



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

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

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year B] (28<sup>th</sup> October, 2018)**

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

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



**Pope Francis speaks to Ireland** *Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless, Dublin [Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August]*

"You ask no questions. You accept life as it comes, you give comfort and, if need be, you forgive. This makes me think – as a reproof - of those priests who instead live by asking questions about other people's lives and who in confession dig, dig, dig into consciences. Your witness teaches priests to listen, to be close, to forgive and not to ask too many questions. To be simple, as Jesus said that father did who, when his son returned, full of sins and vices. That father did not sit in a confessional and start asking question after question. He accepted the son's repentance and embraced him. May your witness to the people of God, and this heart capable of forgiving without causing pain, reach all priests. Thank you!"

Liturgy Schedule for Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time [Year B] (28 <sup>th</sup> October – 4 <sup>th</sup> November)			
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
St. Otteran (monk)	DTIM (week 2)		
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon – 7.15pm</b>	Adoration
Blessed Dominic Collins (martyr)	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>8.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass of Holy Day
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confession
All Saints' Day			
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b>	Mass
All Souls' Day			
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass followed by Confession
St. Otteran (monk)		<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Jim McCullagh (5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass

**COLLECTIONS**      **Weekly:** £995      •      **Mission Sunday:** £555      *Thank you for your generosity*

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Josephine Walker (nee McCullagh) of Claremorris, Co. Mayo** who died during the week. We also pray for the repose of the souls of **Margaret Leddy** and **Rose Conway** whose anniversaries occur now

**Marriage:** We congratulate **Ciaran Conroy (Beragh) and Karen Daly (Greencastle)** who shared the Sacrament of Matrimony with each other on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October in St. Patrick's Church.

**Sick and Housebound:** Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the usual times. He will also offer the Sacrament of the Sick during his visit

**Mass for the Faithful Departed:** Our Annual Mass for all our Faithful Departed will take place Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (All Souls' Day) at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church. During the mass special candles will be lit by representatives of families who lost a loved one since this mass last year. After the mass and throughout the month of November the memorial book will be placed at the front of the church so that you can add names of any faithful departed you wished to be remembered at all masses throughout the month of November.

*"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed he will save." Psalm 34:8*

**Irish Pilgrimage Trust (IPT) – Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** Easter, 2019. The IPT is currently accepting applications for this pilgrimage from young people (11 – 30 years) with a medical condition, physical disability, illness, learning disability, social or emotional need or applications for children under the age of 11, who must be accompanied by a parent or close relative. IPT covers the cost of the young person selected to travel.

*For more info / application form call Mary on 00353 87 7962 047 • Closing date is Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October*

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

**Universal – In the Service of Peace:** That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

**Next Week's Readings:** Deuteronomy 6:2-6 • Psalm 17:2-4, 47, 51, R/ v 2 • Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 12:28-34 • Lectionary 1:820      **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 2]**

Parish Liturgy for November, 2018	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Nuala Glass	Siobhan McKenna	Barry Maguire
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	Ronan Hollywood	Erin Hood	Cara-Rose Brogan
<b>Collectors</b>	John Bradley Colum Devlin	Brendan Conway Eugene Tracey	Brendan Daly Brian Gillen
<b>Altar Society</b>	Alice Keenan, Anne Donnelly, Mary McCrory, Louise O'Brien, Alannah Coyle and Clodagh McKenna		Ann McDermott, Martina McBride, Lucy-Marie McCrory and Leanne Morris

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October (DTIM week 2) The family of <b>Sean McGlinchey</b>	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October The family of <b>Caolan Tracey</b>
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November The family of <b>Grace Teague</b>	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> November The family of <b>Eoghan Conway</b>

**Annual Diocesan Pioneer Mass:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Killyclogher  
Chief Celebrant will be the Most Reverend Donal McKeown  
*Refreshments afterwards in Parochial Hall • All Pioneers and friends are invited to attend*

**Annual Pioneer and Friends Retreat:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November in Termonbacca.  
A great opportunity to prepare for Advent! Cost including lunch is £25.  
Contact Maria on (028) 8164 8357 / 07768 395 038 or any Committee member before Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November

**Pilates Classes:** 6-week block from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November in Greencastle Community Centre  
**Beginners** 7.15pm • **Intermediate / Advanced** 8.15pm  
*Led by a chartered physiotherapist • To register call Roisin on 07437 762 005 or email roisin@sperrinphysio.com*

**Saturday Morning Spin Class:** Starts Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00am for 6 weeks at a cost of £25

**An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Card Playing:** Every Friday from 26<sup>th</sup> October, 8.00pm. *Supper served*

**Killyclogher (Cappagh) Parish – Part-Time Housekeeping Role for Derry Diocesan Trust:** 20 hours per week (Mon-Fri), this position is split between two houses in the parish. Permanent Contract. For an application pack please contact at Cappagh Parish Office, 14 Killyclogher Road, Omagh, BT79 0AX, call (028) 8224 3375 or email info@cappaghparish.com. Completed applications must be returned to Cappagh Parish Office (posted, hand-delivered or via email) no later than 3.00pm on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Interviews will be held on the week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer*

**Public Meeting on Alcoholism:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30pm in Greencastle Credit Union  
Speakers from AA, Al Anon and a medical professional will be there *All welcome*

**Come and See – Now is a great time to be a priest. No Ordinary Life: Exploring Priesthood**  
Who am I called to be? How am I called to live? What am I called to do?  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November in Mount St Anne's Portarlinton, Co Laois (€30)  
Organised by the National Vocations Office. For more info email info@vocations.ie or Fr. Gallagher  
"A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people." *Pope Francis*

**The Big Knit for Age NI** Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p.  
*To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/thebigknit*

**Crib Festival:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Would anyone be willing to lend a crib to Thornhill Ministries for their annual Crib Festival? If so, please contact the secretary.  
*As it takes time to organise the displays, it would be much appreciated if you could get in touch fairly soon*  
**Monica Retreat Day:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Anyone who feels the loss of family members who are choosing not to practice their faith this is a day for personal healing. *Led by Fr. Paschal McDonnell*  
Thornhill Ministries, 121 Culmore Road, Derry • (028) 7135 1233 • thornhillministries@derrydiocese

**Catholic Engaged Encounter Course:** For details / booking: marriageencounter.ie • (028) 2763 8512  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March in Our Lady and St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

**An Caisleán Glas CLG – Cultural Youth Concert:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm sharp in the Community Centre. Come along and enjoy an evening of singing, drama, music and dance! *All are welcome*

**The Derry Diocesan Pastoral Plan is available to download on the Derry Diocesan website (derrydiocese.org)**  
*For a hard-copy, request it from the Diocesan Office (email office@derrydiocese.org or call (028) 7126 2302)*

<b>St. Vincent de Paul Helpline:</b> For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992
<b>Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages:</b> 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle Service from €279 per person Book any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service <i>To book dates call 00353 1443 4510 or (020) 3239 8662 or email <a href="mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com">reservations@med-irishcentre.com</a></i>
<b>Red Cross:</b> Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed. <i>Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011</i>
<b>Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):</b> Prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies <i>Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on <a href="http://radiomaria.ie">radiomaria.ie</a> or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply) • Join our faith family!</i>
<b>Accord Counselling Services:</b> Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination. <i>If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email <a href="mailto:omagh@accordni.com">omagh@accordni.com</a></i>
<b>Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure:</b> If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry. <i>If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting <a href="http://derryyouthcommunity.com">derryyouthcommunity.com</a> or emailing <a href="mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org">dyc@derrydiocese.org</a></i>
<b>Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour:</b> Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers. <i>Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email <a href="mailto:tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com">tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com</a></i>
<b>Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:</b> All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness <i>For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email <a href="mailto:michellemcginn@foylehospice.com">michellemcginn@foylehospice.com</a></i>
<b>ACCORD – Relationship Counseling:</b> 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. <i>An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing <a href="mailto:omagh@accordni.com">omagh@accordni.com</a></i>
<b>String Instrument Music Lessons:</b> Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent <b>Beginners:</b> 6.00pm to 6.45pm • <b>Advanced:</b> 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place
<b>Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm:</b> 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. <b>Address:</b> IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal <b>Tel:</b> (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://celticprayergarden.com">celticprayergarden.com</a> • <b>Facebook:</b> IOSASCentre • <b>Twitter:</b> IOSASCentre
<b>Rural Support:</b> We could help you with financial stress by Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:info@ruralsupport.org.uk">info@ruralsupport.org.uk</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://ruralsupport.org.uk">ruralsupport.org.uk</a> To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606
<b>MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas):</b> 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>

<b>Family Care Adoption Services</b> <i>Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children</i> For a free information contact <b>Tel:</b> (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm) us using any of these details <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org">anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org</a> • <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://familycaresociety.co.uk">familycaresociety.co.uk</a>
<b>Drink Wise, Age Well:</b> 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>
<b>The Priests – Christmas Concert:</b> Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh. Tickets: £25, available from Drumragh Parish Office, 48 Brook St, Omagh, (028) 8224 2092 (office hours), or Top News, George St, Omagh, (028) 8224 0084. Purchase early to avoid disappointment. <i>Perfect as a Christmas gift</i>
<b>ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training</b> To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week. <b>Omagh Office:</b> (028) 8224 6535 • <b>Enniskillen Office:</b> (028) 6632 6478 • <b>Facebook:</b> Aspire Employability Programme <i>The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy</i>
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession:</b> 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. <b>St. Patrick's:</b> 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 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass on request after Mass <b>Our Lady of the Wayside:</b> Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass on request after Mass
<b>Foster Carers Needed:</b> The Western Trust urgently needs people to come forward who can offer a loving home to foster children. At present there is a greater number of children in need of homes than there are foster carers available. If you have room in your home and in your heart to care for a child, please contact: Vanessa Nelis – WHSCT Recruitment Officer for Fostering <b>Tel:</b> (028) 8283 5264 <b>Mob:</b> 07554 552 989 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:vanessa.nelis@westerntrust.hscni.net">vanessa.nelis@westerntrust.hscni.net</a>
<b>Kindercare Fostering NI:</b> 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: <b>Tel:</b> (028) 90941690 • <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk">gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk</a> • <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://kindercareni.co.uk">kindercareni.co.uk</a>
<b>Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers:</b> To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland. <i>If you are interested in volunteering visit <a href="http://trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer">trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer</a> or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info</i>
<b>Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday</b> <b>Sean-Nós and Set Dancing</b> 6.00pm to 7.00pm • <b>Singing in Irish</b> 7.00pm to 8.00pm <b>Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels</b> 8.00pm to 9.30pm <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kevin.goodwin@fermanaghomagh.com">kevin.goodwin@fermanaghomagh.com</a> • <b>Tel:</b> 07747 899 249
<b>Towards Peace:</b> 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. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://towardspeace.ie">towardspeace.ie</a> • <b>Tel:</b> 01 505 3028 • <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie">towardspeace@iecon.ie</a>
<b>Child Safeguarding:</b> If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI / local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively, if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities. <i>See poster at entrance</i>

### 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*

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

**Sunday 28<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.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Blessed Dominic Collins (martyr)** He was born around 1566 in the city of Youghal, Co. Cork. In 1598, after a military career, he entered the Society of Jesus as a Brother. He returned to Ireland in 1601, but on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1602 he was captured by the English who tried in vain to make him abjure his faith. Condemned to death, he was hanged in his native city on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1602.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints' Day** 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.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls' Day** A commemoration of the faithfully departed. To remember the departed, many cultures prepare meals for the souls of the dead, light candles or leave flowers on relatives' graves and some anoint tombstones with holy water or pour milk over them.

### Seeing your life through lens of Gospel – Mark 10:46-52: *John Byrne OSA (jpbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

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 has 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.

**Musings:** 'Mary, Virgin and Mother, you who, moved by the Holy Spirit, welcomed the word of life in the depths of your humble faith: as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One, help us to say our own 'yes' to the urgent call, as pressing as ever, to proclaim the good news of Jesus. Filled with Christ's presence, you brought joy to John the Baptist, making him exult in the womb of his mother. Brimming over with joy, you sang of the great things done by God. Standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith, you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit so that the evangelising Church might be born. Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection, that we may bring to all the gospel of life, which triumphs over death.'

*Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium, 288)*

### The Deep End – Who Is Blind?

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

Who is blind in today's gospel? The obvious answer, of course, is the blind man! Bartimaeus is blind and desperate. He has not been blind all his life, so he knows about the wonderful gift of sight he is now missing. His faith is strong, and his courage is stronger still; no matter how much he is scolded and silenced, he calls to Jesus all the louder. Though he is physically blind, he sees plenty.

Who sees Bartimaeus? Certainly not the followers of Jesus. They do not think of Bartimaeus as someone worthy of meeting Jesus. To the extent that they think about him at all, he is an irritation, a poor beggar to look down on, hardly a person. They are utterly blind to his needs.

I'm struck by the irony of the crowds summoning Bartimaeus with the word 'Courage'. He has already shown tremendous courage. Minutes previously Jesus' followers had been content to pass him by and silence his cries for help, but their master has given an order and they must obey. How they must have squirmed, calling him over.

The blind man sees Jesus, and Jesus sees the blind man. Everyone else is blind to both of them. Everyone else fades into the background of the story, just as Bartimaeus was pushed to the back of the crowds.

Perhaps it is time for an eyesight test. Do we see Jesus for who he really is? Do we pay attention to those around us, or are we blind to their needs? Do we hear the cry of the poor, or are we complicit in silencing them?

### Accord Marriage Preparation Courses: Planning to get married in 2018 / 2019?

Book with Accord by visiting [accord-ni.co.uk](http://accord-ni.co.uk). Course dates available in 2018 are as follows:

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November • Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Service of Light (P7)** Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 7.30pm • **First Confession** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm  
**Confirmation** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon • **First Holy Communion** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 12 noon

### 2017 PARISH STATISTICS

<b>Baptisms (26)</b> 10 Boys • 16 Girls	<b>First Holy Communions / Reconciliations (14)</b> 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>Confirmations (15)</b> 7 Boys • 8 Girls
<b>Marriages (5)</b> 2 within parish • 3 outside parish		<b>Funerals (12)</b> 11 within parish • 1 outside parish
<b>April:</b> Parishioners and pupils of Dean Maguire College took part in Holy Thursday mass in RTÉ Studio in Dublin on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April		
<b>December:</b> Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began 13 <sup>th</sup> December in St Patrick's Church		