



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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderrg

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (28<sup>th</sup> October, 2012)**

The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

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Liturgy Schedule for the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (29 <sup>th</sup> October, 2012 – 4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2012)		
<b>Saturday Evening (27<sup>th</sup> October)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions and Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>6:00pm</b> Vigil Mass: Rose Heagney (8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b> Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's	<b>8.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b> St. Colman (bishop) In the home of Leo and Anne Donnelly (Sheskinshule)	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>7.30pm</b> Station Mass
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b> Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b> Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's	<b>9.35am</b> Public Recitation of the Rosary <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday Evening (31<sup>st</sup> October)</b>	Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>7.30pm</b> Confessions <b>8.00pm</b> Vigil Mass <b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b> Feast of All Saints	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>8.00pm</b> Mass to remember those who died this past year
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	Our Lady of the Wayside St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b> St. Otteran (monk)	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b> Mass
<b>Saturday Evening (3<sup>rd</sup> November)</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6:00pm</b> Mass: Eileen Smyth (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b> Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> Mass (Missa Pro Populo) <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Weekly Offerings:</b> Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to <b>£900</b> .		
<b>Remembering Our Dead:</b> We pray for <b>Rose Heagney</b> and <b>Patsy Coyle</b> , whose anniversaries occur at this time.		
<b>Sick and housebound:</b> These will be attended <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b> . Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.		
<b>First Anniversary Mass for Fr. James McGlinchey RIP:</b> Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov. at 11.30am in Star of the Sea Church, Desertegney.		
<b>Pioneer Total Abstinence Association – Short-Term Pledge for the Month of November:</b> During the Month of the Holy Souls some people may wish to abstain from alcohol, offering this sacrifice up for their deceased loved ones. If you would like to take up a Short-Term Pledge for November, visit <a href="http://pioneerassociation.ie">pioneerassociation.ie</a> or contact Raymond O'Connor on (00353) 1874 9464.		
<b>Coach to the Rally for Life in Mayo:</b> Book your seat NOW on the coach to the massive pro-life rally in Castlebar MAYO on Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November at 1.00pm. Never before has it been more urgent for the people of Ireland North and South to stand for life. <i>For further details please contact the Rally for Life Committee on (028) 9027 8484</i>		
<b>Called to the Contemplative life?</b> The Cistercian Community in Portlengone, Co. Antrim will guide a weekend of vocation discernment for men who may feel they have a vocation to the contemplative monastic life 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> November <i>Details available by calling (028) 2582 1211 or emailing <a href="mailto:vocations@bethabbey.com">vocations@bethabbey.com</a></i>		
<b>Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for November (please remember these in your personal prayer)</b>		
<b>General – Ministers of the Gospel:</b> That Bishops, priests, and all ministers of the Gospel may bear the courageous witness of fidelity to the crucified and risen Lord.		
<b>Missionary – Pilgrim Church:</b> That the pilgrim Church on earth may shine as a light to the nations.		
<b>Greencastle Youth Club Rota</b>		
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P6 and P7 (Liz Conneely)
	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Years 8, 9 and 10 (Rosemary Coyle)
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P4 and P5 (Rose Morris)
<b>Next Sundays Readings:</b> Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 125, r/v 3; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52; (Lectionary I, page 817) <b>(Sunday: Year B) (Weekday: Year 2)</b>		

Parish Liturgy for November, 2012	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Siobhan McKenna	Barry Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of the Faithful	James McCullagh	Ciaran Tuohey	Peter McKenna
Collectors	Raymond Bradley Lawrence McBride	Emmett Clarke Eoghan Clarke	Colm Beggs Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Rosemary, Shauna and Ciara McNally		Anne McDermott Josephine Clarke
New choir members will always be welcome, contact Sinead			
Altar Servers Needed: Please notice the important role of altar servers in the prayer life of our faithful community, we currently need new volunteers to strengthen the teams already serving so if you will commit, please do so as soon as possible.			
6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October* The family of <b>Kayleagh McCrory</b>	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October The family of <b>Luke O'Connor</b>	
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November The family of <b>Eoin McCullagh</b>	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Lauren O'Neill</b>	
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>John McGlinchey</b>	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Jamie Wilkinson</b>	
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Alana McGuigan</b>	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B]	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Sean and Tara Conneely</b>	
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> November** The family of <b>Chloe McGurk</b>	Solemnity of Christ the King [Year B]	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Matthew Conway</b>	
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December The family of <b>Aiden Morris</b>	First Sunday of Advent [Year B]	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December The family of <b>Eoin McCullagh</b>	
* Do This In Memory Week 2		** Do This In Memory Week 3	
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.			
During the month of October members of the Legion of Mary supported by others in our congregation will lead us in praying the Rosary 25 minutes before the beginning of Mass each day. Join them or make the Rosary your special family prayer.			
Parish Stations for October: Thank you to all families who hosted a Station Mass for your townland during the month of October, we were blessed with 9 Stations this year. Your hospitality was greatly appreciated. I hope you will maintain this tradition in the parish. I pray God's blessings upon you. I also thank everyone who was involved in leading and all who participated in the public recitation of the Rosary before Mass in Church each day in October. <div>Fr. Hasson</div>			
Sacrament of Confirmation: Monsignor Eamon Martin, Diocesan Administrator has informed us that he will come to our parish for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April at 2.00pm. Please pray for the candidates from our parish, their families, sponsors and their teachers who will be involved next year.			
Fundraising Support: Damian McBride, a young parishioner and pupil at Holy Trinity College, Cookstown has, through his school enlisted with 'Friends of Africa', a lay association established from the SMA Fathers, Dromintine to contribute to the work of the Missions and is planning an educational visit to South Africa in March with other pupils from his school. He has the challenging task of raising £1,700 in funds for the project and he asks for your support. <div>You can meet him after Mass this weekend, when he will be happy to receive donations</div>			
Owenkillew Credit Union – Annual General Meeting: Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November at 8.00pm sharp in the Greencastle Office, a draw will be held for all adult members present on the night.			
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School – Establishing a Parent Teacher Association: They would be keen to hear from parents interested in helping out with the setting up and running of such a group. Several parents have already indicated their willingness to assist with this and if you would like to become involved contact the school as soon as possible with your details.			
Norms For Indulgences At The Commemoration Of All Souls.			
1. From 12.00noon on 1 <sup>st</sup> November until midnight on 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, all who have confessed, received Holy Communion, and prayed for the Pope's intentions (one Our Father and Hail Mary, or any other prayer of one's choice) can gain one plenary indulgence by visiting a church or oratory, and there reciting one Our Father and the Apostle's Creed. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls of the departed. Confession may be at any time within the week preceding or the week following 1 <sup>st</sup> November. Holy Communion may be received on any day from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> November.			
2. The faithful who visit a cemetery and pray for the dead may gain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the Holy Souls On the usual conditions once per day from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> November. The conditions mentioned above apply also for this.			
Lotto Results: F – G – I – M – P (5 people with 3 letters – £10 each) Next Jackpot: £2,050			
SUMMER ENDS THIS WEEKEND, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR			

**Special Enriching Weekend for Married Couples in a Stable Relationship:** Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, 30<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Designed to help deepen your commitment to one another and enrich the joys you share together, whether you are recently or many years married.  
[marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie) / (00353) 64664 4319 / (00353) 87667 0418 / (028) 9062 6503

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2013:** For information please contact (0044) 28822 41888

**Special Music Workshop:** Thornhill Centre Ministries has invited Fr. Liam Lawton to lead a music workshop in the city on 11<sup>th</sup> November from 4.30pm to 6.00 pm in St. Brigid's Parish Centre (opposite Resource Centre Derry, Carnhill). We are really fortunate that Fr. Liam has agreed to include a visit to Derry in his latest itinerary. His most recent composition is the Mass setting *Aifreann Muire na nGael*. The style is very attractive, very singable and makes use of the Irish idiom in both melody and language. the venue holds a couple of hundred people and our hope is that as many Church Musicians from the diocese as possible will be able to attend. Each participant will receive an accompanying book and CD. The cost of the workshop is £16 per person. In some cases, the parish may be able to part / fully sponsor musicians.  
*Cheques payable to Thornhill Centre*  
*To book a place, please phone Sister Perpetua/Erin on (028) 7135 1233 or email [thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org](mailto:thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org)*

**Looking for a book for your parish study group? Consider *The Mystery of Work*:** This is a book that teaches how to turn ordinary acts into acts of prayer, a collection of insights by saints, popes and mystics about how work itself can be prayer. Recommended for spiritual development by Fr. Raphael Simon, OCSO, Trappist monk and Retreat Master. Excerpt: "I believe quite simply that it is Jesus Himself, hidden deep in my poor little heart, who works within me in a mysterious manner and inspires all my daily actions." (St. Therese of Lisieux) Free Study Guide downloadable from our website. Purchase indiv. copies at Amazon. For 5 or more copies at discounted prices, see our website. [logosinstitute.org](http://logosinstitute.org)

**Prayer for the Diocese of Derry at this time**  
 God our Father, we your people of the diocese of Derry, turn to you in prayer, as our ancestors have done, In good times and bad, since the days of Saint Columba and Saint Eugene, Saint Lurach and Saint Mura. Although aware that we are unworthy of your grace, with confidence in your love we ask your help. Support and care for our bishops in their retirement, give courage and vision to those who are called on to administer the diocese at this time. Grant your wisdom and discernment to those charged with the task of choosing your next bishop. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.  
***Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us, Saint Columba, pray for us, Saint Eugene, pray for us, Saint Lurach pray for us, Saint Mura pray for us, all you saints of the diocese pray for us.***  
*Fr. Kieran Devlin P. Em (Badoney Lower, 2012)*

**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 under 8 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](mailto:email@familycaresociety.org) [familycaresociety.net](http://familycaresociety.net)*

Tuesday's Child - Upcoming Events	
<b>Dublin City Marathon</b> Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	A lovely marathon taking in some of the main tourist attractions in Dublin. To register go to <a href="http://dublinmarathon.ie">dublinmarathon.ie</a> . For a fundraising pack email us at <a href="mailto:events@tuesdayschild.org.uk">events@tuesdayschild.org.uk</a> .
<b>Get Active and make it a Win-Win for needy children:</b> Get active, do a sponsored walk or run, swimathon or cycle and change the life of a child today. Lots of sponsored events to choose from or why not organise your own. Everything you raise, we give. No salaries, no administration cost, are taken from funds raised.	
<b>Bore Hole for Kariobangi, Nairobi:</b> Most of us take clean drinking water for granted. We can have a glass of clean water at the turn of a tap. Millions of people are not so fortunate. Your loose change can make a difference. Help us raise funds to sink a bore hole in Kariobangi, Nairobi. Further information on <a href="http://tuesdayschild.ie">tuesdayschild.ie</a> .	
<b>Barnardo's Main Office Line for the Child Bereavement Service in Belfast Number Change:</b> Please note that this number is no longer (028) 9069 4000 anymore and is now (028) 9066 8333.	

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2012			
<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)
<b>Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID):</b> Concerned about your hearing or tinnitus problems? If you would like a hearing check, get advice or get information on services available, come to an Action on Hearing Loss FREE Drop-in Hearing Aid Clinic. Local clinics will be held in the coming weeks as follows: <b>Derg Valley Healthy Living Centre, Castlederg:</b> Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November between 10.30am and 12noon. <b>Strule Medical Practice, Health Centre, Omagh:</b> Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November between 2.00pm and 3.30pm. For further details contact Lisa Bullick, Outreach Development Officer Tel: (028) 6632 4400, Textphone: (028) 6632 4400, Mobile: 07553 353 980 Website <a href="http://actiononhearingloss.org.uk">actiononhearingloss.org.uk</a>			
<b>Our Parish cemeteries</b> are special places providing a focus for our prayerful remembrance of the dead. Please cooperate in their maintenance and care with respect, dignity and honour. Remove flowers and wreaths that have withered. Please do not dump them anywhere in the graveyard. Ask Monumental Sculptors who have completed their work to take rubble away and not dispose of it at the side of the cemetery.			
<b>ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2012-2013</b> (028)8224 2439 <a href="mailto:accordomagh@btopenworld.com">accordomagh@btopenworld.com</a> 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> November 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> January 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> February 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> March 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> April 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> June Applications to Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St., Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Courses are limited to 15 couples and must be completed at least 6 months before your wedding			
<b>Follow the Star IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail (Facilitated by The YARD Project):</b> This year the Celtic Prayer Garden at the IOSAS Centre, Derryvane, Muff will be transformed to provide a truly memorable Christmas experience for all the family. A guided trail under starlight around the Christmas themed houses tells the greatest story ever told – the birth of Jesus. This interactive event will also include crafts for kids and storytelling on some of our favourite Christian traditions. <i>For more info on dates, times etc call (074) 9384 866 / (00353) 7493 84866 from NI) or Facebook 'IOSAS Centre Christmas Trail'</i>			
<b>Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half-Marathon:</b> Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> February, £100 deposit secures your place. <i>For more information please contact <a href="mailto:events@childrenincrossfire.org">events@childrenincrossfire.org</a> or call (028) 7126 9898</i> <i>Thank you for your time on this it is greatly appreciated</i>			
<b>Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children: - Use of photography and video</b> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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);</li> <li>Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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 everyone to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.</li> </ul> <i>The notice comes from the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is published on behalf of the <b>Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</b></i>			
<b>October: Month of Mission (Theme: Growing in Communion):</b> The Mission Alive Office of the Irish Missionary Union draws your attention to its programme of events to raise awareness of the life and service of Lay and Religious Missionaries. You are encouraged to celebrate Lay and Religious Missionaries, and their contribution to the global realities they serve, in your parish, with your parishioners and in the school(s) in your parish. <i>You are invited to access <a href="http://imu.ie">imu.ie</a> or <a href="https://facebook.com/missionmonth">facebook.com/missionmonth</a></i>			

Cappagh Badoney CCE	
<b>Sean-Nós Dancing Classes</b>	Gortin Rouskey Social Centre, Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> November. Classes are open to all age groups. Beginners: 5.00pm to 5.45pm / Improvers: 5.45pm to 6.30pm. Registration for 5 week course is £15 for 5 weeks on first night.
<b>Irish Language Classes for Primary School Children</b>	Owenkillow Centre on Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. Registration for 5 week course is £15 for 5 weeks on first night.
For information on all our cultural classes and sessions visit our website <a href="http://cappaghabadoneycce.com">cappaghabadoneycce.com</a>	

**London Marathon (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April):** Why not join team Foyle Hospice for a thrill of a lifetime running/walking one of the world's most exciting marathons, the Virgin London Marathon which takes place Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April? This run takes in all the major sites and attractions in London with thousands of spectators all along the course. Places in this event will be difficult to get, but Foyle Hospice has some guaranteed entries for the marathon. For further information contact Noel McMonagle, Community Fundraising Manager. Email [noel@foylehospice.com](mailto:noel@foylehospice.com) or telephone (028) 7135 9888.

**Transmitting the Passion for Christ to the World** *Vatican City (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October) [VIS]*  
The passion for announcing Christ to the world and the knowledge that God acts in the Church were the two key themes of the brief remarks addressed this morning by Benedict XVI to the Synod Fathers at the opening of the thirteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is to examine the subject of new evangelisation.  
The Pope explained how the question as to whether God is real is as urgent today as it was in the past. With the Gospel God broke His silence, He spoke to us and entered into history. Jesus is His Word, the God Who showed that He loved us, Who suffered with us even unto death, then rose again.  
This, the Holy Father went on, is the Church's response to that great question. Yet there is another question: how to communicate this truth to the men and women of our time, that they might learn of salvation? "We cannot make the Church", he said, "we can only make known what He did. The Church did not begin with our actions but with the actions and word of God".  
Having recalled how the Apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, while gathered in prayer in the Upper Room, Benedict XVI went on: "The fact, then, that each synodal assembly begins with prayer is no mere formality; rather, it is evidence of our awareness that the initiative is always God's: we may implore it, but the Church can only cooperate with God".  
Having achieved this awareness, the second step is "confession"; that is, bearing witness even in dangerous situations. It is precisely such witness in moments of difficulty that is a guarantee of credibility, because it implies a readiness to give our lives for that in which we believe.  
Yet, confession requires a visible form, a 'clothing'. This, the Pope explained, is charity; the most powerful force, which must burn in the hearts of Christians. Faith, he concluded, must become a flame of love within us, a flame which burns in our lives and is propagated to our neighbours. This is the essence of evangelisation.

**This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October – St. Simon and St. Jude (Apostles)** The teaching of the apostles is the living gospel for all to hear. Their authority comes from their fidelity to Christ and his message. We pray today that they continue to watch over the Church and give it protection against error. St. Jude is Patron Saint of hopeless causes. [Not celebrated this year]  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October – St. Colman (bishop)** Hailed from Kilmacduagh, Co. Clare in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. After studying in Aran, where he founded two churches on Inis Mhor, he returned to make a foundation at Kilmacduagh.  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Feast of All Saints** Arose out of the Christian tradition of celebrating the martyrdom of saints on the anniversary of their martyrdom. When martyrdoms increased during the persecutions of the late Roman Empire, local dioceses instituted a common feast day in order to ensure that all martyrs, known and unknown, were properly honoured.  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – St. Otteran (monk)** Irish monk associated with Columba of Iona. Some claim that he was an abbot from County Meath but that is not definite. Patron Saint of graves and cemeteries.

**Archdiocese of Vienna to Undergo Radical Parish Reform** *Christa Pongratz-Lippitt*  
*Vienna, Austria*  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 11.08am  
The Vienna archdiocese, which is one of the largest in Europe and extends from the Czech frontier down to the southern Alps, will undergo radical parish reforms, reducing its 660 parishes to 150 in the next 10 years.  
"This is the most comprehensive reorganisation of the Vienna archdiocese since that of Austrian Emperor Joseph II [1765-1790] 200 years ago," Cardinal Christoph Schönborn told journalists at a Sept. 19 media reception in the archbishop's palace in Vienna.  
The main reasons for these measures were the increasing shortage of priests and the steady decline in the number of Catholics, especially of those who regularly attended Mass and were involved in their local parishes, the cardinal explained.  
"I am fully aware that these reforms denote a far-reaching change of perspective," Schönborn said. "We must take leave of the traditional concept that the church is only present where there is a priest. That is a restricted view that has developed over time but which must now be corrected. Church is community, and leading offices in the church should in principle be carried out collaboratively, even if the parish priest has the final responsibility according to canon law." The "common priesthood of all the baptised" will take center stage from now on, Schönborn said, meaning that those who have been baptised and confirmed will be responsible for evangelisation and pastoral work. The reform is meant to bring about a new form of cooperation between priests and lay Catholics based on their common vocation to Christianity, he said.  
The reforms are scheduled to start in January, and if everything goes according to plan, 80 percent of today's parishes would be amalgamated by 2022, Schönborn said. It is not yet possible to predict exactly how many nor which parishes would survive, he said, but several hundreds of the present parishes would certainly find themselves part of one large central parish in 10 years' time, the cardinal explained.  
Several priests -- "at least three to five" -- would be active in each of the central parishes and would run the parish jointly with lay parishioners.  
"Participatory leadership with clear task allocation" was the aim, Schönborn said. One priest in each of the central parishes would be responsible to the archbishop.  
Within these large central parishes, there would be many small affiliated communities run only by lay Catholics who would work voluntarily. The cardinal expressly emphasised that no parishes would be closed, but smaller parishes might be amalgamated with larger ones.  
Catholics would have to travel to one of the large central parishes to celebrate the Eucharist, but Services of the Word would be celebrated by the laypeople running the local affiliated communities.  
Church activities would be dedicated to evangelisation to a far greater extent than they had been up to now, Schönborn said.  
"More and more vibrant communities will be able to develop," he said, as there would be less administrative work, costs would be bundled, resources pooled and thus "more time left for evangelisation."  
"There are still many problems to be solved. We will have to say goodbye to a great deal of what has become dear to us, but the farewell is at the same time a new departure," Schönborn said.  
The reforms were criticised by the Catholic reform group Austrian Priests' Initiative, which is in favour of ordaining married men and women to relieve the shortage of priests.  
"Reacting to a mass retreat by retreating oneself is not a good solution," Msgr. Helmut Schüller, a founder of the Austrian Priests' Initiative, told the Austrian daily Die Presse. "We are withdrawing from our local parish churches instead of strengthening them."  
"In large parishes which cover extensive geographical areas, many of our parishioners will feel lost and go astray, said Schüller, Schönborn's former vicar-general. "Many contacts will be lost and much closeness and presence will be lost, too."  
As parish priest of a small, flourishing parish in lower Austria, Schüller said he could not imagine his parish being merged into a large central parish because an "immense amount of blood, sweat and tears but also time and energy has been invested in it."  
The community of the faithful was a "very precious asset" that was hardly mentioned in the new reform plans, Schüller said.  
According to an Oekonsult poll, 86% of Austrians see the amalgamation of parishes as "problematic."  
*Christa Pongratz-Lippitt is an Austrian correspondent for the London-based weekly Catholic magazine The Tablet*

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 10:46-52:***John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

1. In this story Jesus cures the blind man, Bartimaeus. Recovery of sight in the Bible is often a metaphor for coming to faith. Perhaps during your life you have had moments of insight, of deeper understanding, of appreciating who Jesus is for you. What was it that helped you to see more clearly?
2. Who was the 'Jesus person' who helped you to see more clearly? Perhaps, as a parent, a teacher or a friend, you have also been a 'Jesus person' for another and helped her or him to a clearer understanding of the meaning of life, love and faith.
3. To get to Jesus, Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak so that he would not be impeded. What have you had to discard in order to be able to see more clearly (e.g., an assumption, a prejudice, a rigid opinion)?
4. 'Your faith has saved you' Jesus said to Bartimaeus. Recall situations in which you have been grateful for the faith that is yours because in some way it saved you.

**Questions people ask:***Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)*

- Q. In a recent newsletter you wrote about adult religious education. Are there any books you'd recommend?
- A. Top of any list must be the astounding story of Jesus Christ in the Gospels and other New Testament writings. Scriptural commentaries will enrich your reading. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a wonderful compendium of our religion. It has four parts: what we believe (creed); the celebration of faith (liturgy and sacraments); Christian behaviour (morality); and a beautiful section on prayer, especially a reflection on the Our Father. A simplified version of the Catechism, called YOUCAT, is now available. Any bookshop should be able to get it for you.

**The Deep End – Following Bartimaeus:***Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

In today's Gospel we hear about Jesus' healing of Bartimaeus. What is remarkable about this story is the courage of Bartimaeus and his expectant faith. We pray for those who are on the margins of society and those who are suffering. Some of the crowd attempt to silence Bartimaeus. We pray for those who persecute others. We pray for those whose voices cannot be heard. Bartimaeus calls out louder because he has the kind of faith that speaks up and acts up. If Bartimaeus had believed quietly in Jesus, he would not have been noticed. We pray for those who are persistent in their faith and in their actions for healing and justice regardless of the consequences. Some of the crowd encourage Bartimaeus telling him to have courage and get up. We pray for those who work on the fringes of society, whose eyes and ears have been opened to the voiceless. Jesus asks 'what do you want me to do for you?' We pray that we may have the courage to ask God for what we need no matter how impossible it may seem. Bartimaeus wants to see. We pray that we may all have our eyes opened to the realities of the world around us, that we too may take courage and 'get up'. We pray for those who do not want to have their eyes opened because they are afraid. Bartimaeus' healing is immediate and he follows Jesus on the way. We pray that we may receive the same insight as Bartimaeus so that we can follow Jesus on 'the way'.