


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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderr
 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year C] (27th December, 2015)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474



Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis Paragraph 10 of Misericordiae Vultus
"Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and I. Her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy."

Liturgy Schedule for the Christmas Octave [Year C] (28 th December, 2015 – 3 rd January, 2016)			
Saturday 26th December St. Stephen (first martyr)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 27th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
		11.00am	Mass
THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON MONDAY 28TH, TUESDAY 29TH AND WEDNESDAY 30TH DECEMBER			
Thursday 31st December Mary the Mother of God	St. Patrick's	12 noon	Mass
Friday 1st January St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianen (bishops and doctors of the Church)	St. Patrick's	12 noon	Mass: Mickey Neilly McCullagh (1 st Anniversary)
Saturday 2nd January Christmas Octave	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm	Confessions
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Maureen Morris (5 th Anniversary)
Sunday 3rd January Second Sunday after Christmas [Year C]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
		10.30am – 10.45am	Confessions
		11.00am	Mass
<i>Exposition and Adoration of Blessed Sacrament will resume on Eve of and on First Friday of February</i>			

Collection: Thank you for your kindness in last week's collection of **£1,322.50** and **£27.50** in the loose plate

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Maureen Morris, Nelly Tracey, Mickey Neilly McCullagh, Margaret Daly** and **Gerry Daly** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptism: Congratulations to the parents and family of baby **Cahir Martin Joseph Slane** on the christening of their child on Sunday 20th December in St. Patrick's Church.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Wednesday 31st August to Wednesday 7th September. Direct from Belfast for the special price of £439 including half-board, tax and insurance if paid by Sunday 10th December.
For further details call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Children in Crossfire – Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 2nd April.
If you would like more information email shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org or call the office on (028) 7126 9898

Pope Francis' Intentions for January (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal – Interreligious Dialogue: That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.
Evangelisation – Christian Unity: That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

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

Next Sunday's Readings: Eccles.(Sirach) 24: 1-2, 8-12 • Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20, R/ John 1: 14
 Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18 • John 1: 1-18 (shorter form 1: 1-5, 9-14 • Lectionary I, page 141
Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]

**FR. GALLAGHER WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
 TO THE CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

Parish Liturgy for January, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McDermott	Monica Coyle	Anne McDermott
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	Maeve McCullagh	Aileen Tracey	Conan Maguire
Collectors	Margaret Morris Michael McNamee	Mickey Beggs Colm Keenan	Sean Clarke Brian Gillen
Altar Society	Mary Bradley, Helen Tracey and Aileen Tracey		Anne McDermott Mary Bradley

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
<u>Saturday 26th December</u> The family of Aoife Coyle	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	<u>Sunday 27th December</u> The family of Eimear Tracey
<u>Saturday 2nd January</u> The family of Tiernan Coyle	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	<u>Sunday 3rd January</u> The family of Ciaran Warnock
<u>Saturday 9th January</u> The family of Ella Kane	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	<u>Sunday 10th January</u> The family of Ciatai Warnock
<u>Saturday 16th January</u> The family of Aisling Lucas	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 17th January</u> The family of Michael Clarke
<u>Saturday 23rd January*</u> The family of Caoileann Maguire	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	<u>Sunday 27th January</u> The family of Molly Clarke
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented As the wider parish community we support these young people and their families with our prayers and thank them *Do This In Memory Week 5 We need new volunteers in every aspect of life		

YOUTH 2000 Group: Thursdays from 5.15pm to 6.30pm in The Oratory, Main Street, Newtownstewart. Prayer, music, friendship and Newtownstewart coffee! This will also be our Pope John Paul Award Project for 2015-2016.
16 year olds and over welcome

ACCORD Pre-Marriage Courses: It is important that all those preparing for Marriage should attend a pre-marriage course. If you intend to be married here in the Parish between now and the end of 2016 you should make arrangements to attend one of the ACCORD Courses in Omagh or at another centre if that suits you. These following dates are presently available.
 5th and 6th February • 4th and 5th March • 1st and 2nd April • 6th and 7th May • 3rd and 4th June • 24th and 25th June
Website: accord.ie • **Tel:** (028) 8224 2439 • **Email:** omagh@accordni.com

Bishop Donal McKeown's Christmas Message of 2015:
 The story we tell about our past, influences how we imagine the future will be. If I recall the past as being full of conflict or stress, I tend to assume that next year will be similar. Healing our memories means learning to tell a new story about our life thus far-so that we can dream of a better future.
 2016 is a year when we will remember crucial events from 100 years ago. How we remember the Easter Rising and the Somme can sometimes say more about how we see the future than about the facts of historical events. The challenge is to learn from the past and not to abuse it, to honour the memory of people and not to dishonour them for our purposes.
 If we plunder their memory for selfish ends, we demean the best in ourselves.
 Only the truth will set us free.
 The Christmas story is not just a nice tale about distant events, a story that the child in each of us still loves. It is a carefully crafted adult story. It says that healing will not come from a God of guts and guns but from a defenceless child. Peace will come, not from the victory of the righteous heroes but from those who love and give. Peace involves the defence of the other and not the success of me. Our main choice at Christmas is not what presents to give. It is about the story that we tell our children so that they can hope and not just party.
 In the Year of Mercy, we will try to tell the Christ Child's story about the past that speaks of forgiveness and reconciliation, hope and healing. I still believe that these are tidings of great joy for all the world in 2016.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Monday 28th December** – **St. Thomas Becket (pope)** Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170. Engaged in conflict with Henry II of England over the rights and privileges of the Church and was murdered by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral. Soon after his death, he was canonised by Pope Alexander III.
- Wednesday 30th December** – **St. Sylvester (pope)** Died in 335 after being Pope for 21 years. Being elected in the year after the Edict of Milan he was free to build many churches in Rome.
- Thursday 31st December** – **Mary the Mother of God** At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer. *Lumen Gentium (52)*
- Friday 1st January** – **St. Basil the Great (bishop and Doctor of the Church) [330-379]** Bishop of Caesarea, a brilliant preacher who lived an ascetic life, establishing norms for Monastic life. Implemented the decrees of the Council of Nicaea. Patron Saint of Russia.
- St. Gregory Nazianzen (bishop and Doctor of the Church) [330-379]** Bishop of Constantinople. He was known as the 'Theologian' because of his wisdom and skill in defending orthodox doctrine.
- Saturday 3rd January** – **St. Munchin (Mainchin) (bishop)** Patron Saint of the diocese of Limerick. His traditional birthplace is Dai Cais where a parish and old graveyard, Cell Mainchin (Kilmanaheen) existed. In the 7th century he was granted Inis Sibthann (Ibton) in the tidal waters of Limerick, in the region of which he funded a church and had a thriving religious community. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

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*

The Good Ship Lollipop – Appeal For Child Refugees: The Belfast children's charity Tuesday's Child is working with catholic missionaries in Sicily to help child refugees rescued in the Mediterranean. Funds will go towards providing essential aid items and care for children, young people and their families and helping high risk children who come in unaccompanied on the boats. *Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid*
Website: tuesdayschild.ie • **Email:** info@tuesdayschild.ie • **Tel:** (028) 9064 6104 / 07545 452 362
Donation by Texting: TUES75 and amount to 70070 (e.g.TUES75 £5)

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – Master of Arts in Catholic School Leadership: A post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to leadership roles or with an interest in the Catholic School system.
For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Yoga with Margaret Franklin: Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán.

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 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding
Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass
Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass

GCSE Irish Class: Tuesday afternoons from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh. This is also open to students from other schools and to adult learners of Irish.
Email: kevin.gowdin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** (028) 8225 6220

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 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. *See poster at entrances*

Towards Peace: A new 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

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 2: 41-52:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

1. Luke's skill as a storyteller comes through in the details of the story in a way that many people can identify with: the loss of a child, the frantic search, the seemingly offhand speech of the teenager. Let the drama of the story speak to you. Where do you find good news in it?
2. In the Gospel of Luke this story serves to give a glimpse of the future greatness of Jesus, the teacher of his people. Sometimes we can look back over our own life, or the lives of others, and with hindsight can see in childhood or teenage years a glimpse of gifts and talents that were later to blossom. Where have you seen this?
3. 'Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?' This seemingly insensitive reply by Jesus to Mary serves to highlight that in his life the mission given him by God would take precedence over family ties, painful though this would be. Perhaps you have known situations in your own life, or in the life of another, where there was pain for family members as you followed your own destiny? Where in the midst of the pain was the good news?

Musings

Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)

It is a temptation, especially during the Christmas season, for us to romanticise. Today's feast is often an occasion in which the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) is held up as perfectly functioning, beautifully harmonious and a model to be imitated. And yet ... it is easy to overlook what must surely have been the real-life angst behind what we tend to dress in tinsel every Christmas: an unmarried mother betrothed to a man who is not the child's father; a bewildered Joseph who makes the decision to trust and to stay; a precarious prelude to the child's delivery and a subsequent flight to Egypt as refugees.

The Deep End – The Missing Child:*Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

Today's Gospel is both an ordinary and extraordinary family story. A missing child is something that happens to most families at one stage or another. 'I thought (s)he was with you!' is the usual panicked exclamation. Returning from Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was with the caravan. Panic ensued when he couldn't be found among their family and friends. There is a dash back to Jerusalem – a whole day's journey away, and it takes three long days to find him. They must have been beside themselves with worry, thinking they had lost their son forever. We are told they were 'overcome' when they found him in the Temple – as well they might be.

Jesus' parents didn't understand what he meant by his cryptic reference to 'my Father's affairs'. But Mary stored up 'all these things' in her heart, accepting the mysterious workings of God. As the only story in the Gospels from Jesus' childhood, this one takes on greater significance, highlighting Jesus' quite ordinary family life while also setting the scene for his future mission. We might wonder what other experiences they had as Jesus was growing up. Were there other times when Mary was struck by Jesus' wisdom and strangeness? When did she realise what was ahead for him, and for herself?

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The Apostolate offers us a special opportunity to pray for a priest each day. The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the St Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The co-ordinators for the diocese, and their contact details, are as follows.

Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • otmil_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk

Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk

Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com

Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com prayerforpriests.com

GCSE Irish Class: Tuesday afternoons from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh. This is also open to students from other schools and to adult learners of Irish.

Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghomagh.com • **Tel:** (028) 8225 6220

Thornhill Ministries – Upcoming Events:

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Friday 1st to Wednesday 6th July. Lourdes has been designated as one of the international places of pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy. Gift vouchers for any amount are available for purchase. *Application forms are available from Rosemary on (028) 7126 0293 or Theresa on 07517 965 751*

Trip to the Holy Land: An 8-Day Retreat Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Thursday 15th to Friday 23rd September.

For more info call Sr. Perpetua on (028) 7135 1233 or email thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org

Alzheimer's Society Carer Information and Support Programme (CrISP)

CrISP is a series of workshops for people caring for a family member or friend with dementia. It provides an opportunity for you to talk in a friendly and confidential environment about your experiences and the impact they are having on you.

Week 1 – Induction and Welcome Welcoming everyone to the programme

Week 2 – Understanding Dementia Explores the physical, psychological and emotional impact of dementia

Week 3 – Legal and Money Matters Explores legal and financial issues to help you understand the importance of planning for the future

Week 4 – Providing Support and Care Explores concerns/challenges that may arise when supporting a person with dementia

Week 5 – Coping Day to Day Looking at the physical, psychological and Emotional impact that dementia may have on you as a carer

The free workshops are run by Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers for a group of up to 12 people who care for a family member or friend with dementia

If interested Paula Canney on (028) 8225 0103 / 07718 322 726 or email paula.canney@alzheimers.org.uk

Save Our Sperrins Meeting: First Wednesday of every month in Greencastle Community Centre with the next meeting on Wednesday 6th January at 8.00pm. Join your local environmental group with an interest in protecting and promoting our Sperrins, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Special guest speakers and an opportunity to immerse yourself in your local community with shared interests in using our local knowledge and previous generations' determination to preserve our beautiful, natural countryside for future generations.

Learn about local areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) like Cashel Rock, special not just for its 450 million year old geographical rock formation but also for protected wildlife including the Irish Hare and the Lapwing more commonly known as the 'Peewit'. The Owenreagh River running through Greencastle, due for designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as one of the last breeding grounds of the rare Freshwater Mussel (*Margaritifera*) in these islands. **Facebook:** SaveOurSperrins • **Email:** saveoursperrins@gmail.com