



**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg  
**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A] (27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

**Thought for the Week:** "We are gradually losing the art of silence. Of walking down the street lost in our own thoughts. Of closing the door to our rooms and being quiet. Of sitting on a park bench and just thinking. We may fear silence because we fear what we might hear from the deepest parts of ourselves. We may be afraid to hear that "still small" voice. What might it say? Might it ask us to change?"  
*Fr. James Martin, SJ*

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b> St. Cosmas, St. Damian (martyrs)	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> First Holy Communion <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Formil
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b> Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Mass: Jeannie Keenan (6 <sup>th</sup> ) Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Gortin Parish (YouTube)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b> St. Jerome (priest and Doctor of Church)	St. Patrick's	<b>2.00pm to 4.00pm</b> Adoration <b>7.30pm</b> Mass
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b> St. Thérèse of Lisieux (virgin and doctor of Church)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b> The Guardian Angels	St. Patrick's Gortin Parish (YouTube)	<b>10.00am</b> Mass: Mary Rose McCullagh (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) <b>7.30pm</b> Mass: Induction of New Parish Priest
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b> Blessed Columba Marmion	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Sheskinshule
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b> Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Mass: John Gerald Conway (10 <sup>th</sup> ) Broughderg, Crock <b>11.00am</b> Mass: Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road

**Weekly Collection:** £990

*Thank you for your generosity*

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Francis McCullagh (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jeannie Keenan (6<sup>th</sup>), Mary Rose McCullagh (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Conway (28<sup>th</sup>) and Philomena Devlin** whose anniversaries occur at this time and for all who have died due to COVID-19.

**Sick and Housebound:** Fr. Gallagher will be in touch with our Parish Sick and Housebound during the coming week regarding the arrangements for outreach to them for the month of October

**First Communion Congratulations:** We give thanks this weekend for our 11 pupils of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School who celebrated their long delayed First Holy Communion Mass Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September in St. Patrick's Church. We thank the teachers Miss Tracey and Mrs. McCann as well as Clare McCartan for her singing during the mass. Thank you to the parents and families who prepared and presented the children so well. We look forward during these difficult times to continuing to welcome the children to the Celebration of Mass to receive Jesus, the Bread of Life regularly.

Kailagh Bradley • Daire Brogan • Emma Conway • Caoimhe Coyle • Emma Fox • Fionn Harte  
 Caoimhe Maguire • Shea McCullagh • Lile Rose McDermott • Kelly McDonald • Michael McGlinchey

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

**Pope Francis' Intention for October (please remember this in your personal prayers)**

**The Laity's Mission in the Church:** We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

**Next Week's Readings:** Isaiah 5:1-7 • Psalm 79:9, 12-16, R/ • Isaiah 5:7 • Philippians 4:6-9  
 Matthew 21:33-43 • Lectionary 1:708      **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**Sperrin Family Practice – Flu Vaccines Now Available:**

Flu vaccines are for all patients registered with the Practice aged 65+ (born before 31-03-1956), those under 65 who suffer from a long standing condition such as Asthma, COPD, Diabetes, any Heart condition, Immuno compromised, Liver disease, Neurological problems, Kidney problems, patients with a BMI over 40, pregnant women, registered carers and all 2 to 3 year olds (born between 02-07-16 and 01-09-18). Also included this year are the household contacts of shielding patients. If you are unsure if you fall into one of the above categories, please contact the Medical Centre for advice. Please note that Primary School children and Year 8 children in secondary school will receive their flu vaccines in school. *The Practice will contact the 2 to 3 year olds with regard to appointments*

Initial drive through flu vaccine clinics will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October at Sperrin Family Practice, Plumbridge, between 10.00am and 1.00pm (no appointment necessary). Alternatively, you can contact the surgery on (028) 8164 8292 or (028) 8164 8216 to prebook an appointment with The Practice Pharmacist for your vaccine.

**Mass of Induction of New Parish Priest of Badoney Lower:** Bishop Donal McKeown will celebrate this mass Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church, Gortin. You can follow Fr. Gallagher's Induction Mass on the Gortin Parish YouTube Page. Due to the current pandemic situation this will be a much simpler celebration than usual. Please pray for all those who are taking on new responsibilities at this time in our Diocese and those who are retiring. We thank Fr. Forbes for his continued presence among us and his 12 Years of faithful service as Parish Priest of Badoney Lower.

**Help is available for the Unemployed:** Have you recently been made redundant or are unemployed? If so, SUSE+ can help you, we are currently offering help and support with job searches, CV building, interview preparation. mentors work 1:1 with participants to help secure a job in the local area. An online course provision is also available which includes mindfulness and meditation, money management, holistic therapies, self-care, employability, confidence and motivation, job club and much more.

**Face Coverings in Church:** Several weeks ago the leaders of the four main Christian Churches in Ireland strongly recommended that face coverings be worn in places of worship. Many of you have been doing so since then and I wish to thank you sincerely for doing so and strongly encourage all to continue to do so. Of course, as stated before this does not apply to those under the age of 13. The priest will only wear his face covering during the distribution of communion as he is many metres away from the congregation in the sanctuary area during the mass. We continue to acknowledge that this raises issues for some who for a medical reason cannot wear a face covering. Once more I look forward to your help and understanding in this matter. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for all those in authority who continue to have to make very difficult decisions during these turbulent times. *Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP*

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Formil
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Sheskinshule
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Broughderg, Crock <b>11.00am</b> Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b> Formil
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Teebane East, Carnanrancy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen <b>11.00am</b> Sheskinshule
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b> Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b> Broughderg, Crock <b>11.00am</b> Binnefreagha, Crockanboy

**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

**Scripture Saturday with Bishop Donal:** Created by Derry Diocesan Youth, Bishop McKeown presents a series of short lessons on the Gospel in easy-to-understand, short (3-4 minute) videos, with tips and references of where and how to use these lessons in your daily life. *View the series at [derrydiocese.org/scripture-saturday](http://derrydiocese.org/scripture-saturday)*

**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*

**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](http://towardspeace.ie) • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** [towardspeace@iecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie)

**Drink Wise, Age Well:** Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?  
*For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240*

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

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

**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*

**Online Youth Programmes:** To access a wide variety of initiatives and activities by Derry Diocesan Youth, visit:  
**Facebook:** [DerryDiocesanYouth](https://www.facebook.com/DerryDiocesanYouth) **Instagram:** [derryyouth](https://www.instagram.com/derryyouth)

**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](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk)*

**Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure:** If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.  
*If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting [derryyouthcommunity.com](http://derryyouthcommunity.com) or emailing [dyc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org)*

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Can't stop? There is a solution.  
Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email [csoofaa@btinternet.com](mailto:csoofaa@btinternet.com). [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://alcoholicsanonymous.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](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**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

**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](http://radiomaria.ie) or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)*

**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*

**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*

**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](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org).*

**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 service call (028) 8224 2439 or email [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**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.

**Community Coordination Hub:** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Covid-19 Community Coordination Hub will respond to requests received from the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline to assist residents who may have become isolated and vulnerable due to the impacts of Coronavirus and the associated mitigation measures. The Hub will work with the local community and voluntary sector to ensure those most at risk will have access to support services such as food, medication, practical and emotional support. **Access to Food Parcels** provided by the Department for Communities are available for anyone who can't leave their home to access food due to Covid-19 restrictions, don't have support through family, friends or access to food deliveries from local suppliers, or face food insecurity. Please complete the Food Parcel Request Form and a member of the Council's Community Coordination Hub will contact you. We aim to respond to requests within 24 hours. Referrals to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Coordination Hub for other support services are directed through the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline:  
**Freephone 0808 802 0020 Text ACTION to 81025 Email covid19@adviceni.net**  
 Support and advice is available from 9.00am to 5.00pm, seven days a week.

**Trócaire:** Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at trocaire.org
2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)
4. As with your parish envelope please leave at Broughderg Post Office, St. Patrick's Church Sacristy outside door postbox or the Parochial House. No boxes please.

Please also fill in Gift Aid details on envelope. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

**An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association:** Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the Covid-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call. *For up to date info and advice visit [www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus)*  
 Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741 Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996 Briege Beggs: 07799 058 273

**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.

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

1. It is possible to be a dutiful and observant Christian, and yet feel there is something missing. Does it not make a huge difference when your heart is in what you are doing? It is so much better than just going through the motions. Where do you experience that most in your life?
2. The desire of Jesus for us is that we grow in that kind of committed, enthusiastic involvement in life. What encourages you to grow in this way? Recall times when your relationship with God, or with another person, was something that gave you energy, hope or joy. What lessons do you learn from those memories?
3. The elders probably thought well of themselves in contrast to the tax collectors and sinners. Perhaps you know some unconventional people, ones who appear to ignore the 'right' way of doing things, and yet they have taught you something about true goodness.

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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September – St. Vincent de Paul (priest) [1580-1660]** Founded the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentians) and the Daughters of Charity (1633), the first sisters to work outside their convents in active service. He is the patron of charitable works.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – St. Jerome (priest and Doctor of the Church) [340-420]** Translated the bible into Latin and wrote commentaries on scripture. Patron Saint of librarians.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October – St. Thérèse of Lisieux (virgin and doctor of the Church)** Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin died at the Carmel in Lisieux on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1897. She was declared a doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997. Patron Saint of Missions, florists, aviators and France.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – The Guardian Angels** This feast expresses God's personal care for each individual and our belief that God assigns everyone an angel to guard us.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Blessed Columba Marmion [1858-1953]** An Irish monk, and the third abbot of Maredsous Abbey. Beatified by Pope John Paul II on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2000, Marmion was one of the most popular and influential Catholic writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His books are considered spiritual classics.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October – St. Francis of Assisi (priest) [1181/1182-1228]** Abandoned all things for the love of Christ. Founded the Friars Minor and with St. Clare, the Poor Clares. For the last two years of his life he suffered the stigmata. Patron Saint of ecologists.

**Arrangements for other Sacraments and Ceremonies:**

**Baptism:** If you have a child for baptism contact Fr. Gallagher and a date and time for baptism will be organised.

**Marriage:** Most weddings for 2020 have been rearranged for 2021. Any weddings in church in 2021 will follow government capacity regulations.

**First Communion:** It is intended to celebrate this Sacrament on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am.

**Confession:** In the short-term during summer months (weather permitting) Fr. Gallagher will be available for Confession in the graveyards on Saturdays from 5.30pm to 5.50pm in St. Patrick's Church and Sundays from 8.30am to 8.50am in Our Lady of the Wayside. Confession with social distancing and privacy in the church building is quite difficult to achieve, hopefully this will resume in near future.

**Funerals:** According to present regulations only 30 people are permitted in the church or cemetery at any one time.  
*Please note that as regulations change we will either extend or roll back on these arrangements*

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	11

### 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%

### The Deep End – *Good Intentions:* *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

During the recent 'lockdown' due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people found themselves turning to nature. There was a surge of interest in gardening. We tended to flower beds, planted seeds, started herb gardens. Lots of people commented that they noticed the birds singing for the first time in years. In the midst of challenging times, we found ourselves tuning in to the wonder of God's creation all around us.

As life begins to return to 'normal', can we retain this sense of wonder and awe? In this Season of Creation, we are invited to discover the presence of God in creation, to give thanks for the gift of the earth, and to change our ways so that we may live in harmony with creation. This requires us to be constantly conscious of how we are living – to not just have good intentions but to follow through in our actions.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons who are asked to go and work in their father's vineyard. The first son initially refuses, but then thinks better of it and gets to work. While the second son has good intentions, he doesn't follow through. When it comes to caring for the earth, good intentions are not enough. Our actions matter. We may have been careless in the past but a change of heart is happening, right across our society. It all starts with our actions, as individuals and communities. As we emerge from a challenging few months, let us use the Season of Creation to reflect on how we can do better – to reconnect with God's beautiful creation and do all we can to love and preserve it.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognise that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.

*Pope Francis (Laudato Si')*

### The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1<sup>st</sup> September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

**Season of Creation 2020:** The Season of Creation or Creation Time is marked throughout the Christian world from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. The following resources are offered for use in dioceses, parishes and in the home, during the Season of Creation 2020. Please note that the resources will be updated regularly so do please check back in with this page from time to time.

*catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020/*

This year's resource pack includes podcasts, liturgical resources, a leaflet, prayers and reflections, recommended reading and information on the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*.

*The resources have been prepared by the CCO, the Laudato Si' Working Group of the Council for Catechetics, Trócaire, the Council for Justice and Peace and the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development*