



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

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

First Sunday of Advent [Year A] (28th November, 2010)

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

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Gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Novena of prayer based at Christ The King Church Strathroy, Omagh, but involving the combined parishes of *Drumragh, Cappagh, Greencastle, Newtownstewart, Castlederg, Drumquin* and *Gortin* to reflect on first part of the Mass takes place this week. This is part of a program for this area of the diocese to prepare for the Eucharistic Congress planned for Dublin in 2012. Greencastle and Gortin will share prayer leadership on Tuesday 30th November. *If you cannot attend you can join through the Novena website at eucharist2012.com*

Eucharistic Novena Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You were sent by the Father to gather together those who are scattered.

You came among us, doing good and bringing healing, announcing the Word of salvation and giving the Bread which lasts forever. Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts, enliven our hope and open our minds, so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith we may recognize you in the Scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body and lead us to walk humbly on the earth, in justice and love, as witnesses of your resurrection. In communion with Mary, whom you gave to us as our Mother at the foot of the cross, through you may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father in the Holy Spirit and in the Church, now and forever. Amen.

Liturgy Schedule for the First Week of Advent [Year A] (28th November, 2010 – 5th December, 2010)

Saturday Evening Vigil <i>Remembering Deceased Members of local GAA Club</i>	St. Patrick's <i>Vigil for All Nascent Human Life</i>	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and concluding with the Evening Prayer and Benediction at 9.00pm 9.00am Mass: Misso Pro Populo 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Sunday 28th November First Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	10.00am Mass
Monday 29th November First Week of Advent <i>'In the Name of the Father and of...'</i> <i>'The Life of Faith in today's World'</i>	St. Patrick's Christ the King Church, Strathroy, Omagh	7.30pm Novena: Mr. Francis Campbell (UK Ambassador to the Holy See) 10.00am Mass
Tuesday 30th November St. Andrew (Apostle) <i>'Welcome Brothers and Sisters'</i> <i>'Eucharistic gathering - a community of welcome'</i>	St. Patrick's Christ the King Church, Strathroy, Omagh	10.00am Mass 7.30pm Novena: Mrs. Marie Lindsay (Principal of St. Mary's College, Derry)
Wednesday 1st December First Week of Advent <i>'Lord Have Mercy'</i> <i>'Reconciliation – Healing wounds'</i>	St. Patrick's Christ the King Church, Strathroy, Omagh	10.00am Mass 7.30pm Novena: Mr. Richard Moore (Children in Crossfire)
Thursday 2nd December First Week of Advent <i>'Gloria to God in the highest'</i> <i>Raising our hearts in prayer and worship, knowing that my life is about more than me'</i>	St. Patrick's Christ the King Church, Strathroy, Omagh	10.00am Mass: Agnes Donnelly (Month's Mind) 7.30pm Novena: Mr. Paschal McDonnell (OFM Franciscan Friary, Rosstown)
Friday 3rd December St. Francis Xavier (priest) <i>'Let us pray' - opening ourselves in prayer to receive God's gifts in Word and Sacrament'</i>	St. Patrick's <i>First Friday of December</i> Christ the King Church, Strathroy, Omagh	9.30am Confessions 10.00am Mass 7.30pm Novena: Mrs. Briege O'Hare (writer on Faith Development)
Saturday 4th December St. John Damascene (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening Vigil	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: Kellie McKenna (5 th Anniversary) 9.00am Mass: Misso Pro Populo 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Sunday 5th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year A]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School: An inspection took place this week after which the work of the school was highly commended. We congratulate the pupils, teachers, other staff, board of governors and the whole school community.

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£980**.

Thank you for the further **£40** for the Annual Retired Priests' Fund taken up on Monday 8th November. Remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer consider a Gift-Aid declaration worth 25% more to your parish.

Remembering Our Dead: Pray for **Michael Gillen** and **Michael McCullagh** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Serving Our Parish Faith-Community

Parish Liturgy for December, 2010	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Martin McDermott	Mary Clarke	Helen/Brendan McKenna
Prayers of Intercession	Elaine Coyle	Rosmary McCullagh	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Josephine Clarke
Collectors	John Bradley Colm Devlin	Eugene Tracey Brendan Conway	Colm Beggs Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Mary Bradley Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Martina McBride

Thank you for all you do in our community. Anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries make themselves known.

Week	6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
15	Saturday 27 th November The family of Grace Coneely	The First Sunday of Advent [Year A]	Sunday 28 th November The family of Aine Lucas
16	Saturday 4 th December The family of Ciaran Coyle	The Second Sunday of Advent [Year A]	Sunday 5 th December The family of Michael McCann
17	Saturday 11 th December * The family of Daniel McCrory	The Third Sunday of Advent [Year A]	Sunday 12 th December The family of Niall Coyle
18	Saturday 18 th December The family of Orla Coyle	The Fourth Sunday of Advent [Year A]	Sunday 19 th December The family of Leah McGuigan

Christmas Season

19	<i>Christmas Eve</i> Friday 24 th December (9.00pm)	<i>Christmas Day</i> Saturday 25 th December (11.00am) The family of Shaun Coyle	<i>Feast of Holy Family</i> Sunday 26 th December (9.00am) The family of Shane McKenna
20	Saturday 1 st January (6.00pm) The family of Michaela Gillen	The Second Sunday of Christmas [Year A]	Sunday 5 th December (9.00am) The family of Michelle O'Brien

As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.

Sick and housebound will be attended Monday 6th December. If you know of anyone sick or housebound inform Fr. Hasson.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (Lectionary I, page 24)
(Sunday: Year A) (Weekday: Year 1)

The Pope's Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)

General: That our personal experience of suffering may be an occasion for better understanding the situation of unease and pain which is the lot of many people who are alone, sick, aged, and stir us all to give them generous help.

Missionary: That the peoples of the earth may open their doors to Christ and to His Gospel of peace, communion and justice.

Mass for Deceased Young People: A Mass will celebrated for all the deceased young people of the diocese in Holy Family Parish, Ballymagroarty, Derry on Sunday 28th November at 3.00pm. It will be an opportunity for the family and friends of those who have lost young loved ones to come together in a spirit of prayer and hope.

Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry – Annual Pioneer Retreat: Sunday 5th December beginning 10.30am. Cost £18. Book with Maria Bradley.

Greencastle Parent and Toddlers Group: Meeting in the Old School House Tuesday 30th November at 8.00pm.

Annual Bazaar: Sunday 28th November at 4.00pm in the Community Centre. *Great prizes to be won*

Greencastle Youth Club Rota	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P6 and P7 (Anne Morris)
Monday 29 th November	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Years 8, 9 and 10 (Siobhán O'Neill and Rosie Morris)
Tuesday 30 th November	6.30pm – 8.00pm	P4 and P5 (Siobhán McKenna)

Lotto Results: C – I – L – M – R (2 winners with 4 letters – £50 each) **Next Jackpot:** £3,700

Items for inclusion should be forwarded to the Parochial House by the Wednesday evening prior to publication

Trócaire Global Gift: Think beyond the present with a Trócaire Global Gift and help make a life-changing difference to families in the developing world this Christmas. Purchase online, by phone or directly from Trocaire. trocaire.org/globalgift Tel: 0800 912 1200. 50 King Street, Belfast

Important Dates in 2011: The Bishop has informed us that Bishop Lagan will come to Greencastle for Confirmation on Wednesday 13th April (Fifth Week of Lent). Primary 4 pupils will make their First Confession on Friday 1st April and First Holy Communion on Sunday 5th June (The Feast of the Ascension).

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Forty Hours Devotion) 2011: Sunday 15th May in St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle and Sunday 21st August in Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg.

International Star Fr. Liam Lawton in Carrickmore for a Christmas Concert:

Fr. Liam Lawton, composer and singer will perform in St. Colmcille's Church, Carrickmore, on Sunday 5th December. Tickets are available online at liamlawton.com and at the following local outlets from Saturday 13th November at a price of £15. The Patrician, Carrickmore (028) 8076 0011, The Parochial House's, Termonmaguirc Parish, Peggy Kerr, Carrickmore (028) 8076 1209, Gavan McElroy, Carrickmore (028) 8076 0043, Brendan Loughran and Sons, Carrickmore (028) 8076 1313 and Conway's Day Today, Loughmacrory (028) 8076 1650.

Parents Advice Centre – Helpline Volunteers: Men and women urgently required to train and work as Helpline volunteers. The preparation course is OCN accredited Level 2. For further information call (028) 7137 2006, call to the office City Factory Building, 100 Patrick Street or email marie@pachelp.org Parents Helpline Floor 2, City Factory Building, 100 Patrick Street, Derry BT48 7EL. Tel: (028) 7137 2006. parentsadvicecentre.org Parents Helpline Freephone: 0808 8010 722 Registered in N. Ireland No: N130087 Registered Office: Andras House, 60 Gt Victoria St, Belfast BT2 7BB A Charity: Inland Revenue No: X0492/80

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2010 (Omagh Pastoral Centre, Brook Street):

3rd and 4th December. Couples planning to marry should register for one of these courses 6 months before your wedding. Call (028) 8224 2439, e-mail accordomagh@btpopenworld.com

Children in Crossfire – Barcelona Half Marathon: Children in Crossfire are recruiting 20 runners for the Barcelona Half Marathon on 13th February, 2011. Contact Sarah on (028) 7126 9898 or e-mail events@childrenincrossfire.org for information.

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

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

Family Care Society – Adoption: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged between 3 and 8 years and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you? For more information contact Family Care Society on: (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry). email@familycaresociety.org www.familycaresociety.net

Broughderg First Responders Scheme: The role of a First Responder is to attend, when possible a patient who has collapsed and administer CPR and / or defibrillation whilst waiting for an ambulance crew to attend. The Broughderg First Responders are volunteers who live and work in the local area they are fully trained and are fully insured. When an appropriate 999 call is received from the area covered by the First Responder Scheme; the volunteers are notified and try to attend to provide whatever care is reasonable. First Responders will only attend when dispatched by Ambulance Control. They have no role in the diagnosis or management of illness apart from the collapsed patient. There will always be a 999 ambulance in attendance. Volunteers are clearly identifiable as they will have ID with them. They will provide whatever care is reasonable and will endeavour to assist either doctors or members of the Ambulance Service as appropriate. If you require any further information about the scheme please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Janet Shields (Dalriada Urgent Care) (028) 2566 3502

Tuesday's Child – Christmas Gala Ball: Tuesday's Child's Christmas Gala Ball is on Saturday 18th December in Belfast City Hall, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Pat Convery. The MC for the evening is Paul Clark from UTV and Sean Crummey is after-dinner speaker.

Music is by Siobhán Pettit and her 9 piece swing band *Nightswing*. There is a pre-drinks reception with Christmas Carols by Louise Irvine and St. Malachy's Senior String Quartet and fabulous raffle prizes and auction items including some beautiful art pieces donated by artists north and south. Tickets are £60 and make an ideal Christmas gift, tables seat 10. All proceeds will go to Tuesday's Child projects for children living in extreme hardship in Gaza, India and Pakistan. We give 100% of proceeds.

For more info call (028) 9050 2725 or email info@tuesdayschild.org.uk or visit tuesdayschild.org.uk

This Week's Calendar of Feasts:

Tuesday 30th November – St. Andrew (Apostle) Andrew from Bethsaida was a disciple of St. John the Baptist when he was called by Jesus. He in turn brought his brother Peter to Jesus. He is said to have suffered martyrdom on this date by crucifixion, but the tradition of an X-shaped cross is much later. Patron Saint of Scotland, Russia and fishermen.

Friday 3rd December – St. Francis Xavier (priest) [1506-1552] One of the first 7 Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and Japan. Was killed as he tried to enter China. A Patron Saint of the Missions.

Saturday 4th December – St. John Damascene (priest) [675-749] A Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defense of icons in the iconoclastic controversy.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Matthew 24:37-44:

1. The 'coming of the Son of Man' can be applied to the end of the world, to the moment of death, or to any moment of grace. We are not given advance notice as to when any of these will happen, so the message is to be alert and ready. When have you found that your alertness meant that you were able to receive an unexpected grace (e.g. take an opportunity which presented itself or respond to a hint from another person that you might easily have missed, etc.).
2. One of the enemies of alert living is constant busyness. Have you ever found that being caught up in your own agenda makes you less sensitive to what is happening around you? Recall times when you paused and were rewarded by a significant interchange with another person, a moment of grace.
3. You probably know the difference between being ready for a visitor and the unannounced caller who catches you unprepared. Such experiences teach us a lesson about being open to whatever comes no matter what state you are in. When have you experienced it a blessing to be able to welcome the unexpected?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

The Deep End – The Bucket List:

The 2007 film 'The Bucket List' starred Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson as two terminally ill men who put together a wish list of things to do before they 'kick the bucket'. They do a skydive, get tattoos, visit the pyramids. Several of the items on the to-do list are more abstract – witness something truly majestic; help a complete stranger for the good; find the joy in your life.

We often hear the advice that we should live each day as if it's our last. Of course we would live very differently if we knew our own days are numbered, or if it was our last day on earth. Likewise we would treat a family member, friend, or colleague differently if we knew they were to be struck by illness or accident. Sometimes it is only when the fragility of life is laid bare that we manage to get our priorities in order.

Yet living differently is exactly what today's readings demand of us.

They set the tone for the period of preparation that is Advent.

The Gospel of Matthew uses the metaphor of the thief in the night to highlight the unexpected nature of the second coming of Jesus. Naturally we would be well prepared if we knew when a burglar would strike our home! The flood took Noah's contemporaries by surprise as they went about day to day life – eating, drinking, and marrying. 'So too will be the coming of the Son of Man'. St Paul gives us a lovely image in today's Second Reading: 'Put on the armour of light'. Live differently. Stay awake. Be prepared.

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

Questions people ask:

- Q. Isn't Advent a season of preparing for Christmas? Why is there never any reference to this on the First Sunday of Advent?
- A. Advent is certainly a preparation for Christmas but it has other dimensions too. Advent prepares for the coming of Christ, past, present and future. Christmas celebrates Christ's coming once upon a time in past history. But it also includes the coming of Christ to us each present day. And its future dimension is a reminder to be ready for the coming of Christ at the end of life, a date we do not know. The future coming of Christ is the focus of attention in the liturgy of Advent's first Sunday.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

Light of the World – The Pope and the Signs of the Times: *Vatican City (23rd November, 2010) [VIS]*
This morning in the Holy See Press Office, a press conference was held to present a new book published by the Vatican Publishing House. The volume is entitled: "Light of the World. The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times. A conversation of Benedict XVI with Peter Seewald".

The conference was presented by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation, and the journalist Luigi Accattoli.

Also present were Peter Seewald, who conducted the interviews with the Pope, and Fr. Giuseppe Costa S.D.B., director of the Vatican Publishing House.

Archbishop Fisichella explained how Seewald had asked the Pope "about the great questions facing modern theology, the various political events that have always marked relations between States and, finally, the themes that often occupy a large part of public debate. We have a Pope who does not evade any question, who wishes to clarify everything using a language that is simple but not for that reason less profound, and who benevolently accepts the provocations inherent in so many questions.

"Nonetheless", the archbishop added, "reducing the entire interview to one phrase removed from its context and from the entirety of Benedict XVI's thought would be an offence to the Pope's intelligence and a gratuitous manipulation of his words. What emerges from these pages overall is, in fact, the vision of a Church called to be 'Light of the world', a sign of unity for the whole human race".

The president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation went on to explain that "this book was not written by Benedict XVI, yet it brings together his ideas, concerns and sufferings over these years, his pastoral projects and his hopes for the future. The impression that emerges is that of a Pope optimistic about the life of the Church, despite the difficulties which have always existed".

This book published today "is an interview which, in many ways, provokes us to undertake a serious examination of conscience, both inside and outside the Church, in order to achieve true conversion of heart and mind. The conditions of life in society, sexuality, economy and finance, the Church herself; all these questions require special dedication in order to verify the cultural drift of today's world and the possibilities for the future. Benedict XVI does not allow himself to be alarmed by the figures emerging from opinion polls because the truth has completely different criteria: 'statistics are not the measure of morality'".

"In these pages Benedict XVI often returns to the relationship between modernity and Christianity, which cannot and must not be seen as parallels. Rather, the relationship must be lived by correctly uniting faith and reason, individual rights and social responsibility; in a word, by 'putting God first'. ... This is the conversion that Benedict XVI asks of Christians and of anyone who wishes to listen to him. ... This is the task the Pope sets for his own pontificate and we cannot, in all honesty, deny how difficult it seems to be".

Archbishop Fisichella concluded his remarks by highlighting how "simplicity and truth are the characteristics of this interview, which was chosen by Benedict XVI as a way of making the public at large more familiar with his ideas, his way of being and his way of understanding the mission with which he has been entrusted. This is no easy task at a time when communication often tends to underline specific fragments and overlooks the global picture. A book to be read and mediated upon, in order to understand once again how the Church in the world can announce the good news which brings joy and serenity".

For his part, Luigi Accattoli suggested his journalist colleagues should "read this book as a guided visit to the papal workshop of Benedict XVI and to the world of Joseph Ratzinger. ... Above all we will see this man who was called to become Pope in the same perspective as when he published the two volumes on Jesus of Nazareth, which he presents not as documents of the Magisterium, but as testimony of his own search for the face of the Lord".



← "From the beginning of the book he warns us that 'the Pope can have erroneous personal opinions'; he certainly does have 'the power of final decision' in matters of faith but this 'does not mean that he can continuously produce infallibility'. It is perhaps in this statement that we must seek the original roots of this book of interviews", said the journalist.

In various places the Holy Father reviews his eighty-three years of life, "and reflects on the suitability of resigning should he find himself in a position where he cannot carry out his mission. On the same page he denies he ever thought of resigning over the paedophile scandal: 'We cannot run away in the moment of greatest danger', he says. We all know that modern Popes - from Pius XII on - have considered the problem of resigning, but prior to this interview none of them had done so in public".

In this book, Accattoli continued his explanations, the Holy Father "dedicates ample space to the conflict between the Christian faith and modernity. However, in at least two passages he recognises 'the morality of modernity' and the evidence of 'a good and just modernity'. These positive affirmations should be read alongside passages in which he recognises the religious crimes of the past: from the 'atrocities' committed 'in the name of truth' to 'the wars of religion', and that 'rigorism' towards corporeity which was used to 'frighten man'. In the conflict with the modern world, then, it is necessary to ask 'in what is secularism right' and where 'should it be resisted'".

The Pope "is not afraid to use such expressions as 'the sinfulness of the Church'; ... while the term 'dirt' to indicate the sin that exists in the Church ... is used at least three times to refer to paedophilia among the clergy and to the 'enormous shock' it aroused". In this context the Pontiff also "repeatedly recognises the positive role played by the communications media, something he has expressed on various occasions in the past but never so explicitly: 'As long as they seek to bring the truth to light, we must be grateful', he says. On this subject he also gives us one of the book's most effective aphorisms: 'Only because evil was within the Church were others able to use it against her'".

The Holy Father, Accattoli continued, "assures us that he would not have removed the excommunication from Bishop Williamson without undertaking further investigation, had he known the prelate's views on Holocaust denial".

"Cautiously and courageously Benedict XVI seeks a pragmatic way in which missionaries and other ecclesial workers can help to defeat the AIDS pandemic, without approving - but also without excluding, in particular cases - the use of the condom. He likewise reaffirms the 'prophetic' nature of Paul VI's 'Humanae vitae', though without concealing the existence of real difficulties in 'finding paths that can be followed in a human way', ... and recognising that 'in this field many things must be rethought and expressed in new terms'".

The Pope "declares himself to be optimistic concerning the fact that Christianity is facing new dynamics' which will perhaps bring it 'to assume a different cultural appearance'; yet also 'disillusioned' because 'the general tendency of our time is one of hostility to the Church'".

Finally, Accattoli concluded, the Pope "dreams that people will rediscover the 'simplicity' and 'radicalism' of the Gospel and Christianity". This involves "understanding the drama of our times, remaining firmly rooted in the Word of God as the decisive word, and at the same time giving Christianity that simplicity and profundity without which it cannot function".