



**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
**St. Patrick's, Greencastle**      **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**First Sunday of Advent [Year B] (27<sup>th</sup> November, 2011)**  
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com    **Tel:** (028) 8164 8474    **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com



**Liturgy Schedule for the Week of Advent [Year B] (28<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 – 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2011)**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Saturday Evening (26<sup>th</sup> November)</b>                        | St. Patrick's                                     | <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions<br><b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday   |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>First Sunday of Advent [Year B] | St. Patrick's<br>Our Lady of the Wayside          | <b>9:00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)<br><b>10.30am</b> Confessions<br><b>11.00am</b> Mass                           |
| <b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>First Week of Advent            | St. Patrick's                                     | <b>10.00am</b> Mass  |
| <b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>First Week of Advent           | St. Patrick's                                     | <b>10.00am</b> Mass  |
| <b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>St. Andrew (Apostle)         | St. Patrick's                                     | <b>10.00am</b> Mass  |
| <b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b><br>First Week of Advent           | St. Patrick's                                     | <b>10.00am</b> Mass  |
| <b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b><br>First Week of Advent             | St. Patrick's<br><i>First Friday of the Month</i> | <b>7.30pm</b> Confessions<br><b>8.00pm</b> Mass  |
| <b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b><br>St. Francis Xavier (priest)    | St. Patrick's                                     | <b>10.00am</b> Mass  |
| <b>Saturday Evening (3<sup>rd</sup> December)</b>                         | St. Patrick's                                     | <b>5.30pm</b> Confessions<br><b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday:<br>Eileen Clarke (Month's Mind)                    |
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b><br>Second Sunday of Advent [Year B] | St. Patrick's<br>Our Lady of the Wayside          | <b>9:00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)<br><b>10.30am</b> Confessions<br><b>11.00am</b> Mass: Kathleen and James Duffy |

**We welcome new parishioners and invite you to register by filling out a parish census form  
Please forward it to The Parochial House, at the address above**

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,020** and the contribution of **£120** to the Retired Priests' Fund. **New Weekly Collection Envelopes:** If you have been overlooked let Stella Keenan know. *Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.*  
Please remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more to your parish.

**Invitation to Mass:** If you are a homemaker or retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily during Advent, this is the best way to prepare for Christmas.

**Sick and housebound:** These will be attended **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for **Eddie and Mary McCullagh** whose anniversaries occur at this time

**Message from Monsignor Eamon Martin (Diocesan Administrator)**

On Wednesday of this week His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Bishop Séamus Hegarty as Bishop of Derry. The Diocesan College of Consultors met on Friday and elected me as Diocesan Administrator for the Diocese of Derry. My role is to lead the diocese from now until a new bishop is appointed. I thank the College of Consultors for the trust they have shown in electing me as Diocesan Administrator. Please pray that I will live up to that trust.  
On behalf of the priests and people of the Diocese of Derry I would like to thank Bishop Hegarty for his commitment to this diocese over the past seventeen years and for his pastoral care during that time. As a diocesan community we offer our prayerful support and good wishes to him. We hope that he will continue to exercise a pastoral ministry in the diocese to the extent that he is able. May God bless him in his retirement. I invite the parish communities, priests and religious in the diocese to pray for the needs of our Diocese of Derry at this time and for the appointment of a new Bishop in the near future.

**Child Safeguarding Policy:** Please familiarise yourself with it by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church today.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 84; Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8;  
(Lectionary I, page 27)      **(Sunday: Year B) (Weekday: Year 2)**

**Lotto Results:** A – H – O – R – X (8 people with 3 letters, 5 drawn – £10 each) **Next Jackpot:** £6,300

**Our best wishes to Janet Devlin as she progresses on the X-Factor TV show**

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| <b>Parish Liturgy for December, 2011</b>  | <b>St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)</b> | <b>St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)</b> | <b>Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)</b> |
| <b>Readers</b>  | Martin McCullagh                         | Mary Clarke                        | Brendan/Helen McKenna                         |
| <b>Prayers of the Faithful</b>  | Aileen Tuohey                            | Emmett Bradley                     | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                       |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>   | Frankie Bradley                          | Maria Bradley                      | Josephine Clarke                              |
| <b>Collectors</b>   | John Bradley<br>Colm Devlin              | Eugene Tracey<br>Brendan Conway    | ---   |
| <b>Altar Society</b>  | Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey            |                                    | Anne McDermott<br>Carmel McCrory              |
| Thank you for all you do in our community. Anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries must make it known. |  |                                    |   |

|   |                             |   |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>6.00pm Saturday Vigil</b>  | <b>Offertory Gifts Rota</b> | <b>9.00am Sunday Morning</b>  |
| Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> November<br>The family of <b>Rachael Devine</b>                             | First Sunday of Advent      | Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> November<br>The family of <b>Emma Maguire</b>   |
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December<br>The family of <b>Tyler Gumley</b>                                | Second Sunday of Advent     | Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December<br>The family of <b>Ronan Hollywood</b> |
| Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December<br>The family of <b>Oisín Coyle</b>                                | Third Sunday of Advent      | Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December<br>The family of <b>Ryan Gumley</b>    |
| Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> December<br>The family of <b>Aoife Conway</b>                               | Fourth Sunday of Advent     | Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December<br>The family of <b>Kira Donnelly</b>  |
| As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task. |                             |   |

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

**Pioneer Retreat in Termonbacca:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. *Contact committee members for details*

**Silent Auction**

The new missals for use at Mass in our churches have been blessed by Bishop Hegarty at Mass last Tuesday evening in St. Eugene's Cathedral Derry and will be used in our parish from today the First Sunday of Advent.  
The previous Missal, of Pope Paul VI used since 1969 will no longer be used. It has been used for the celebration of Mass by six parish priests and many visiting clergy over the years since it was introduced. If you would like to purchase either of these two missals for your own keepsake, you may bid to do so by *silent auction*. Put your offer in writing along with your name, address and telephone number in an ordinary envelope and place it in the collection basket with your weekly envelope this weekend. (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December). The highest bid will be accepted and if there are several similar bids then a draw will take place for the one to be chosen. Our missals will cost **£215 each** so hopefully this auction will help us pay.

**If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern** or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI or local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities.

**ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses (St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028 8224 2439)):**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February,  
9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date**

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** In 2012 the diocese will be going on pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The cost is £599. There are early payment schemes available in the Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry; Pastoral Centre, Maghera; St Eugene's Cathedral; Thornhill Centre and Strabane.

For further details contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233 or email [thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org](mailto:thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org).  
Gift vouchers are also available for purchase through Thornhill Centre.

**Annual Bazaar:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 4.30pm.

|                                    |                 |                                      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Greencastle Youth Club Rota</b> | 6.30pm – 8.00pm | P6 and P7 (Michelle Meenan)          |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November   | 8.00pm – 9.30pm | Years 8, 9 and 10 (Plunkett McAleer) |
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November  | 6.30pm – 8.00pm | P4 and P5 (Michael Morris)           |

|   |                                 |                        |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>An Bruach Dearg Community Centre</b> | <b>Every Friday Night</b>       | Card playing at 8.30pm |
| <b>Upcoming Events</b>                  | <b>Beginning February, 2012</b> | Pilates/Yoga classes   |

\*For everyone interested in all Levels of ICT Basic Computers Internet and Email Level I Level 11 or higher, Farmers APHS online, this is to discuss what suits the individuals interested. A tutor will be available to answer your questions.

**Our parish congratulates the local GAA Sperrin Óg football team  
on their All-Ireland Club Championship victory in Dublin last Sunday.**

**Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for November (please remember these in your personal prayer)**  
**General:** For the Eastern Churches, that their venerable tradition may be known and appreciated as a spiritual treasure for the entire Church.  
**Missionary:** That the African continent may find in Christ the strength to fulfil the path of reconciliation and justice, indicated in the second Synod of Bishops for Africa.

**Program Preparing for the Eucharistic Congress in 2012:** This began as a combined parishes initiative from and for the parishes of this part of the Tyrone deanery in Advent, 2010. Different aspects of the Eucharist were highlighted during Advent, 2010 and Lent, 2011. The program continues with an emphasis on the 'Our Father'. You are invited to participate in a Mass in **Christ the King Church, Strathroy at 8.00pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**. Your attendance is welcomed

**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 between 0 and 8 years and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?  
 For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry) email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net

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

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

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

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

**Thornhill Centre (121 Culmore Road, Derry) – Courses starting soon:** Liturgy – Theology/Spirituality (028) 7135 1233

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

**Camara:** This is a charity which takes in used computers, refurbishes them and sends them to schools and colleges in Africa. In 2011 we will refurbish over 10,000 computers which will be supplied to schools in Uganda, Lesotho, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Tanzania and Rwanda. Every summer Camara sends teams of Volunteers for four very Telephone/Email on busy weeks to Africa to assist our local partners deliver essential training to teachers in the schools we supply. The assignment is for four or five weeks, departing Ireland in early July or early August depending on destination.  
 Camara Belfast, Unit 23 and 24 Townsend Enterprise Park, Townsend Street, Belfast BT13 2ES  
 Tel: (028) 9033 2470 Email: [belfast@camara.ie](mailto:belfast@camara.ie) Online: [camara.ie](http://camara.ie)

**Important Dates for the Diary in 2012**

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

**Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>      | St. Patrick's           |
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b> | Our Lady of the Wayside |

**Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish**

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

**Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July)**

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

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

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

**The 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012:** This will take place in Dublin from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June under the theme 'The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another' and expects 25,000 pilgrims to participate each day, both from Ireland and from overseas. It is an international gathering of people, which aims to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church; help improve our understanding and celebration of the liturgy and draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist.



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

**"Follow the Star" to the Celtic Garden Christmas Trail at the IOSAS Centre, Muff:** An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas and learn about some of the Christian stories behind our favourite Christmas traditions. Facilitated by the YARD Project, Derry it is taking place Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 4.00pm, 5.30pm and 7.00pm. Pre-booking essential. For tickets and information contact the IOSAS Centre (00353) 74938 4866 or the YARD Project (028) 7126 9113

**Institute of Irish leadership (Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone):**  
 Irish bookfair in the craft shop Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov (10 00am- 4.00pm). Art Exhibition on display -Scenes from Co Tyrone. - Opening of an masc exhibition by Armagh Rymers Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011. Exhibition on display throughout December. Enrolment for patchwork quilt making (10 week course) starts Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Jan (0.30am-1.00pm) Bring own sewing machine if possible. Enrolment for beginners computer classes starting Jan 2012 on Fri mornings, Conference facilities available for day/evening events. For further details contact [kathleenburnsiii@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenburnsiii@gmail.com) or tel:028 87 757800. Institute of Irish Leadership. 20 The Diamond, Pomeroy

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| <p><b>If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern</b> or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI or local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities.</p>                             |
| <p><b>ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses (St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028 8224 2439)):</b><br/> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February,<br/> 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June<br/> <b>Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:</b> In 2012 the diocese will be going on pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The cost is £599. There are early payment schemes available in the Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry; Pastoral Centre, Maghera; St Eugene's Cathedral; Thornhill Centre and Strabane. For further details contact Thornhill Centre at (028) 7135 1233 or email <a href="mailto:thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org">thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org</a>. Gift vouchers are also available for purchase through Thornhill Centre.</p> |
| <p><b>Carmelite Retreat Centre (Termonbacca, Derry)</b> Call the Carmelite Fathers Office on (028) 7126 2512 to book</p>  |

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

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

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

**Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre News**

- A new Diocesan Youth Co-Ordinator, Dominic O'Reilly has been appointed to replace Justin McMahon.

**Volunteers urgently needed for the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress 2012:**  
The 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress 2012 (IEC2012) will take place in Dublin from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. Volunteers will have an integral role to play in the success of the Congress. Between two and three thousand volunteers will be needed during the week of the Congress and also to assist in preparations in the months leading up to the Congress. The Congress is now recruiting volunteers for a wide range of roles such as administration, data entry, stewards, marketing, transport, meet and greet, multimedia, pastoral preparation and much more!  
If you would like to get involved please visit the IEC2012 website [iec2012.ie/volunteer](http://iec2012.ie/volunteer) and fill out an online application or request an application form from the Congress office. Induction training sessions will begin **19<sup>th</sup> November in the RDS**. For more information please contact the IEC2012 offices on (01) 2349900.

**Age NI First Connect Service:** First Connect offers emotional and practical support at difficult times to people later in life. The First Connect Coordinator will visit each client at home or at an alternative suitable venue, to discuss their needs and provide them with information on the services that are available. This could be as simple as involving them in the community by organising access to a day centre or community group, a benefits check to ensure they are getting what they are entitled to, providing home safety measures, etc. In agreement with the client, the First Connect Coordinator will signpost them to the services and make sure they are in place.  
For more information or to make a referral to the First Connect service contact Age NI at: Freephone 0808 808 7575. Alternatively you can contact the First Connect Coordinator for the Western Area, Eimear McKearney on 07425 620 194 or email [eimear.mckearney@ageni.org](mailto:eimear.mckearney@ageni.org)

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

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| <p><b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November – St. Andrew (Apostle)</b> Andrew from Bethsaida was a disciple of St. John the Baptist when he was called by Jesus. He in turn brought his brother Peter to Jesus. He is said to have suffered martyrdom on this date by crucifixion, but the tradition of an X-shaped cross is much later. Patron Saint of Scotland, Russia and fishermen.</p> |
| <p><b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – St. Francis Xavier (priest) [1506-1552]</b> One of the first 7 Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and Japan. Was killed as he tried to enter China. A Patron Saint of the Missions.</p>   |
| <p><b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December – St. John Damascene (priest) [675-749]</b> A Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defence of icons in the iconoclastic controversy. <i>Not celebrated this year</i></p>   |

**Questions people ask:**

Q. These changes to the Mass will be the last straw for people who are barely hanging on. Don't you think that they will be leaving the Church in droves?

A. Obviously there are people who are easily frustrated and have no patience with any change. But looking at the changes in a positive way, the new translation might make us slow down and look with fresh eyes at the beauty of the prayers and responses at Mass. There is a greater reverence in the new translation and that is a good thing. Instead of rattling off the Gloria or Creed at top speed, the fresh wording is an opportunity to ponder on the majesty and beauty of these prayers. Instead of leaving the Church, people might actually grow in faith and reverence. *Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap ([silvesteroflynn@gmail.com](mailto:silvesteroflynn@gmail.com))*

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 13:33-37:**

1. The coming of the master is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces – good things that happened when they were not anticipated.
2. Perhaps some of these were moments when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in you and around you and this enabled you to be open to a moment of grace. Recall the contrast with moments when that alertness and awareness were not present.
3. The servants were given charge of the household 'each with their own job'. Identify with the servants as people given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person? What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God?
4. What is your experience of good 'doorkeepers', people who were there and ready to receive you even when you came at an awkward or unexpected time. Also your experience of being a good 'doorkeeper' for another.

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**The Deep End – Wake-Up Call:**  
Many of us will have noticed a change in the language used at Mass in recent weeks. Since September we have been getting used to a series of changes to the Mass, and today, the first Sunday of Advent, the new translation of the Missal comes fully into effect.  
You will be aware that some of the congregation's responses are changing, such as the use of 'And with your spirit' instead of 'And also with you'. There are also changes to some of the people's prayers such as the Confiteor, the Gloria, the Creed, and the Sanctus, and to the parts of the Mass spoken by the priest.  
Specially produced congregational cards and missalettes are available in our parishes to assist us as we familiarise ourselves with the new wording. We will all need to be on our toes to make sure we are getting the responses and prayers right. Until we get used to the new wording, we will be more alert than usual. We will not be able to rattle off prayers without thinking, as can be so easy to do when the words are so familiar.  
What a fitting time, then, to introduce the new translation. In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to 'be on your guard', to 'stay awake'. It is very much in the spirit of Advent that we stay alert. When we pray we do more than recite words. Let us use this time to discover anew the meaning of the Mass.  
*St. Therese of Lisieux*  
*Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon ([trionad@gmail.com](mailto:trionad@gmail.com))*