



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

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

First Sunday of Advent [Year C] (29th November, 2015)

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

Website: greencastleparish.com • Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com • Tel: (028) 8164 8474



Liturgy Schedule for the First Week of Advent in Ordinary Time [Year C] (29 th November, 2015 – 5 th December, 2015)			
Saturday 28th November	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Annie Tracey (3 rd Anniversary)
Sunday 29th November First Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Monday 30th November St. Andrew (apostle)	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am	Mass
Tuesday 1st December First Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Wednesday 2nd December First Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass
Thursday 3rd December St. Francis Xavier (priest)	St. Patrick's	7.30pm	Mass
Friday 4th December First Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession from 10.00am to 11.30am
Saturday 5th December First Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Mass
Saturday 5th December	St. Patrick's	6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Gerard McGurk (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 6th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year C]	St. Patrick's	9.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
	Our Lady of Wayside	11.00am	Mass
Collection: Thank you for your kindness in last week's collection of £800 and £15 in the loose plate.			
Retired Priests Collection: An additional £55 was contributed bring the total to £800 so far.			
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Myles McCullagh (Canada, formerly Sheskinshule) , who died on Saturday 21 st November, his Requiem took place in Canada on Friday 27 th November – we offer our sympathy and prayerful support to his family and all who mourn his passing. We also pray for Annie Tracey whose anniversary occurs now.			
Sick And Housebound Visits: Fr. Gallagher will next make visits on Friday 4th December at the usual times.			
New Altar Servers Meeting: Thursday 3 rd December in St. Patrick's Church for the children and their parents / guardians. At this meeting parents will be asked to fill out Parish Consent Forms and be made aware of the Parish Safeguarding Policy. The children will spend some time in practice and preparation to serve on the altar. Further practices will take place at a time and place decided on at this meeting. It is hoped that the children will be ready to serve for Christmas in the church of their choice and every weekend after. <i>Thank you to all the children in the parish who offered to serve the community</i>			
We offer congratulations and prayerful support from our parish community to Oisín Scullion (Ballyscullion) and Geraldine McNamee (Greencastle) Friday 20 th November They recently committed themselves to each other in the sacrament of Christian Marriage <i>Fill their hearts with your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of understanding, joy fortitude and peace</i>			
Bus to Knock for the All Night Vigil: Monday 7 th December. En route from Cookstown, pick-ups can be made along the main Omagh Road. Bus is £15, bring a packed lunch. Tel: Mona on (028) 8673 7954			
An Bruach Dearg Community Centre – Card Playing: Every Friday night at 8.00pm. Includes supper.			
Moneymore Care Home – Christmas Craft Fayre: Wednesday 2 nd December from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Free admission. Why not come Along and pick a few Christmas gifts, all locally made? If you are interested in holding a stall (£5 each) please call or email Jayne at Moneymore Care Home on (028) 8674 8118 or moneymore@fshc.co.uk <i>All are welcome</i>			
Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)			
Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God who never tires of forgiving.			
Evangelisation: That families, especially those who suffer may find in the birth of Jesus sign of a certain hope.			
Next Sunday's Readings: Baruch 5:1-9 • Psalm 125, R/ v 3 • Philipians 1:3-6, 8-11 • Luke 3:1-6 Lectionary I, page 30			
Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]			

Parish Liturgy for December, 2015	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Nuala Glass	Martina McBride
Eucharistic Ministry	Francis Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of Intercession	Eimear Bradley	Ryan Clarke	Shauna Morris
Collectors	John Bradley Colm Devlin	Eugene Tracey Brendan Conway	Brendan Daly Sean McKenna
Altar Society	Kathleen Beggs Mary McCullagh		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
6.00pm Saturday Vigil		Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
Saturday 28 th November The family of Shane Morris	First Sunday of Advent	Sunday 29 th November The family of Kerrie McLaughlin	
Saturday 5 th December The family of Katie McGurk	Second Sunday of Advent	Sunday 6 th December The family of Aidan Morris	
Saturday 12 th December* The family of Rian Slane	Third Sunday of Advent	Sunday 13 th December The family of Ciaran Morris	
Saturday 19 th December The family of Caolan Tracey	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday 20 th December The family of Claire O'Brien	
<i>If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented</i> As the wider parish community we support these young people and their families with our prayers and thank them *Do This In Memory Week 4 • We need new volunteers in every aspect of life			
IOSAS Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff – “Follow the Star” Christmas Trail: Friday 11 th to Sunday 13 th December, Wednesday 16 th December and Friday 18 th to Sunday 20 th December. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas. Pre-booking is essential. Tel: (00353) 74938 4866 • Email: goldenagecentre@hotmail.com			
Pioneer Association Short-Term Pledge Campaign for November: In honour of the Holy Souls and to help an addicted friend. November is traditionally dedicated as the Month of the Holy Souls when we pray in a special way for family members, relatives, and friends who are no longer with us. By a long-standing Irish custom, many people choose to abstain from alcohol for the month of November and offer this sacrificial act for the benefit of their deceased loved ones, for all the Souls in Purgatory as well as someone they know and / or love with an addiction.			
Knock Shrine – One-Day Workshop on The Joy of the Gospel: Saturday 28 th November. Led by the Jesuit theologian, lecturer and author Brian Grogan SJ the workshop is an ideal opportunity for parish, diocesan or other faith groups to make a trip to Knock Shrine this autumn and take part in an interesting and thought provoking programme for the day. Fr. Grogan's workshop will explore Pope Francis' call to us in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation The Joy of the Gospel, which speaks about topics such as evangelisation in the modern Church, social justice, the family, faith and politics. The workshop is part of a new series of faith renewal events at Knock Shrine giving people the opportunity to attend an interesting day programme to discuss and explore their faith along spiritual, intellectual and pastorally practical lines. For more info visit knockshrine.ie/joy-of-the-gospel-workshop/ • Group bookings welcome • Costs €30 per person inc. lunch			
Action Cancer Fundraiser on the Occasion of Pat Larry's Self-Catering Cottage Anniversary Saturday 5 th December from 10.00am to 3.00pm • Refreshments provided • Call (028) 8164 8898 • Everyone welcome			
Precious Life – Candlelight Rosary For Life: Saturday 12 th December (Feast of Our Lady of Guadeloupe) at 4.00pm outside Marie Stopes, Belfast. For the protection of Ireland's unborn babies. <i>For more information call (028) 9027 8484 or email info@preciouslife.com</i>			
Save Our Sperrins Meeting: First Wednesday of every month in Greencastle Community Centre with the next meeting on Wednesday 2 nd December at 8.00pm. Join your local environmental group with an interest in protecting and promoting our Sperrins, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Special guest speakers and an opportunity to immerse yourself in your local community with shared interests in using our local knowledge and previous generations' determination to preserve our beautiful countryside for generations. Facebook: SaveOurSperrins • Email: saveoursperrins@gmail.com			
Greencastle Community Centre – Bazaar: Sunday 6 th December commencing at 4.00pm. <i>Excellent prizes on offer</i>			
Children in Crossfire – Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage: Tuesday 29 th March to Friday 2 nd April. <i>If you would like more information email shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org or call the office on (028) 7126 9898</i>			
Parish Finance Council Meeting: Monday 30 th November at 7.30pm in the Parochial House.			
Marie Curie – Coffee Morning Fundraiser: Thank you to all who supported this, a total of £1,200 was raised. The charity continues to care and support people through terminal illness. <i>Eugene and Rose McCullagh</i>			
St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992			

<p align="center">This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:</p>	
<p>Monday 30th November – <i>St. Andrew (Apostle)</i> 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.</p>	
<p>Thursday 3rd December – <i>St. Francis Xavier (priest) [1506-1552]</i> One of the first 7 Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and Japan. Killed as he tried to enter China. A Patron Saint of the Missions.</p>	
<p>Friday 4th December – <i>St. John Damascene (priest) [675-749]</i> 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.</p>	
<p>Sunday 6th December – <i>St. Nicholas (bishop)</i> 4th century bishop of Myra (in modern Turkey) whose legendary kindness inspired the Santa Claus tradition. He is Patron Saint of Russia, sailors, pawnbrokers and children. [NOT CELEBRATED THIS YEAR]</p>	
<p>MARA (Maximising Access in Rural Areas): Find out if you're missing out on benefits, services or grants by booking your FREE home visit. Referrals can be made for benefits checks, home safety visits, occupational therapy assessments as well as others. You'll also receive a FREE bag containing £25 worth of items to help keep you warm this winter. <i>Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book</i></p>	
<p>The Good Ship Lollipop – Appeal For Child Refugees: The Belfast children's charity Tuesday's Child is working with catholic missionaries in Sicily to help child refugees rescued in the Mediterranean. Funds will go towards providing essential aid items and care for children, young people and their families and helping high risk children who come in unaccompanied on the boats. <i>Tuesday's Child gives 100% of donations received, plus gift aid</i> Website: tuesdayschild.ie • Email: info@tuesdayschild.ie • Tel: (028) 9064 6104 / 07545 452 362 Donation by Texting: TUES75 and amount to 70070 (e.g.TUES75 £5)</p>	
<p>Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Wednesday 31st August to Wednesday 7th September. Direct from Belfast for the special price of £439 including half-board, tax and insurance if paid by Sunday 10th December. <i>For further details call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038</i></p>	
<p>Yoga with Margaret Franklin: Every Tuesday at 7.15pm in An Creagán.</p>	
<p>GCSE Irish Class: Tuesday afternoons from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh. This is also open to students from other schools and to adult learners of Irish. Email: kevin.goodwin@fermanaghomagh.com • Tel: (028) 8225 6220</p>	
<p>Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – Master of Arts in Catholic School Leadership: Beginning this Autumn in partnership with St. Mary's College, Twickenham. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who aspire to leadership roles or with an interest in the Catholic School system. <i>For more info call the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org</i></p>	
<p>Towards Peace: A new 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</p>	
<p>Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation better known as Confession is very important and vital part of our lives as Catholics. The times for Confession will be as follows. St. Patrick's: Eve of First Friday from after 10.00am Mass until 11.00am when mass is celebrated with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that time except when there is a funeral or no mass First Saturday of each month from after mass until 11.30am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.50pm and after Vigil Mass Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.50am and after 11.00am Mass</p>	

<p>Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre – Upcoming Events This Autumn. Dún Uladh, Drumnakilly Road, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT79 0JP, United Kingdom</p>	
<p>Gaeilge i nDún Uladh OCN NI Irish Qualification</p>	<p>Level 1 Award: Wednesdays, 5.30pm to 7.30pm (£130, reduced £90) Level 2 Award: Wednesdays, 8.30pm to 10.00pm (£130, reduced £90) Level 3 Award: Thursdays, 6.30pm to 8.30pm (£155, reduced £115)</p>
<p align="center">All courses are subject to demand • Register interest by emailing sean.anton@dunuladh.ie Classes will be held in Dún Uladh in cooperation with South West College</p>	
<p>Ceol Cois Tine Tickets are £10 Sean Keane and Gearoid Keane: Friday 11th December at 8.30pm On concertina and fiddle for a night to remember. Our final night.</p>	
<p>Concerts Iarla Ó Lionáird and Steve Cooney: Sunday 29th November at 8.30pm (tickets are £10) Steve Cooney is joined by extraordinary traditional vocalist Iarla Ó Lionáird for this eagerly awaited concert. The duo will be joined by Scottish Singer and Harpist Misha MacPherson.</p>	
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<p>ACCORD Pre-Marriage Courses: It is important that all those preparing for Marriage should attend a pre-marriage course. If you intend to be married here in the Parish between now and the end of 2016 you should make arrangements to attend one of the ACCORD Courses in Omagh or at another centre if that suits you. These following dates are presently available. 5th and 6th February • 4th and 5th March • 1st and 2nd April • 6th and 7th May • 3rd and 4th June • 24th and 25th June Website: accord.ie • Tel: (028) 8224 2439 • Email: omagh@accordni.com</p>	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always good practice to seek <i>written</i> 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. <p>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. <i>From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee</i></p>	
<p>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 or 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. <i>See poster at entrances</i></p>	

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel – Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36:*John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)*

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 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.?

St. Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests: The Apostolate offers us a special opportunity to pray for a priest each day. The co-ordinators in the Derry Diocese wish to raise awareness of the St Michael's Apostolate of Prayer for Priests and to invite people from across the diocese to join in this prayer initiative. The co-ordinators for the diocese, and their contact details, are as follows.

Rosemary Johnson • (028) 8225 9541 / 07810 387 825 • otmail_rosemary@yahoo.co.uk

Siobhan Sweeney • (028) 8224 8479 / 07880 588 041 • siobhanswen1@yahoo.co.uk

Ethna Hill • (028) 8226 9245 / 07528 249 838 • ethna776@yahoo.com

Eamon Cassidy • 07743 502 165 • e_cassidy@hotmail.com prayerforpriests.com

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Learn about local areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) like Cashel Rock, special not just for its 450 million year old geographical rock formation but also for protected wildlife including the Irish Hare and the Lapwing more commonly known as the 'Peewit'. The Owenreagh River running through Greencastle, due for designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as one of the last breeding grounds of the rare Freshwater Mussel (*Margaritifera*) in these islands. **Facebook:** SaveOurSperrins • **Email:** saveoursperrins@gmail.com

Musings*Salvador Ryan (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth)*

Edward Hays writes of Advent in A Pilgrim's Almanac: 'Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still; be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary, yet is wondrously present.'

The Deep End – Waiting:*Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)*

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and we begin the season of 'waiting'. The Gospel today has powerful (and perhaps distressing) images of great signs that will appear. For many of us this year we saw lots of signs that Christmas was coming, even as far back as September, which is more distressing than any of the images in the Gospel today. Some people love that feeling of expectancy, of waiting for someone or something to arrive. It can be quite an exciting time or even one of anxiety. Very often we are on high alert during such a time, and often quite creative. We are asked to enter into a season of preparation, to celebrate God in our lives and in our world. It is a season of great joy and of hope and while waiting is not always seen as a good thing, it can be an interesting time of growth. So, what will our preparations be like? In the middle of the crazy, busy days in the run up to Christmas, can we stop and invite God into our hearts and lives once more?

As with madness we prepare for this festive time of year, as we rush and
count the days, Advent passes in a haze, So may our feet take us to places
where we will meet You'.
Janet Lees