



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of Wayside, Broughderg

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (28th August, 2016)

Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshkinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474



Year of Mercy Quote from Pope Francis Misericordiae Vultus (paragraph 21)

"Yet this does not mean that justice should be devalued or rendered superfluous. On the contrary: anyone who makes a mistake must pay the price. However, this is just the beginning of conversion, not its end, because one begins to feel the tenderness and mercy of God."

Liturgy Schedule for the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (28 th August, 2016 – 28 th August, 2016)			
Saturday 27th August	St. Patrick's	5.30pm – 5.45pm	Confessions
St. Monica		6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Rita Fox (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 28th August	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C]	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am – 10.45am	Confession
Monday 29th August	St. Patrick's	11.00am	Mass
Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time		10.00am	Mass: Mary T McAneney (Aniversary)
Tuesday 30th August	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass
Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time			
Wednesday 31st August	NOTE: There will be no Mass every Wednesday throughout August unless stated otherwise		
Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time			
Thursday 1st September	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass followed by Confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00am
Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time			
Friday 2nd September	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time			<i>Sick and Housebound Visitations</i>
Saturday 3rd September	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass followed by Confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00am
St. Gregory the Great (pope and doctor of the Church)		5.30pm – 5.45pm	Confessions
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 4th September	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C]	Our Lady of the Wayside	10.30am – 10.45am	Confession
		11.00am	Mass

Parish Collection: Thank you for your generosity to last week's parish collection of **£1,070**.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Rita Fox** and **Mary T McAneney** whose anniversaries occur at this time. We also pray for recently enrolled members of the Derry Diocesan Society **Sally Glass, Cheryl McCullagh** and **Jane McNulty**.

Sick and Housebound Visitations: Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care on Friday 2nd September at the usual times.

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – MA in Catholic School Leadership: In Partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham beginning Autumn 2016. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system.
For more info call The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 0044 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Our Lady of Knock Shrine – National Grandparents' Pilgrimage: Sunday 11th September. Chief Celebrant will be Archbishop Michael Neary, Patron of the CGA with a refectory by Catherine Wiley, the founder of the CGA. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with music and song will be at 2.30pm and the Pilgrimage Mass followed by the Rosary will be at 3.00pm. Children are invited to compose a prayer for their grandparents which will be blessed at the pilgrimage (please send prayers to our office at the following address) **Address:** Castlebar St, Westport, Co Mayo • **Tel:** 098 248 77
Email: info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com • **Web:** catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Pope Francis' Intentions for September (please remember these in your personal prayer)
Universal – Centrality of the Human Person: That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the centre.
Evangelisation – Mission to Evangelise: That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelise.

Next Week's Readings: Wisdom 9: 13-18 • Psalm 89: 3-6, 12-14, 17 R/v 1 • Philemon 9: 10, 12-17
Luke 14: 25-33 • Lectionary I, page 903 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Check out greencastleparish.com/newsheetarchive.htm for extra notices not printed here

Parish Liturgy for September, 2016	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McCullagh	Nuala Glass	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
Prayers of Intercession	---	---	Colleen Brogan
Collectors	Raymond Bradley Lawrence McBride	Colm Keenan Michael Clarke	Tony Donnelly Brendan Daly
Altar Society	Maria Morris and Kathleen Tracey		Anne McDermott Martina McBride

Lough Derg Parish – Upcoming Retreats: *Advance booking essential*
Tel: Maureen or Lorraine on 071 9861 518 • **Email:** info@loughderg.org • **Website:** loughderg.org
Few months remain of this *Jubilee Year of Mercy* and one of Ireland's oldest places of pilgrimage
Lough Derg, offers One Day Retreats on 4th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 17th, 18th and 24th September
Take time out in the nurturing peace of the Island and cross the threshold of the Holy Door in St Patrick's Basilica

Derry Catechetical Centre – Hike to Croagh Patrick: Do you fancy a trip to Westport, Co. Mayo combined with a hike of one of Ireland's most famous mountains? The trip will be on Friday 7th October for those aged 16 or over.
Cost: £30 inc. dinner and bus • **Tel:** (028) 7126 4087 • **Email:** ddcc@derrydiocese.org.

Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: If you are interested in volunteering your services please visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or freephone 0800 912 1200

Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Auction: BADA are now accepting lots for our upcoming auction on the afternoon of Saturday 3rd September. All donations are greatly accepted plus items which you may want to sell. To enter anything in this auction please contact us on one of the following numbers.
Broughderg Post Office (028) 8675 1633 • **Committee members** (028) 8675 1570 / (028) 8164 8180
Items can be collected if required and include household items, furnishing, kitchen essentials, antiques and collectibles

Rouskey Community Centre – Upcoming Events: Call Bridie on 07591 047 556, 07847 459 428 or (028) 8164 8706
Computers Classes Essential Skills: Beginners level 1 and level 2. Anyone interested in any of these free classes in September call one of the numbers above.
Pilates with Breada Turbiitt: Tuesday 13th September at 7.00pm. Free training and new training programme facilitated by South West College. A 12 week programme of training and personal development available to anyone aged 16-65 years who is not working or working 15 hours or less per week, or not in full time education / training.
Rouskey Respiratory Support Group: Rouskey Community Centre considering setting up a Respiratory Support Group facilitated by Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke. Respiratory conditions include illnesses like COPD, asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. A respiratory condition is not always obvious to others, and is often referred to an 'invisible illness'. NICHSS's Respiratory Groups meet often to offer support to people living with respiratory conditions and their families and carers.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Wednesday 31st August to Wednesday 7th September. *Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 for details*

Children in Crossfire 7 County Cycle Derry • Tyrone • Fermanagh • Cavan • Sligo • Leitrim • Donegal
3 day Challenge • 200 miles • Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September
Email: events@childrenincrossfire.org • **Tel:** (028) 7126 9898 • £60 deposit secures place

An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Auction: Saturday 3rd September Now accepting lots.
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Can be collected if required. Range includes household items, furnishing, kitchen essentials, antiques and collectibles

Message from Bishop Daly's Family – A Heartfelt Thank You.
The sisters and extended family of the late Bishop Edward Daly wish to offer a heartfelt thank you to all those who paid their respects and offered sympathies to us in the Cathedral over the days of our brother's passing.
The hospitality, friendship and support offered to us by the Bishops and the priests of the Diocese kept us buoyant over those days. The singing of the choir of St. Eugene's and the Colmcille Ladies choir lifted our spirits and the liturgies, prayers and funeral mass were spiritually strengthening and comforting. The nourishment received from the ladies and volunteers in St. Eugene's Parochial kitchen and offered with such kindness was very welcome and much appreciated. The work of the stewards, both inside and outside the Cathedral, and that of the cleaners all helped towards a dignified atmosphere over those days.
We also wish to thank the Funeral Directors, Bradley and McLaughlin for their professional and sensitive handling of all the necessary arrangements.
We will always remember the people of Derry with gratitude

Bishop Edward Daly Quote *Taken from the Preface of a Troubled See, Memoirs of a Derry Bishop*
"...I was always glad that I served for almost all of my life in Northern Ireland where the Catholic Community is a minority community, a community often under pressure. There is a core here, a leaven of believers, who are wonderful."

Lough Derg Parish – Upcoming Events: *Advance booking essential*
Tel: Maureen or Lorraine on 071 9861 518 • Email: info@loughderg.org • Website: loughderg.org

A Day of Friendship and Prayer Wednesday 14th September
This ecumenical day is an opportunity to gather as a Christian pilgrim family
Guest speaker is Most Reverend Patricia Storey, Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare

Living With Suicide Wednesday 21st September
For those who have been affected by suicide in any way, an opportunity for deeper understanding and support to 'make sense of it all'.
Guest Speakers are Conor McCafferty, ZEST - Healing the Hurt - and Geraldine Kennedy, a personal experience

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The Apostolate prayer card offers us a special opportunity to spend ten minutes each day in prayer for a priest.

The co-ordinators for the diocese and their contact details are: *prayerforpriests.com*
Rosemary Johnson 07810 387 825 - brendan_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk • **Ethna Hill** 07528 249 838 - ethna776@yahoo.com
Siobhan Sweeney 07880 588 041 - siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk • **Eamon Cassidy** 077435 02165 - e_cassidy@hotmail.com

Blessing of Motorbikers: Sunday 11th September at 1.30pm in St. Aengus' Church, Burt. This year, we are having a short prayer service and blessing for all bikers and their bikes. There will be a collection taken up for the RNLI at the church and a Motorbike Run to the RNLI Station at Ned's Point, Buncrana. *All are very welcome*

Family Care Society: We are presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For more information contact us via the following details (offices open weekdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm)
Tel: (028) 9069 1133 or (028) 7136 8592 • Email: email@familycaresociety.org • Website: familycaresociety.co.uk

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

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

Family Care Society – Interested in Adoption? We specialise in finding forever families for children aged 3 years old and upwards and for brothers and sisters. This year we have successfully placed more brothers and sisters together and half of them were over the age of 3. Many more children need forever families. Could you be their new family? We are also seeking families who would be interested in becoming concurrent carers for babies under 2 years old. If you want to talk to one of our specialist adoption practitioners contact.

Rachael (Belfast Office): (028) 9069 1133 • **Julie or Brian (Derry Office):** (028) 7136 8592
Email: email@familycaresociety.org • Website: familycaresociety.co.uk

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants – Emigrant Information Pack: Contains practical information for intending Irish emigrants, such as visa requirements, advice on health insurance, gaining employment, accommodation and other information pertaining to each of the main receiving countries. It also provides information for Irish emigrants planning to return to Ireland after a period living abroad as well as other articles and information on the theme of emigration.

If interested in receiving a free copy(s) of this booklet please contact Teresa at the Derry Diocesan Office
Email: t.mcmenamin@derrydiocese.org • Tel: (028) 7126 2302 • Website: catholicbishops.ie/tag/emigrants

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

White Oaks and YARD Project Confidential Counselling for Families Affected by Addiction:
If you are concerned about a loved one's use of alcohol, drugs or gambling please contact us. Confidential counselling, advice and information provided by a qualified addiction counsellor.
Provided at Columba House, 11 Queen St. Derry • For an appointment or further information call (028) 7126 2407

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*

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 • otmail_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*

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

ACCORD – Fertility and Wellbeing Service: An educational service, offering instruction / counseling in Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning (NFP) for women / couples who wish to achieve a pregnancy or plan their family. ACCORD Fertility and Well Being practitioners are people who have been specifically selected and trained to deliver this service. These practitioners use this knowledge and training to inform, educate and support individuals and couples with regard to their fertility.

Appointments are held in the Omagh centre and can be made by calling (028) 8224 2439

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@jecon.ie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 2nd November Mass for the Dead	Sunday 27th November First Sunday of Advent	Sunday 25th December Feast of the Nativity (Christmas)
Year of Mercy – Local, National and International Pilgrimages as Arranged by the Diocese		
Long Tower Thursday 11 th September (begins 2.00pm with Sacrament of Reconciliation, procession and Mass) Rome and Assisi Friday 2 nd to Thursday 8 th September		
ACCORD – Marriage Preparation Courses: Each year over 20,000 people marry in the Catholic Church in Ireland. Despite the recession, numbers getting married have only fallen slightly in recent years. ACCORD Omagh provides Marriage Preparation Courses for couples marrying in the Catholic Church. Feedback from participants is very positive. Courses take place at the address below and can be booked via the following information. Address: Accord Suite, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre • Website: accord.ie Tel: (028) 8224 2439 Dates (Fridays and Saturdays): 9 th and 10 th September - 7 th and 8 th October - 4 th and 5 th November		
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. <i>Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid</i> 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)		
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. <i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i>		
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 • Web: kindercareni.co.uk		
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		
Drink Wise Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use? <i>For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240</i>		
Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 14: 1, 7-15: <i>John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)</i> 1. The parable brings out two contrasting experiences, but each in its own way can be a moment of grace, a moment of truth, a moment of growth. You may be able to recall such experiences in your life. In the first (verses 8, 9), we discover that we had claimed a place that is too high for us; we are not as selfless, generous or compassionate as we thought we were. In the second (verse 10), when others point out a goodness in ourselves that we may not have acknowledged to ourselves. How have you grown through such experiences? 2. In verses 12-14, Jesus warns us against the danger of ulterior motives in doing good. We can do good things partly because of the benefit we will get from what we do. That is natural but can lead to disappointment and resentment when our expectations are not met. When the good deed in itself is our reward, we have a greater freedom. Feedback will be a bonus but not necessary. What does your life experience tell you about this?		

2015 Parish Statistics			
Baptisms 6 Boys 8 Girls	Confirmations 8 Boys 8 Girls	First Holy Communion / Reconciliation 10 Boys 9 Girls	Marriages 10 within parish 5 outside parish
Station Masses in October 7	Induction of Fr. Edward Gallagher as 13th Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE Celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry on Thursday 17 th September in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle		
Funerals 13	Farewell Concert and Presentation Night for Fr. Eugene Hasson Former Parish Priest of GREENCASTLE and now Parish Priest of the Parishes of Lavey and Greenlough took place on Friday 13 th November in GREENCASTLE Community Centre		

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From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

The Deep End – *Topsy-Turvy Land.*

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

The people walk upon their heads,
The sea is made of sand,
The children go to school by night,
In Topsy-Turvy Land.

The front-door step is at the back,
You're walking when you stand,
You wear your hat upon your feet,
In Topsy-Turvy Land.

from 'Topsy-Turvy Land' by H.E. Wilkinson

Everything is upside down and back to front these past few weeks. Have you been following the train of thought in the Gospel readings? First we had Jesus talking about how he has come to bring division, rather than peace. Next we heard him tell people that the first will be last, and the last first.

Today, he turns our expectations on their head once again, this time offering a lesson in humility. We should not 'exalt' ourselves or take the place of honour among our friends and acquaintances; rather, we should 'humble' ourselves and take the lowest place. When we throw a party, we ought to invite those in need rather than our friends, family, or rich, influential people – because we should expect nothing in return for kindness or generosity.

Jesus seems to enjoy a 'topsy-turvy' approach to life. Following him means thinking differently from the rest of the world – wearing our hat on our feet, so to speak!

Craft Training Ltd: A leading training organisation that provides 16-18 year olds with the opportunity to fulfil their potential in a vocational area, through the Training for Success programme. Gain the skills you need to kick start your career free of charge and earn £40 per week, range of qualifications include ICT, Hairdressing, Joinery, Painting & Decorating, Hospitality & Catering, Retail and much more.

Tel: (028) 8225 9377 • **Office:** Kelvin Avenue, Omagh • **Email:** joincraft@hotmail.co.uk

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 28th August – *St. Augustine (bishop and doctor of the Church) [354-430]* Bishop of Hippo where he lived with a community until his death. His theological influence has been most significant in the Church, especially on understanding God's grace. Patron Saint of theologians. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

Saturday 3rd September – *St. Gregory the Great (pope and doctor of the Church) [540-604]* Was a Roman noble who was Prefect of the City before becoming a monk. As Pope he established a pattern for the papacy in years to come, calling himself servant of the servants of Christ. He sent missions to Lombardy, Sardinia and England. Patron of musicians.

Sunday 4th September – *St. Mac Nissi (bishop)* Took his name from his mother Cnes or Ness. It is claimed that Patrick baptised him and taught him the psalms. He chose the district of Connor for his hermitage, but later became bishop of his clan. He died early in the 6th century. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]

Musings

Fr. Bernard Cotter (Bandon, Co Cork)

Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. *Luke 14:1*
It's no fun to be watched, to have your actions checked against what you say. Jesus had been preaching love and tolerance, now his fellow-guests wondered if he would let his true feelings slip. Just a sideways comment or a flippant remark would be enough to confirm their suspicion that he was not all he seemed. The leading Pharisees were acutely aware of tiny errors that revealed infidelity to law-keeping. They were master-observers. Jesus remained consistent however. He not only believed in humility, he preached it – and he lived it. The Pharisees saw that Jesus was true to his word.
Consistency is a hard standard to measure up to. It's much easier to preach one thing and live another. But we don't get away with it when our actions are being monitored, when we are watched, as is often the case.
Lord, help me to remember that what I do and say has an impact on others, and that my words and deeds have to match.