

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


St. Patrick's, Greencastle **Our Lady of Wayside, Broughderg**
First Sunday of Advent [Year C] (28th November, 2021)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

First Sunday of Advent Readings: These warn us to get ready for the coming of our Lord, for change will come with him. In the first reading we hear that God will raise up "a just shoot" who will bring safety. In the second reading Paul encourages us to act with love and be ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. And in the gospel, Jesus warns his followers not to focus on our current lives but to be ready for our new lives.

Saturday 27th November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Michael McCullagh (16 th Anniv.)
Sunday 28th November	St. Patrick's	11.30am Mass

First Sunday of Advent [Year C]

There will be NO MASS from Monday 29th November to Thursday 2nd December
Adoration will continue Wednesday 1st December from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Friday 3rd December	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass followed by Padre Pio Devotions Patrick McNulty (Month's Mind)
Saturday 4th December	St. Patrick's	12.00pm to 1.00pm Confession 6.00pm Vigil Mass: Gerald McGurk (7 th Anniv.)
Sunday 5th December	Our Lady of Wayside	11.30am Mass

Second Sunday of Advent [Year C]

Sick and Housebound: Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care Friday 3rd December at the usual times.

Baptism Dates for December:

Saturday 4th December at 3.00pm (Greencastle) Sunday 5th December at 12.30pm (Broughderg)
 Sunday 12th December at 12.30pm (Greencastle)

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Michael McCullagh (16th)** and **Packie Vincent Morris (5th)** and for all our deceased loved ones who we remember in November.

Greencastle Parish Seating Arrangements (December 2021)

Over the course of the past weeks we have been turning our attention to putting in place new arrangements for seating in our churches for mass. It had been our hope that from the first weekend of December we could gradually return to more normal arrangements and plans to that effect were circulated to members of various parish committees for their observations. However, it has become apparent that in the present circumstances with the pandemic, that will not be possible. We will keep those plans in hand for a more appropriate time. In the meantime things stay as they are. Please just check December's Townland rota.

In early December we will share our Christmas arrangements. In the meantime, though we are all weary, let us together try to do what we can to improve the situation in the wider community regarding transmission and continue as the vast, vast majority have done to wear masks while at church services.

May God guide all who have decisions to take and strengthen all who may be suffering at this time.
 St. Patrick pray for us. Mary, help of Christians pray for us. *Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP*

Monthly Devotions Through the Intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina:

Friday 3rd December after 7.30pm Mass in St. Patrick's Church.

A relic of the saint will be present which will be used for blessing at the end of the Novena Prayers

Parish Office Opening Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11.00am to 3.00pm

Tel: (028) 8164 8203 **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com

All bookings to be done through the Parish Office please

Next Week's Readings: Baruch 5:1-9 • Psalm 125 R/ v 3 • Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
 Luke 3:1-6 • Lectionary 1:30 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

December Townland Rota

The rota for Christmas and New Year will be shared mid-December

Saturday 4th December	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Teebane East, Aughminacrorry, Coneyglen, Alworries, Muninamale, Aughascribba Road
Sunday 5th December	Our Lady of Wayside	11.30am	Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy
Saturday 11th December	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Formil, Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
Sunday 12th December	St. Patrick's	11.30am	Sheskinshule, Crockanboy, Binnefreagh
Saturday 18th December	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Teebane East, Aughminacrorry, Coneyglen, Alworries, Muninamale, Aughascribba Road
Sunday 19th December	Our Lady of Wayside	11.30am	Broughderg, Crock, Carnanrancy

Album Launch – From the Hearthstone, by Ciara Fox: Thursday 2nd December at 8.00pm in the Strule Arts Centre.
For more details and to book visit struleartscentre.co.uk/show/ciara-fox-album-launch

Trócaire Emergency Appeal: A terrible hunger crisis is raging across East Africa, driven by escalating climate change, conflict, swarms of desert locusts and Covid. Over 30 million children, women and men are being pushed into starvation. People and their livestock are dying. Without emergency food and aid, many more won't survive. Lives depend on our ability to reach them.

South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and the state of South Kordofan in Sudan especially are being brought to their knees by sparse and delayed average rainfalls which are the result of climate change. A grim third wave of Covid and regional conflict are making matters worse.

Yet, with your help it is not too late to reduce tragic loss of life and ease suffering. The Irish Bishops Conference has agreed for an emergency collection to take place in all parishes throughout the month of November.

Our parish's emergency collection will support Trócaire's work in the countries of East Africa and in nearby countries similarly affected, and rush urgent food, water, and lifesaving aid to people who desperately need your love now.

Please help if you can. Trócaire are rushing emergency food and aid into devastated communities to keep people alive and working with tireless local church groups to do all we can. Please support this appeal by placing an envelope marked 'Trócaire Emergency Appeal' along with your parish envelope and leave it in the usual places.

Many thanks in advance for your support

CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

Our Lady of Wayside:
 Josephine Clarke • Mary McNamee

St. Patrick's:

Eileen McKenna • Margaret McCrory • Patricia Donnelly
 Anne McAleer • Margaret Morris • JP2 students

Greencastle Community Association – Virtual Bazaar: Sunday 28th November

Many fantastic prizes including a 43" 4K Smart TV with Alexa, oil and meal vouchers and food and drink hampers
Tickets are £20 and available in Centra, Greencastle or by visiting paypal.me/greencastlecommunity

Priory Institute – Online Theology Open Evening:

Thursday 2nd December at 7.00pm (question and answer time available). For more information or to register:
Website: enquiries@prioryinstitute.com • **Email:** prioryinstitute.com • **Tel:** +353 1 404 8124 • **Cost:** €80
Provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures from the comfort of your own home.

Thornhill Ministries – Advent Oasis Mornings: Saturday 27th November and Saturday 11th December,

11.00am to 12.00pm. Led by Fr. Paschal, each gentle hour helps us touch into the mystery of life and God-with-Us.
To register and for Zoom link call 07736 832 458 or email thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org

Mary's Meals – Double the Love: Thanks to your support, Mary's Meals are now bringing joy to over 2 million children with a daily meal in their place of education. Our Double the Love campaign runs until Monday 31st January, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a generous group of private donors. Every little act of love will go that little bit further during this period to help us reach the next child waiting, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to get involved including choosing one of our Mary's Meals gift cards or setting a place at our Big Family Christmas table. *Find out more by visiting marysmeals.org.uk*

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

Evangelisation – Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

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 defence of icons in the iconoclastic controversy.

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

What is Spiritual Communion? It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

A Prayer for Now: God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

Prayer for the End of the Virus: Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an end of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities, that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. *Amen*

Mid Ulster Agewell: Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):

Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies
Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration

12noon – 1.00pm Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life
1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage
2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people
4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth
6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

Rural Support:

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
Email: info@ruralsupport.org.uk **Website:** ruralsupport.org.uk
To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.

Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk

Epilepsy Action NI: Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury?

Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". *Pope St. John Paul II*

Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children – Use of Photography and Video:

The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.

Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of all to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

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

Child Safeguarding: If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI / 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 entrance*

Radio Maria Ireland: An Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies based at St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. If you are not already a follower of the station Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family! Prayer / song requests welcome. "A Catholic voice in your home". Fr Eamonn McCarthy is Director.

You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:

Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210 / Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)

Download FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"

Streaming on radiomaria.ie (subscribe and donate here also)

'Listen Live Radio' link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)

Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Although mindful of all the uncertainties we face at this time, the Pilgrimage Director and staff have begun planning for a return to Lourdes in early summer of 2022. While it is still too early to provide details, it is intended that the date and duration will be as in recent years and hopefully these will be confirmed and announced by the end of 2021. We ask for the prayers of the people of the diocese so that, by the grace of God and intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, we may return to Lourdes once more.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Our Faith – Developing What We Were Taught in School:

- Was RE just a subject in school? Would you like to really to understand it in practice?
- Are you open to deepening your understanding of your Catholic Faith?
- Do you want to better understand the Mass - the celebration to the Eucharist?
- Would you like to explore, discuss and reflect upon issues and questions of faith, the Church, and how to link faith to your everyday life?

The Pathways Adult Faith Programme by Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, addresses these questions and more. This two-year faith development programme, delivered one Saturday per month from October to June is available either in-house at Drumalis or by Zoom video-conferencing. *More info, enrolment visit drumalis.co.uk/pathways*

Prayer for Synod on Synodality (2021 – 2023)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. *Amen*

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Barnardo's NI – Can You Foster? Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare bedroom in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support.

To learn more call (028) 9065 2288 or visit barnardos.org.uk/foster

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

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? 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) 9094 1690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

Disciples of Jesus – Filled with Joy! Monday 10th to Friday 14th January, 10.00am to 12.00am

Catechetical Centre Webcam Preparation Programme in January 2022, to support parents, schools and parishes as they prepare the children in this very important stage of their faith journey.

Preparation Programme Linking with Filled with Joy, pupil workbook and Disciples of Jesus, parent booklet (available from the Diocesan Catechetical Centre) the programme will consist of

- Four sessions, 10.00am to 12.00am on the catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/
- Support pack for the four sessions to be emailed to schools and available on the Catechetical Centre Website
- Short Video reflections on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the impact Confirmation has made on different people

Consider Your Call – Priesthood: The first in an exciting line-up of events aimed at encouraging and supporting young people as they discover more about the definite service God may be calling them to. The project, entitled 'It's Your Call', will be complemented by a suite of online resources to help us learn more about vocation. Over the coming months, the 'It's Your Call' platform will look at five key pathways in life: Single, Married, Ordained, Religious and Consecrated — not just priesthood!

If you would like to learn more about priesthood, or simply support those who are considering this vocation, why not come along to Consider Your Call - Priesthood in the Catholic Chaplaincy, Queen's University Belfast on Thursday 11th November at 6.00pm.

Supported by the Northern Area Committee of the Knights of St. Columbanus and is open to people from any diocese

Red Cross: 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.

Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011

Drink Wise, Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240

Deanery of Tyrone Statistics

17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.

8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000

6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people

3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people

The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics

7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?

In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.

The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.

Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s

The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

Accord Counselling Services: Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Derry Diocesan Youth Event: Sunday 21st November from 12.00pm to 3.30pm in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry. For young people in the diocese ages 14 and up to come and get involved with their faith and celebrate world youth day in preparation for World Youth Day in Lisbon, 2023. If any young person would like to book, please email lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or message any @deryryouth social media pages.

Cost £5 to secure a place at this event (all deposits to be paid before the Tuesday 16th November)

2019	PARISH STATISTICS	2020
(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls	Baptisms	(17) 8 Boys • 9 Girls
(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls	First Communion	(11) 4 Boys • 7 Girls
(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(14) 7 Boys • 7 Girls
1 within parish • 6 outside parish	Weddings	0 within parish • 1 outside parish
11	Deaths and Burials	8