate. When have you had the experience of being enthused by something in that way? Who have been the people you met who had that kind of enthusiasm?
2. The message Jesus had was one of liberation and he told his listeners that it was being fulfilled even as they listened. When have you had a NOW moment of liberation? When has Bible reading been an experience of liberation for you?
3. His message was addressed to those who were poor, oppressed, blind or captives. Who are these today? In what ways have I been, or am I, among these? How has the message of Jesus been good news for you, freed you, given you new sight or revealed God's favour to you?

Questions people ask: *Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)*

- Q. What features should we look out for in the Gospel of Luke this year?
- A. The opening words that each evangelist quotes from Jesus are a good indication of that writer's special insight and purpose. Luke begins with Jesus speaking about the Spirit anointing him for a mission to the poor and less favoured. Luke is the evangelist of the Holy Spirit operative in the mission of Jesus (Gospel) and the Church (Acts). Jesus is portrayed as a man of prayer and teacher of prayer. He brings good news to the poor in advocating detachment from riches and the responsibility of the rich to use their wealth properly. Freedom for the captive comes especially in the mercy Jesus shows to sinners. Mary features as the model disciple, obedient to the word of God.

The Deep End – *Hey Theophilis, Lover of God?* *Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

Today Jesus declares 'the year of God's favour'. This is one of the most powerful passages in the New Testament. If Jesus were running for president, this would be his campaign speech. The 'year of God's favour' refers to a Jewish concept of Jubilee where all debts are cancelled and there is a redistribution of wealth and property amongst the community. In the Old Testament this is said to have been declared every 50 years as God interrupts the human systems that create poverty. Imagine a community that lived in such a way. When things went wrong or when people got into trouble, we declared 'Jubilee' and started afresh. Jubilee is so called after the ram's horn that was used to declare it. Jubilee was meant to dismantle structures of inequality. It shows us God's unending compassion, mercy, generosity and justice. It was a year of restoration. Remember the year 2000 (Jubilee) 'Drop the Debt campaign'? Imagine a world where every few decades we declared the year of God's favour and all debts were cleared, slaves set free and wealth redistributed amongst the community. That is economics according to God. That is how the early Christians tried to live. And so we continue a reading of the Gospel of Luke – one that is concerned with justice, poverty and the rights of all.

'Although they heard you Lord, they failed to listen. They heard only what they wanted to hear. The truth hurt them, you made them feel uncomfortable, and they rejected you... Show us how we may seek your Kingdom and help to bring peace to a troubled world'.
Christian Aid, Tony Singleton

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Monday 28th January – *St. Thomas Aquinas (priest and Doctor of the Church) [1224-1274]*** Born in Italy, Thomas taught that Christian revelation and human knowledge are aspects of a single truth and cannot be in conflict with one another. One of the greatest theologians, he is a Patron Saint of schools, universities, students and booksellers.
- Thursday 31st January – *St. John Bosco (priest) [1815-1888]*** Born in Piedmont, founded the Salesians to educate boys for life. He also became involved in publishing catechetical material for youth. He is a Patron Saint of youth and of Catholic publishers.
- Friday 1st February – *St. Brigid (abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland) [c. 454-524]*** Renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted in consecrating her virginity to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare, with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. Her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland, but in several European lands.
- Saturday 2nd February – *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*** This feast is a combined remembrance of the Son and the Mother ... on this day Christ's faithful people, with candles, in their hands, go out to meet the Lord and to acclaim him with Simeon, who recognised Christ as 'a light to reveal God to the nations'. They should therefore be taught to walk as children of the light in their entire way of life, because they have a duty to show the light of Christ to all by acting in the works that they do as lighted lamps'. *Ceremonial of Bishops, n.241*
- Sunday 3rd February – *St. Blaise (bishop and martyr)*** Bishop of Sebaste, martyred in Armenia. Patron Saint for sore throats and sick cattle. Died in 315. [Not celebrated this year]
- St. Ansgar (bishop)*** A Frenchman who became Archbishop of Hamburg in the 9th century and preached the gospel in Denmark and Sweden. Apostle of Scandinavia. Patron Saint of Denmark. [Not celebrated this year]

MARA (Maximising Access to Services, Grants and Benefits in Rural Areas)

The MARA Project is an inter-departmental regional project funded by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and delivered by the Public Health Agency (PHA). The MARA project was officially launched on Thursday 15th March 2012 by both the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle O'Neill and the Minister for Health, Edwin Poots.

What is the aim of the MARA Project?

The aim of the project is to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in rural deprived areas in Northern Ireland, by making them aware of, or helping them access local services, grants or benefits thus supporting those rural dwellers living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion. →

← Who will deliver the MARA project?

PHA will commission 13 community lead organisations in rural areas, who will recruit and train enablers to undertake approximately 12,000 household visits. These visits will take place over the period April 2012 to November 2014 from which identified households will be signposted to various services, grants and benefits. The households identified for visits incorporate older people, carers, disabled people, lone parents, ethnic minorities, lone adults, farming families and/or low income families.

Why the MARA approach works?

The MARA project builds upon the success of Phase 1 which targeted the top 88 rurally deprived super output areas. The evidence and experience from Phase I indicates that access to the most difficult to reach and those suffering greatest inequalities and disadvantage requires a more innovative, extensive and personal approach to that traditionally used. The home visit which is carried out by trained enablers requires a supportive and sympathetic approach that will build trust and commitment and encourages people to avail of services, benefits and grants which they may not otherwise have known about or felt that they were not entitled to.

MARA Household Visit

During the household visit, identified households will complete an assessment form which will help assess eligibility for various grants or benefits they may be entitled to. The home visit will also identify local and regional services the rural dwellers may be interested in attending or availing of. Households will be asked to sign a consent form that details the referrals identified and these will then be either automated or manually made by the community lead organisation to various referral partners. The referral partners will then, as necessary, contact the householder directly to process the referral. The services, grants and benefits that householders may be referred to include rural community transport, smart pass (for free or reduced travel), energy savings schemes (warm homes), assessments from occupational therapists (OTs) for disabled facilities grants, home safety checks, benefit entitlement checks and any other local or regional services available in their area. Households who have been referred for services will receive a second visit to establish if the various referral partners have been in contact and to understand how referrals are progressing with a view to ensuring all referrals are processed in a timely manner. The second visit will also further address the social exclusion element of the MARA project i.e. referring householders to local services. It should be noted that the MARA Project cannot guarantee households will receive any or all of the services, grants or benefits they are referred to. The referrals associated with the MARA Project may, in some instances, take some time to be processed.

On Sunday 3rd February we will rejoice and celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life

The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life invites all the Church to reflect on the role of Consecrated Life within the Christian community. Some Christian women and men respond to God's call to become followers of Jesus through profession of vows and a life dedicated to prayer and service. They live out the consecrated life in different ways; religious sisters, nuns, brothers, religious priests, and monks consecrate their lives through their profession of vows and live as part of a community. Other forms of consecrated life include secular institutes and single lay people who choose to take vows with the approval of the local Bishop.

Those who become followers of Jesus through the Consecrated Life bless the Church.

We ask God to bless our Church with others who will dedicate their lives to God's service.

*For more information on the vocation to consecrated life in Ireland today, check out vocationsireland.com
Are you searching for a way to offer yourself to the service of God's world? Explore God's call at exploreaway.net*