

## Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone, Diocese of Derry

Saint Patrick's Church, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg

The First Sunday of Advent – Year C (29<sup>th</sup> November, 2009)

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

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*We welcome among us Fr. Terry Bennett, a priest of the Columban Missionary Society and native of Omagh. He will celebrate Mass for us this weekend. Fr. Terry spent his ministry in the Philippines and is now retired and living in Navan.*

**Liturgy Schedule for the First Week of Advent (30<sup>th</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2009)**

**No Mass between Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> First Friday of the Month	Saint Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b> Confessions <b>8.00pm</b> Mass
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December (evening)</b>	Saint Patrick's	<b>5.30pm</b> Confessions <b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass for Sunday <b>9.00am</b> Mass: 'Misso Pro Populo' <b>10.30am</b> Confessions <b>11:00am</b> Mass
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> Second Sunday of Advent	Saint Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	

**Schedule for Weekday Mass in Our Neighbouring Parishes** (taken from Diocesan and Parish Websites)

<b>Monday – Saturday</b> Friday	St. Mary's, Killyclogher	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>7.30pm</b> Mass
<b>Monday – Thursday, Saturday</b> Friday	St. Mary's, Loughmacrory	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>7.00pm</b> Mass
<b>Monday – Saturday</b>	St. Colmcille's, Carrckmore	<b>9.30am</b> Mass
<b>Monday – Thursday</b> Friday	St. Mary's, Dunamore	<b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>7.30pm</b> Mass
<b>Monday</b> Tuesday – Friday	St. Joseph's, Killeenan	<b>7.30pm</b> Mass <b>9.30am</b> Mass
<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday</b> Saturday	Sacred Heart Church, Plumbridge	<b>9.30am</b> Mass <b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	St. Patrick's Church, Cranagh	<b>7.30pm</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday - Thursday</b> Saturday	St. Columba's, Straw	<b>7.30pm</b> Mass <b>11.00am</b> Mass
<b>Monday – Friday</b>	Sacred Heart Church, Omagh	<b>8.00am</b> Mass <b>10.00am</b> Mass <b>7.30pm</b> Mass
<b>Tuesday and Thursday</b> Monday, Wednesday and Friday	Christ the King Church, Strathroy	<b>9.30am</b> Mass <b>7.30pm</b> Mass

**Weekly Offerings:** Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to **£1,115**. **Please support your parish by using your envelope even if you must attend Mass outside your parish, thank you.** Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes. Thank you also for the further **£35** received for the **Retired Priests' Fund** bringing it to the current total of **£920**.

**Remembering Our Dead:** As a parish faith-community we extend our sympathy to Jenny, Mary and Charlie Morris and their extended family on the death of their brother **Fr. Joe Morris (P. Em Clonmany)** who died this week. We also pray for **Mary and Eddie McCullagh, Michael McCullagh and Kellie McKenna** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Annual Bazaar:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30pm in the Community Centre. Proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Centre. Your support will be appreciated. **GAA Football Club AGM:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

**'Do This In Memory of Me':** Our parish programme in preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion continues at the Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December in Greencastle.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Barach 5:1-9; Psalm 125; Phillipians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6    Lectionary I, page 30

**Lotto Numbers:** 12, 14, 16, 18 (2 winners with 3 numbers – £25 each)    **Next Jackpot:** £1,100

### Serving Our Faith-Community in Greencastle Parish

Parish Liturgy for December, 2009	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Danielle Coyle	Monica Coyle	Brendan McKenna
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	James McCullagh	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Collectors</b>	John Bradley Colm Devlin	Eugene Tracey Brendan Conway	Francis Keenan Perry McCrory
<b>Altar Society</b>	Maria Bradley		Anne McDermott

**New choir members will always be welcome**

**Offertory Gifts:** The Year 4 and 7 classes of 2009 / 2010 and their families taking responsibility for presenting the Offertory gifts at each Sunday Mass are as follows:-

Week	6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
<b>14</b>	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Lauryn Hollywood</b>	Second Sunday of Advent	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Aaron Donnelly</b>
<b>15</b>	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> December*** The family of <b>Matthew Conway</b>	Third Sunday of Advent	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Michaela McBride</b>
<b>16</b>	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Shauna Morris</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Noel McKenna</b>
<b>17</b>	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Jack Tuohey</b>	Feast of the Holy Family	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December The family of <b>Aileen Tracey</b>
<b>18</b>	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January The family of <b>Sean and Tara Coneely</b>	Second Sunday of Christmas	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January The family of <b>Luke Breslin</b>

\*\*\* **'Do This In Memory' Programme week 4**

As the wider parish community we support these young people and their families with our prayers and we thank them for what they are doing for us. **If you find yourself unable to attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented.**

### Pilgrimages and Retreats

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2010):** Cost £629 – payable in instalments. Application forms are now available in the sacristy (Greencastle). Forms for those in need of special care or those aged 80 or over are available only from the Pilgrimage Office, Derry. Telephone: (028) 7126 0293.

**Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry – Monthly Devotions in Honour of Our Lady:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December with confessions at 7.30pm followed by Rosary and Mass. Finishing 10.00pm.  
**Annual Pioneer Retreat:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am. Donation: £14.

### The Pope's Intentions for December, 2009:

**General:** That children may be respected and loved and never be the victims of exploitation in its various forms.  
**Mission:** That at Christmas the peoples of the earth may recognise in the Word Incarnate the light which illuminates every human person and that the Nations open their doors to Christ, the Saviour of the World.

**University of Ulster – Tasmin Little: The Naked Violin Tour:** In concert at The Great Hall, Magee University, Derry on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 8.00pm.

### BADA An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Upcoming Events:

**Every Friday Night** | Card game from 8.30pm

### Greencastle Youth Club – Parent Rota:

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Paul Tuohey
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Geraldine Wilkinson
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Lucy Conway

### **The Advent Candles**

*Candles are lit to symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ.*

*On the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent a purple candle is lit (each Sunday the candle from the previous Sunday is re-lit). The colour purple as used during the period of Lent reminds us to prepare a welcome for Jesus during the Advent season.*

*On the third Sunday of Advent a pink candle is lit. Pink is the colour of joy to remind us that we should be ready to welcome Christ at Christmas.*

*On Christmas Eve the white candle is lit to celebrate the Birth of Christ – the Light of the World.*

**Advent is a twofold character:** As a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. There are two stages in Advent; the first runs until 16<sup>th</sup> December and the second (which is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts) runs from 17<sup>th</sup> December until 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**The Advent Wreath:** Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes especially in Germanic countries and in North America – we do so in Church each year. The Advent wreath with its progressive lighting of four candles each Sunday until Christmas, is a recollection of the various stages of salvation prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of Justice (Malachi 3:20; Luke 1:18).

### **This Week's Calendar of Saints:**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November – St. Andrew from Bethsaida** He 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 of Scotland, Russia and fishermen.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552)** As one of the first seven Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius Loyola. He converted many in Goa and also later in Japan. He died as he attempted to enter China. A patron of the missions.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December – St. John Damascene (675-749)** He was 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. Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot. Co. Donegal:** A space of quiet, prayer and solitude. Available for individual retreats and spiritual guidance. Residential accommodation and meals in the Centre's hermitages. Promotions offer €45 per night. "Come away by yourself to a desert place and rest for a while." Contact Fr. Neal Carlin on 00353 74936 8370 or [sacre@eircom.net](mailto:sacre@eircom.net) for enquiries and bookings.

### **Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Luke 21:25-28, 34-36:**

1. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seemed that your world was collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc.? When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage to remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.
2. Jesus himself is the model in this Gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of 'waiting in joyful hope'. What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) made to you in facing difficult situations?
3. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, e.g. through love, beauty, nature, etc.?

*John Byrne OSA ([john@orlagh.ie](mailto:john@orlagh.ie))*

### **Questions people ask:**

Q. What might I do to get more out of Advent?

A. What a pity that Advent has been devoured by the commercial side of Christmas. Advent develops hope in the time of waiting, and hope is a virtue most needed to sustain our faith in the wilderness of scandals and recession. Try to let Christmas wait until Christmas. Let Advent be a time for more reflection and prayer. Get in touch with those areas of life where we struggle, where we experience our incompleteness, where we come to recognise our need of God. Christmas will be properly celebrated by those who know their need of God. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap ([silvesteroflynn@gmail.com](mailto:silvesteroflynn@gmail.com))*

### **The Deep End – Caterpillars Beware!**

What a way to enter with a bang! Enter a new liturgical year, that is. Just look at our Second Reading today (1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2): 'may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all'. What a way to start the year if love means, as it must, seeing butterflies in caterpillars! Not even Specsavers could do that for you.

Advent is a time for staring: at the Creator coddled in a cot, at heaven harboured in a home, at power naked in swaddling clothes, at divinity bubbling through a baby, at the darkness of a silent night illumined by a cosmic chorus of heavenly hosannas. Indeed it is; but don't forget the caterpillar.

Why should we be stumped by a muddled Marian message ringed in a tree? Why have apparitions in strange places? Don't we have divinity at our fingertips each day? We need but reach out in friendship to another human being to touch the face of God. For if not there, where else?

Advent is a time for daring: to find the intimately elusive God nestling in our hearts, to find his sacred face imaged on the heart of those we love and, dare we admit it, those we don't; to trust our instincts for the promised paradise to come. Indeed it is, but don't forget the caterpillar.

Next time you meet one stare and dare. Stare until its lowly form morphs before your eyes. Then dare to believe what your eyes tell you. Advent has arrived; can birth be far behind?

*Fr. Tom Cahill SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon, Co Roscommon ([tomcee@eircom.net](mailto:tomcee@eircom.net))*

**Dean Maguirc College will be holding First Aid classes** on Thursday nights from 7.00pm to 8.30pm for 4 weeks beginning on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Upon completion of the course those involved will hold a valid first aid certificate. If you are interested in taking part in this workshop please contact Mr. Gerard Mullan at Dean Maguirc College on (028) 8076 1272.

### **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 2-6 years and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family.

*Could this be you?*

Please contact Family Care Society on:  
(028) 9069 1133 [Belfast] or (028) 7136 8592 [Derry]

Email: [email@family-care-society.org](mailto:email@family-care-society.org)

Website: [family-care-society.net](http://family-care-society.net)

**Help to contain the swine flu impact:** Everyone can play their part, and simple measures such as regular hand-washing and using a tissue can go some way towards mitigating this pandemic's impact.

*Irish News (18<sup>th</sup> July, 2009)*