



**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] (27<sup>th</sup> January, 2019)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

**Pope Francis Speaks to Ireland**      *Knock Shrine [Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August]*  
 "In the Apparition Chapel, I lifted up to Our Lady's loving intercession all the families of the world, and, in a special way, your families, the families of Ireland. Mary our Mother knows the joys and struggles felt in each home. Holding them in her Immaculate Heart, she brings them with love to the throne of her Son.  
 As a remembrance of my visit, I have presented the Shrine with a rosary. I know how important the tradition of the family rosary has been in this country. I warmly encourage you to continue this tradition. Who can tell how many hearts, of fathers, mothers and children alike, have drawn comfort and strength over the years from meditating on Our Lady's participation in the joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of Christ's life!"

**Liturgy Schedule for Third Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (27<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019)**

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> St. Timothy and St. Titus (bishops)	St. Patrick's <i>DTiM (week 5)</i>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Bernard McLaughlin (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b> Third Sunday in Ord. Time [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> St. Vincent (deacon and martyr)	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon to 7.15pm</b>	Adoration 7.30pm Mass
<b>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> St. John Bosco (priest)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confession
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> St. Brigid (abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland)	St. Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b>	Service of Light for P7
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>8.00pm</b>	Mass: Tessie McElhatton (Month's Mind)
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> Presentation of the Lord	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass (Candlemas) followed by Confessions
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> Fourth Sunday in Ord. Time [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Mary Ann McCullagh (3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)
		<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
		<b>11.00am</b>	Mass

**Annual Lourdes Hospitalité Collection:** Takes place the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Prayer Cards will be distributed. Your past generosity to the pilgrimage has made it possible for persons in need to benefit from the experience of Lourdes. *Thank you once again in advance*

**Sick and Housebound:** Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February at the usual times.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Tessie McElhatton** whose Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February in St. Patrick's and for the repose of the soul of **Bernard McLaughlin (2<sup>nd</sup>)** whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**St Brigid's Day / Candlemas Day:** St. Brigid's Crosses will be blessed during 8.00pm mass on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February in St. Patrick's Church. Candles will be blessed during 10.00am mass on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. *Blessed Candles will be available for purchase at all masses and from the sacristy at all masses next weekend*

**Service of Light:** 15 Primary 7 children from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year. Parents and children are invited to join us for their Service of Light and Commitment on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
*Please pray for our children as they prepare for the reception of this sacrament*

**Pope Francis' Intention for February (please remember this in your personal prayers)**  
**Young People and the Example of Mary:** That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

**Next Week's Readings:** Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 • Psalm 70:1-6, 15, 17, R/ v 15 • 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13  
 Luke 4:21-30 • Lectionary 1:845      **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

<b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b> Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> January (DTiM week 5) The family of <b>Ava Morris</b>	<b>Offertory Gift Rota</b> Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b> Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January The family of <b>Aisling Lucas</b>
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February • <b>Fianna Clarke</b>	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February • <b>Caolan Tracey</b>

**If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented**

**Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July. £679. We welcome all pilgrims, especially pilgrims in need of care. We welcome doctors, nurses and youth (aged 17years+) to assist with those in need. Application forms now available. Call (028) 7126 0293 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am to 1.00pm) or email derry pilgrim@outlook.com at any time.

**Marian Pilgrimages:** Fully escorted group pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, £579 pps. Including visits to the town of Pietrelcina, the house of Mary Pyle and Mass at the Shrine of St. Michael Archangel, accompanied by Spiritual Director.  
*For more info on joining the group call Marie Martin on 0044 7799 11 2224*

**An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg – Dinnéar Bliantúil and Presentation Night:**  
 Satharn 2 Feabhra at 8.00pm sharp in the Greencastle Hall (food served at 8.30pm). **Ceol: DJ Keyv • Ticéad: £15**

**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*

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

**The Priory Institute – Study Theology Online:**  
 Come and join our supportive student community and study theology by distance learning this Spring, register now!  
**Tel:** 00353 1 404 8124 • **Email:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com • **Website:** enquiries@prioryinstitute.com

**First Aid Awareness Training:** For parents, grandparents and carers in Omagh. Covering CPR, recovery position, choking, febrile seizures and much more. 2 hours training at £20 per person, includes refreshments and paediatric first aid book. Group bookings available for 4 up. *Call Ann on 07866 410 105 or email ann@acresconsultancy.com*

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October):** 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing.  
 Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service.  
*Call us on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com for further info and book dates that suit*

**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*

**Cappagh / Badoney CCE – Upcoming Events:**      *To enquire call Tom on (028) 816 48719*

<b>Monthly Seisun:</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February at 9.00pm in the Leo's Bar & Lounge, Plumbridge. <i>Free admission • Everyone welcome • Supper served</i>
<b>Music Classes:</b>	Started Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January (beginners at 6.30pm) in St. Peter's PS, Plumbridge. Ten week block. Tutoring available for Banjo • Fiddle • Accordion • Whistle • Concertina Thanks to everyone for their continued support • New musicians (adult and children) welcome
<b>Singing Classes:</b>	Started Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm in Plumbridge Hall with Ciara Fox. Bock of 6 classes on a fortnightly basis • £30 per child • £50 for 2 or more children
<b>LCM Exams:</b>	London College of Music Exams – If anyone wishes for their child to take part in these exams let us know and we will provide further details. Exams take place in April.
<b>Fundraising Event:</b>	The Island Wake by Fergus Cleary (a two-act comedy) will take place in Plumbridge Hall on Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm (admission is £8, pay at door). All support would be appreciated <i>These fundraisers all go towards subsidising the costs of our music classes</i>

**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*

**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

**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*

**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

**Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):**  
 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) • Join our faith family!*

**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*

**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*

**The Big Knit for Age NI** Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p.  
*To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/bigknit*

**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*

**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

**Catholic Engaged Encounter Course:** For details / booking: marriageencounter.ie • (028) 2763 8512  
 Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March in Our Lady and St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

Parish Liturgy for January, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Martin McCullagh	Monica Coyle	Martina McNamee
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	Lauren O'Neill	Erin Hood	Grace Conneely
<b>Collectors</b>	Mary Bradley Francis McLaughlin	Colm Keenan Michael Clarke	Pat McGuigan Sean McKenna
<b>Altar Society</b>	Maria Morris, Kathleen Tracey, Louise O'Brien, Alannah Coyle, Clodagh McKenna and Nora McCullagh		Ann McDermott, Mary Bradley, Lucy-Marie McCrory and Leanne Morris

**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

**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

**Family Care Adoption Services** *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*  
 For a free information contact **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)  
 us using any of these details **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.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*

**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*

**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

**Foster Carers Needed:** The Western Trust urgently needs people to come forward who can offer a loving home to foster children. At present there is a greater number of children in need of homes than there are foster carers available. If you have room in your home and in your heart to care for a child, please contact:  
 Vanessa Nelis – WHSCT Recruitment Officer for Fostering  
**Tel:** (028) 8283 5264 **Mob:** 07554 552 989 **Email:** vanessa.nelis@westerntrust.hscni.net

**Trocaire – Recruiting Volunteers:** To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.  
*If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info*

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21:** John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)

1. The scene in the synagogue marks the launch of the public ministry of Jesus in Luke. Read the quotation from Isaiah slowly. Reflect on each line carefully. Which of these images captures something of what Jesus and his message has meant for you?
2. 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?
3. His message was addressed to those who were poor, oppressed, blind, or captives. Who are these today? In what ways have you been, or are you, 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?
4. The message Jesus had was one of liberation and he told his listeners that it was being fulfilled even as they listened. It is being fulfilled even as we hear it now. If this does not resonate with you right now, when has the gospel given you an experience of liberation?

**The Deep End – ‘So that you may know the truth’:** Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

There is something about the opening sentences of Luke's Gospel that grabs one's attention. He is the only Gospel writer to give us information about his purpose and sources. He writes for Theophilus, whose name in Greek suggests 'lover of God'. Theophilus may have been a patron of Luke's, but we can also take this name to mean that Luke writes for all lovers of God, i.e. all of us.

Jesus, 'as was his custom,' attends the service at his local synagogue. It is clear that Jesus was a faithful Jew even though he is about to have some serious run-ins with the Jewish religious leaders. This moment is one of the most powerful passages in the New Testament, as Jesus sets out his manifesto for ministry. Reading from Isaiah, Jesus tells the crowd that this passage is being fulfilled as they hear it, his ministry would be one focused on freeing people from various types of oppression. This passage is as relevant in our world today as it was for Jesus' time: people still await liberation, the oppressed are not free. This is not a passage read in the past: it is very much alive, a vision for all to have as Christians and to work out of. Just as the scriptures are fulfilled in Jesus, they are also fulfilled in each of our lives.

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.' *Tony Singleton*

**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*

**PARISH EVENTS IN 2018**

<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> Service of Light for P7	<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> First Confession for P4
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> 5 Parishioners receive Pope John Paul Awards in Armagh Cathedral	
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> Confirmation by Bishop McKeown	<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> First Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b> P7 attend Fan the Flame Mass in Celtic Park Derry	
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b> Presentations to P7 Leavers and Mr. Noel McGinn on retirement as principal	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b> Cemetery Prayers in Parish Cemeteries	
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August</b> Parishioners, along with Fr Gallagher attend Festival of Families in Croke Park and Papal Mass in Phoenix Park	
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> Mr. Neil McCloy officially takes up role as principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b> All-Ireland Final – Tyrone v. Dublin	<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Mass for Parish Deceased
<b>10<sup>th</sup> November</b> Sr. Bride Counihan makes Mission Appeal	
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> Inaugural Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council	
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> Advent Penance Service	<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> 2 New Altar servers welcomed
<b>31 December</b> Large congregation gathers for Mass at final sunset of 2018	

**This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:**

- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January – St. Angela Merici (virgin and religious) [1474-1540]** Founder of the Ursulines, devoted herself to Christian education based on love, kindness with firmness and concern for the individual.
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February – St. Blaise (bishop and martyr)** Bishop of Sebaste, martyred in Armenia. Patron Saint for sore throats and sick cattle. Died in 315.  
**St. Ansgar (bishop)** A Frenchman who became Archbishop of Hamburg in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and preached the gospel in Denmark and Sweden. Apostle of Scandanavia. Patron Saint of Denmark.

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2017
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	2 within parish • 3 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	12

**IMPORTANT DATES IN 2019**

**Service of Light (P7)** Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 7.30pm • **First Confession** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm  
**Confirmation** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon • **First Holy Communion** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 12 noon

**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

**Pilgrimage to Rome and Tuscany:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June for nights, ex Dublin (includes

Assisi, Florence and Pisa). Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Donnelly. Guide: Kieran Troy

£1,090 per person sharing (single room supplement £280). Includes guided tours and most meals.

Call Paul or Marie at Downe Travel on (028) 4461 3288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

### **Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2019**

*Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace*

'Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the polis... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have." This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity. In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002: "Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role. Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility. Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest. Blessed be the politician who remains consistent. Blessed be the politician who works for unity. Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change. Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening. Blessed be the politician who is without fear." Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.'

### **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%