

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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Ascension of the Lord [Year C] World Communications Day (29th May, 2022)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the Ascension: "Christ is already in that place of peace, which is all in all. He is on the right hand of God. He is hidden in the brightness of the radiance which issues from the everlasting throne. He is in the very abyss of peace, where there is no voice of tumult or distress, but a deep stillness--stillness, that greatest and most awful of all goods which we can fancy; that most perfect of joys, the utter profound, ineffable tranquillity of the Divine Essence. He has entered into His rest. That is our home; here we are on a pilgrimage, and Christ calls us to His many mansions which He has prepared."
St. John Henry Newman

Saturday 28th May	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Kenny Conway (2 nd Anniversary)
Sunday 29th May Ascension of the Lord [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.30am Mass
Tuesday 31st May Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary	St. Patrick's	9.30am Mass
Wednesday 1st June St. Justin (martyr)	St. Patrick's	2.00pm to 4.00pm Adoration
Thursday 2nd June	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass followed by Confession
Friday 3rd June	St. Patrick's	7.30pm Mass followed by Padre Pio Devotions Helena Donnelly (Month's Mind)
Saturday 4th June	St. Patrick's	5.30pm to 5.50pm Confession 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 5th June Pentecost Sunday [Year C]	Our Lady of Wayside	11.30am Mass followed by Confession

COLLECTIONS **Weekly:** £1,120 **Diocesan Purposes:** £825 *Thank you for your generosity*

Resumption of Hospital / Nursing Home Visits: If you have a relative who would like a visit please inform Fr. Gallagher and check the up-to date for each particular hospital, ward or nursing home your relatives may be in. All the Sick and Housebound will be prayed for Thursday 2nd June at 10.00am mass.

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

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Kenny Conway (2nd)**, **Brendan McLaughlin (49th)**, **Bridie Clarke (3rd)**, **P Joe Clarke (5th)** and **Enda McDermott (23rd)** whose anniversaries are at this time.

Monthly Devotions Through the Intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina:
 Friday 3rd June after 7.30pm Mass in St. Patrick's Church. *Relic of saint will be there for veneration*

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*

Pope Francis' Intention for June (please remember this in your personal prayers)
For Families: We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

Next Week's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 • Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9, R/ v 6 • Ephesians 1:17-23
 Luke 24:46-53 • Lectionary 1: 556 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Parish Liturgy for June	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.30am)
Readers	Patricia Reusche / Maeve McCullagh	Barry Maguire
Prayers of Faithful	Erin / Shea Donnelly	Caoileann Maguire
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Eileen McKenna
Altar Society	Maria Morris, Ava Morris and Kathleen Tracey	Mary McNamee and Josephine Clarke

Prayer Before an Examination
 Loving God, be with me now, as I prepare for my exams.
 Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have, given me and for the opportunity of education.
 Calm my nerves and anxiety, help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the questions the very best I can.
 Holy Spirit, sit with me in my exam and always. *Amen*
St. Patrick, pray for me

Dromantine Sunday, SMA Open Day and Family Fun Day: Sunday 12th June from 1.00pm to 5.30pm.
 £5 admission for each car (regardless of the number of occupants in the car).
For more info call (028) 3082 1964 • Everyone welcome

Sisters of Mercy, Bethany House of Prayer, Dundalk – Prayer by Telephone
 For those wishing to request prayer (all confidential). Call 00353 42933 1602 between 9.00am and 9.00pm every day.
One of the Sisters will be happy to listen and pray with you

Bus to Shrine of Venerable Matt Talbot: Leaving St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Sunday 12th June at 8.30am, travelling via Strabane / Omagh, to the Shrine of Matt Talbot in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sean McDermott Street, Dublin for a Day of Prayer for those suffering from addiction. The bus is expected to be back at St. Eugene's about 9.30pm. £40, including bus and meal on the way home. If you would like to book a seat on the bus email Anne Marie on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or call (028) 7126 4087. Alternatively, you can pick up a booking form from St. Eugene's Parochial House).
To secure place on the bus your booking form and payment need to be in by Friday 3rd June (details regarding payment are on the booking form)

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. All are welcome and encouraged to spend some time, however long or short, with our Eucharistic Lord. Following the request of Bishop McKeown, we set aside the first hour from 2.00pm to 3.00pm to pray for the intention of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The hour from 3.00pm to 4.00pm will be to pray for the needs of the Parish of Greencastle.
Stay here, keep watch with me, watch and pray

Surprising things in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Concerned about climate change and pollution? Care for creation is there, even before Pope Francis' Environmental Encyclical, Laudato Si': "[Our] dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the Creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of his neighbour, including generations to come; it requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation." CCC 2415

Masters in Catholic School Leadership – Information Session: The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. An Information session on the Masters Programme will take place via ZOOM on Monday 13th June at 3.30pm.
If you would like to attend this session email tferry@derrydiocese.org

St. Patrick's Church – Cleaners Urgently Needed: Please consider volunteering for one month in the year. You are not expected to provide flowers and any help you can give will be very much appreciated, thank you.
If you think you can help call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or via WhatsApp on 07768 395 038

Derry Diocesan Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus Christ, gentle shepherd, you know your sheep, and you know how to reach their hearts. Give to the people of the diocese of Derry hearts that are open to the call of the Holy Spirit. Speak to the hearts of the faithful men and women of our diocese, that they may hear your call to follow you and serve your people as priests, consecrated religious and consecrated virgins. Awaken in them the courage to answer: "Here I am, Lord. Send me." St. Eugene, pray for us. St. Columba, pray for us. St. John Vianney, pray for us.

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

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

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*

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

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

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

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.

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*

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 radiomarie.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).

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

Northern Ireland Adoption and Foster Care:

With an increase in children and young people needing foster homes across Northern Ireland, we need you now. Every child deserves to have a happy, loving and safe home where they'll feel cared for, valued and supported.

It's always the right time for fostering.

Call us on 0800 0720 137 or visit adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net

#HSCNIFosterCare #FosterForYourCommunity #CouldYouFoster

National Vocations Office: "It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit and then you will be my disciples." Are you being called to love the Lord and His people as a diocesan priest? If you are considering such a vocation, contact your local priest or the Diocesan Vocations Director Fr. Pat O'Hagan, PP Merville at pgoh2111@gmail.com or email the National Vocations Office: info@vocations.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

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

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.

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

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*

Gamblers Anonymous: Is gambling affecting your life? Perhaps we can help. Call us on (028) 7135 1329

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*

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.

Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday	Thursday 31st March at 7.00pm First Confession (Greencastle)	Saturday 9th April at 11.00am Confirmation (Greencastle)
Saturday 14th May at 11.00am First Communion (Greencastle)	Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June Blessing of the Graves in Greencastle / Broughderg	

2020	PARISH STATISTICS	2021
(17) 8 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	10 Boys • 7 Girls [17]
(11) 4 Boys • 7 Girls	First Communion	7 Boys • 9 Girls [16]
(14) 7 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	10 Boys • 6 Girls [16]
0 within parish • 1 outside parish	Weddings	5 within parish • 2 outside parish [7]
8	Deaths and Burials	12

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel: *John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

1. The Ascension of Jesus was an important growth point for the disciples. Jesus would be with them in a different way from now on. Painful though it was, it was necessary for them to let go of his physical presence and adjust to the new reality. Perhaps you have known similar transition points in your own life.
2. Jesus invited the disciples to be witnesses to the good news they had learned. The way we live, speak and relate to others speaks of what we have learned about life. We all are witnesses. How have you been a witness to the goodness of life?
3. In particular Jesus invited them to be witnesses to the good news of forgiveness. Recall people who have been witnesses to you of forgiveness and reconciliation. What effect did they have on your life? Have you been able to be a witness to the good news of forgiveness in your life?
4. Stay in the city until... Jesus instructs the apostles to wait patiently for the moment of grace. What been your experience of waiting for a moment of grace? What are the moments of grace that you particularly recall (a friendship, a new opportunity, birth of a baby, etc)?

Annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg: Friday 24th to Sunday 26th June. Bishop McKeown will lead the pilgrimage and invites you to join him. Booking is essential, call Diocesan Catechetical Centre at +44 28 7126 4087 or email lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org. £80 which includes return transport from St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry.

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*

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Tuesday 31st May – The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary The visit of the Mother of God, with the child Jesus in her womb, to her cousin Elizabeth, who was herself six months' pregnant with the forerunner of Christ, St. John the Baptist.

Wednesday 1st June – St. Justin (martyr) [100-165] An early Christian apologist, regarded as the foremost interpreter of the theory of the Logos in the 2nd century. Was martyred, alongside some of his students.

Sunday 5th June – St. Boniface (bishop and martyr) Anglo-Saxon missionary who propagated Christianity in the Frankish Empire during the 8th century. Patron Saint of Germany, the first archbishop of Mainz and the "Apostle of the Germans".

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service – Seeking Marriage Preparation Programme Facilitators:
 Accord is seeking registration of interest from those who have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church and the enthusiasm to be part of a team supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage, they have 54 centres in dioceses across the island. Successful applicants will receive professional training and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes locally in accordance with best practice.
 Call Deirdre on 07980 898 399 or email info@accordni.com. Closing date for receipt of registration of interest forms to be included in Selections for this year is Friday 27th May.
Registration of Interest form and additional information about becoming a facilitator is available on accordni.com

Fr. Shields Camogie Club, Greencastle: An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to try camogie for the first time or return to the game they love. We welcome anyone who would like to try at the following training sessions:
 Mondays, 7.30pm to 8.30pm (seniors) Wednesdays, (post-primary, 7.00pm to 8.00pm (U14s and U16s)
 Thursdays, 6.30pm to 7.10pm (U6s and U7s) *Support will be given to those who have never played before*
 We can assist with online registration, sticks and helmets can be provided during training sessions and matches
 Add our club page and message us or come on the nights at the above times
 @frshields.greencastle or call Kira on +44 7833 4188 50

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%