


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

Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year A] (29th March, 2020)

Thought for the Week: "A person who sees things as they truly are and sympathises with pain and sorrow is capable of touching life's depths and finding authentic happiness. He or she is consoled, not by the world but by Jesus. Such persons are unafraid to share in the suffering of others; they do not flee from painful situations. They discover the meaning of life by coming to the aid of those who suffer, understanding their anguish and bringing relief."
Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness (section 76)

Liturgy Schedule for the Fifth Week of Lent [Year A] (29 th March – 5 th April)		
Saturday 28th March	Facebook Live	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Willie John Morris (13 th) and Margaret Morris (8 th)
Sunday 29th March Fifth Sunday of Lent [Year A]	Facebook Live	11.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Monday 30th March	Facebook Live	10.00am Mass
	Facebook Recorded	7.30pm Rosary (Joyful Mysteries)
Tuesday 31st March	Facebook Live	10.00am Mass
	Facebook Recorded	7.30pm Rosary (Sorrowful Mysteries)
Wednesday 1st April	Facebook Recorded	10.00am Rosary (Glorious Mysteries)
	Facebook Live	5.00pm – 7.00pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament with Reflection / Benediction at 6.45pm 7.30pm Mass
Thursday 2nd April	Facebook Live	10.00am Mass: Noelle Conway (3 rd)
	Facebook Recorded	7.30pm Rosary (Luminous Mysteries)
Friday 3rd April	Facebook Live	10.00am Mass: Felix McAneney (18 th) 10.30am Stations of the Cross
	Facebook Recorded	7.30pm Rosary (Sorrowful Mysteries)
Saturday 4th April	Facebook Recorded	10.00am Rosary (Joyful Mysteries)
	Facebook Live	6.00pm Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday: Jim McCrory (2 nd)
Sunday 5th April Palm Sunday [Year A]	Facebook Live	11.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
		7.00pm Devotions with Rosary

COLLECTIONS **Weekly:** £548 **St. Patrick's Day:** £489.60
Envelope Update: Thank you so much to all who left parish weekly envelopes at the Parochial House and Broughderg Post Office. This weekend there is the further option of leaving your envelope in the new letterbox at the outside Sacristy door facing the road. It will be emptied each day. As next weekend marks the last envelope in your box can you please take note of your envelope number and place your contributions into an ordinary envelope and write your envelope number onto it and return as indicated above. It is hoped to make Standing Order forms available in the near future. In the meantime thank you for your continuing generosity to the parish during this suddenly difficult financial times for families.

Remembering our Dead: We pray for happy repose of the souls of **Willie John Morris (13th), Margaret Morris (8th), Annie Morris (9th), Noelle Conway (3rd), Felix McAneney (18th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time and all who lost their lives to the coronavirus.

Anniversary Masses and Names: As mass continues to be celebrated every day from the Parochial House Oratory it is still possible to request a mass for deceased loved ones. They can be offered as the intention for the mass on each day apart from Sunday which is Missa pro Populo (Mass for the People of the Parish). You can also continue to have the names of the deceased prayed for at the weekend masses and included in the Parish Bulletin Online / Facebook and in the restricted number of printed copies. Call Fr. Gallagher on (028) 8164 8474 or leave a note at the Parochial House or in the new letterbox on the side door of the Sacristy facing the road.

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 courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

Palm Sunday Arrangements: Palm Crosses will be blessed at the Facebook Live Vigil Mass in the Parochial House on Saturday 4th April at 6.00pm. The crosses will be placed in the porches of the church for collection if you wish and will be available from Sunday morning. *Please do not take large bunches of them as they are limited*

Sick and Housebound: Due to the Public Health Restrictions surrounding the Covid-19 Pandemic the First Friday House calls will not be made on Friday 3rd April. The Sick and Housebound of the Parish will instead be prayed for during the 10.00am mass that morning from the Parochial House Oratory. Between 11.30am and 1.00pm Fr. Gallagher will ring all in his care and offer prayers with them over the phone including a prayer of Spiritual Communion. All parishioners should take an opportunity in their own personal prayer on this First Friday to pray for the Sick and Housebound of our Parish and for all those affected by the Coronavirus Emergency.
Our Lady of Lourdes pray for them.

Church Candles / Sanitiser: When lighting candles in St. Patrick's Church please use the sanitiser for your hands on the table beside the candelabra and spray the lighter each time with the cleanser provided and then wipe with the kitchen towel and place in the bin below. **DO NOT PLACE ANYTHING ELSE, ESPECIALLY MATCHES IN THE BIN**

Rosary Walk: I will be beginning a Rosary Walk around the Parish on Monday 30th March from 7.00pm and on other days each week. A different route will be used each day as advertised below and onwards into subsequent weeks. This is a solitary walk so please do not attempt to join me as you can understand the need for Social Distancing. Feel free to come to your door and give me a wave from there or your window. During the walk I will be praying the Rosary continuously for the Physical, Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of the Parish during these difficult and challenging times for all. At 7.30pm on the evening of each walk a recording of the Rosary will be placed on our Parish Facebook and website pages. Please feel free as a family and individuals to unite yourself with me during that time in this special prayer opportunity. *Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP* **Rosary Walk Routes from 7.00pm:**

Monday 30th March	Parochial House, Greencastle Road, Crossroads, Maryville, Sheskinshule View, Greencastle Road turning right onto Pollanroe Road, turning right onto Crockanboy Road, turning left onto Greencastle Road, Parochial House
Tuesday 31st March	Greencastle Road/Mullydoo Road junction (past pitches), turning left onto Crockanboy Road through the Crossroads and continuing on Crockanboy Road to left onto Mullydoo Road and onto Greencastle Road.
Thursday 2nd April	GAA Pitches onto Greencastle Road turning right onto Carnanrancy Road turning right onto Aughascribba Road, turning left onto Gorticashel Road, turning left onto Carnanrancy Road, turning left onto Greencastle Road and on to GAA Pitches
Friday 3rd April	Gorticashel Road/Broughderg Road Junction turning right onto Morris Road, turning left onto Crock Road, turning left onto Keerin Road turning left onto Broughderg Road up to Gorticashel Road junction

Sunday Mass Readings and Prayers Document: Each Friday evening before the celebration of the Weekend Masses it is intended to leave some printed copies of the Parish bulletin with the readings for collection in the porches of both parish churches. Alternatively, also on a Friday, we will post on our Parish Facebook page and website a document with the Readings and Prayers of the Mass so that you and your family can download and print or follow from your phone or other device.

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7 • Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24, R/ v 2 • Philippians 2:6-11
 Matthew 27:11-54 • Lectionary 1:346 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association: Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the Covid-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call. *For up to date info and advice visit www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus*
 Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741 Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996 Briege Beggs: 07799 058 273

Pope Francis' Intention for April (please remember this in your personal prayers)
Freedom From Addiction: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Can't stop? There is a solution.
Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email csoofaa@btinternet.com. alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

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

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 service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.
If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info

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.

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

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

Accord Counselling Services: Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.
If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com

Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure: 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.
If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting derryyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:
Tel: (028) 90941690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

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

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

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

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*

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*

Towards Peace: A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free.

Website: towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@jecon.ie

Foster Carers – Urgently Required in the WHSCT Area:

To meet the unfortunate demand for foster placements. If you think you can help call 0800 0720 137

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:

John Byrne OSA (jpbymeosa@gmail.com)

Reflect

Don't give up. As we journey into the penultimate week of Lent there might be a tendency to let things slide. We might be tempted to relax in our commitment. Long distance athletes speak about 'hitting a wall', a reference to the moment in a race or event where they feel they want to stop or have nothing left to give. Somehow, they dig deep and find the reserves of energy they need to continue. We need to know that, as we journey toward Holy Week and dig deeper into our faith, somewhere in that despair or unknowing we can find the grace to continue [...]

There is a finish line and even if you think you cannot reach it, God is with you every step of the way. God's mercy is deep. It is only when we go deeper into our relationship with God that we experience the grace and strength to further our relationship with him.

Respond

- Nothing is impossible to God. Has something 'died' in your life, something that Jesus could restore?
- When did you last use the words: 'Yes Lord, I believe'? Today, try to repeat those words and believe.

Return to Me with all your Heart.

Daily Reflections for Lent.

Gerard Gallagher (Veritas, 2020), pp.88

The Deep End – Come Forth Lazarus:

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

In today's Gospel Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany, the Jews want to stone Jesus to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother Lazarus, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb. It appears as if there is no hope. Jesus weeps for his friend and for those around him.

Yet, surrounded by a culture of death and despair, Jesus gives compassion and new life to those in turmoil. It is easy to say that nothing can be done when we are faced with difficult situations in our own lives. Yet Jesus says 'Lazarus, come forth' and to the people he says 'Unbind him, let him go.' It is a message for all of us to come away from a culture of death; to help unbind one another and to allow ourselves to emerge from the tomb. We are called to take away the stone. Today's Gospel is a story of liberation. Jesus gives a new insight into the power of faith over death. It is an active faith, one that urges us on to work for change and new life.

What did you do while the planet was plundered? What did you do as the earth was unravelling? Surely you did something as the seasons started failing? Surely you did something as the mammals, reptiles and birds were all dying? Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen? What did you do once you knew?

From Hieroglyphic Stairway by Drew Dillinger

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	Weddings	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
10	Deaths and Burials	11

Covid-19 – Notice: All GAA activities, card playing and community activities suspended until further notice

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)

Lent 2020 in the parishes of the Diocese of Derry

Throughout Lent resources and parish events for Lent will be published on the diocesan website and its social media channels. You are encouraged to follow and share these resources:

Web: derrydiocese.org **Twitter:** @DioceseOfDerry **Facebook:** @derrydiocese

You are also asked to recite daily during Lent the following Diocesan Lenten Prayer

Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen

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.

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%

Family Care Adoption Services *Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children*

For free info contact us **Tel:** (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)

Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk