



**Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)**  
**St. Patrick's, Greencastle**      **Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**First Sunday of Advent [Year B] (29<sup>th</sup> November, 2020)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

**Thought for the Week:** "Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent...If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time."  
*Edward Hays (A Pilgrim's Almanac)*

<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	YouTube	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	YouTube	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass
First Sunday of Advent [Year B]			
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	YouTube	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	YouTube	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass: Packie Vincent Morris (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Rose Morris (11 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	St. Patrick's YouTube	<b>2.00pm to 4.00pm</b>	Adoration <b>7.30pm</b> Mass: Gerard McGurk (6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	YouTube	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	YouTube	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass <i>St. John Damascene (priest)</i>
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	YouTube	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	YouTube	<b>11.00am</b>	Mass
Second Sunday of Advent [Year B]			

**COLLECTIONS**      **Weekly:** £875      •      **Retired Priests:** £645      *Thank you for your generosity*

**Baptism:** We offer our prayers and best wishes to the family and friends of **Killian Gerry Donnelly** who was welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November in St. Patrick's.

**Sick and Housebound:** Fr. Gallagher will be in contact with and pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish for the First Friday on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 11.30am. The 10.00am Mass that morning will have as its intention prayer for all the Parish Sick and Housebound and all who are self-isolating.

**Remembering Our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Packie Vincent (4<sup>th</sup>) and Rose Morris (11<sup>th</sup>), Gerard McGurk (6<sup>th</sup>), Michael McCullagh (18<sup>th</sup>), Annie Tracey (8<sup>th</sup>) and Frank Tracey (38<sup>th</sup>)** whose anniversaries occur at this time. We also pray for all our deceased loved ones and friends who we have prayed for during these November days and all who have died as a result of Covid-19.

**Box of Remembrance:** Instead of the usual Book of Remembrance at the front of each church there will be a box into which you can place the names of your deceased loved one on a piece of paper or envelope. The deceased will be prayed for at all masses during the month of November. *Please do not place any money in these boxes*

**Return of Parish Envelopes:** Sadly, our churches will be closed for Public Mass from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. During this closedown please continue to return your envelopes to the Parochial House, St. Patrick's Church Sacristy Post Box and Broughderg Post Office.  
*Please continue to remember the special collections in your box and the Parish Graveyards Collection*

**Remembrance Walk:** Fr. Gallagher will walk and pray in memory of the deceased of our parish and families on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November from St. Patrick's Church, Greencastle to Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg and back. Each walk will include short prayers in the churches and graveyards which will be streamed (broadband permitting) on the Parish of Greencastle Facebook page.  
*Fr. Gallagher will embark on these walks alone and would appreciate your prayerful solidarity during them*

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

**For a Life of Prayer:** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**Next Week's Readings:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 • Psalm 84:9-14, R/ v 8 • 2 Peter 3:8-14  
 Mark 1:1-8 • Lectionary 1:27      **Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]**

**Children in Crossfire – Advent Appeal:** This worthy charity's appeal begins this weekend and they have shared this video link with us asking for support. Video on YouTube: Richard Moore - Advent Campaign 2020 - YouTube. This video can also be viewed on the Greencastle Parish Website and Facebook Page through the link provided. While there is no public mass you can still pick up an Advent box at the back of the parish churches if you are in for private prayer or at Broughderg Post Office. You can also donate online at [justgiving.com/fundraising/advent-appeal](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/advent-appeal). This year's appeal is raising funds to help provide hand washing and sanitation facilities to 700 schools in Tanzania, especially vital right now. It costs only £20 to provide a whole school with hand sanitiser and cleaning supplies.

**Latest Church Restrictions and Preparing for Advent and Christmas:** The NI Executive last week announced that places of worship could not host public mass until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Hopefully that date will see the resumption of Public Mass in our Parish Churches, but as we know sometimes things do not work out as initially announced. If masses resume on that date then we will have mass for the townlands that would have been scheduled for the two weekends of closure beginning on the Vigil Mass of Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. In the meantime all masses can be followed on the Greencastle Parish YouTube Channel as advertised in the Liturgy Schedule. There is no need to subscribe in order to gain access to it. However, if you do subscribe it means you can set up notifications or reminders of upcoming live events 30 minutes before mass begins and also when the Stream goes live. For the next two weeks Adoration will go ahead as normal as it involves private prayer by a small number of individuals and is not a conducted act of public worship. It is hoped that next weekend's bulletin will contain some idea of Christmas Mass arrangements in Greencastle Parish. Finally, thank you to all for your cooperation with the restrictions already in place and let us hope and pray that recent vaccine developments are a light at the end of this long and dark tunnel.  
*Fr Edward Gallagher PP*

**Graveyard Collection:** During this month of November we remember and pray for our faithful departed especially those buried in our parish cemeteries. During the summer for the Blessing of the Graves we were unable to have our usual in person collection for the upkeep of our graveyards. Therefore, this month you are encouraged to drop an envelope marked 'Graveyard Collection' in the usual places before or after mass, the mailbox at the St. Patrick's Church Sacristy, the Parochial House or Broughderg Post Office.  
*You may also wish to use any unused Parish Envelopes for this purpose and mark it 'Graveyard Collection'*

**Scripture Saturday with Bishop Donal:** Created by Derry Diocesan Youth, Bishop McKeown presents a series of short lessons on the Gospel in easy-to-understand, short (3-4 minute) videos, with tips and references of where and how to use these lessons in your daily life.  
*View the series at [derrydiocese.org/scripture-saturday](http://derrydiocese.org/scripture-saturday)*

**Mini Advent Retreat on Zoom:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, beginning at 8.00pm, a 3-session mini-retreat during Advent that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr. Billy Swan, St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy.  
*To take part email [thehookoffaith@gmail.com](mailto:thehookoffaith@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link • Come and join us to prepare for Christmas*

**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](http://barnardos.org.uk/foster)*

**Prayer Resources and Activities for Families in November:** The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre has created a range of prayer resources for families to use at home during November in memory of loved ones who have died. These include practical ways to pray together at home, prayers you can use and tips on creating a sacred space for prayer. For the mid-term break there is a 'World Drawing God Day', which is a great way to engage children for hours in creative drawing. Drawings can be shared online and you can take an online tour of the Drawing God Museum.  
*To view all the available resources, visit [catecheticalcentre.org](http://catecheticalcentre.org)*

**Spiritual Communion Prayer:** A prayer for those unable to attend mass  
*and receive Holy Communion and are participating in mass from home*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.  
 Never permit me to be separated from you.      *Amen*

**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*

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

**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*

**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

**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*

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

**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*

**Online Youth Programmes:** To access a wide variety of initiatives and activities by Derry Diocesan Youth, visit:  
**Facebook:** DerryDiocesanYouth **Instagram:** derryyouth

**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](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk)*

**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](http://derryyouthcommunity.com) or emailing [dyc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org)*

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

**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](mailto:gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk) • **Website:** [kindercareni.co.uk](http://kindercareni.co.uk)

**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

**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](http://radiomaria.ie) or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)*

**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*

**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](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org).*

**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](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**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.

**Community Coordination Hub:** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Covid-19 Community Coordination Hub will respond to requests received from the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline to assist residents who may have become isolated and vulnerable due to the impacts of Coronavirus and the associated mitigation measures. The Hub will work with the local community and voluntary sector to ensure those most at risk will have access to support services such as food, medication, practical and emotional support. **Access to Food Parcels** provided by the Department for Communities are available for anyone who can't leave their home to access food due to Covid-19 restrictions, don't have support through family, friends or access to food deliveries from local suppliers, or face food insecurity. Please complete the Food Parcel Request Form and a member of the Council's Community Coordination Hub will contact you. We aim to respond to requests within 24 hours. Referrals to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Coordination Hub for other support services are directed through the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline:  
**Freephone 0808 802 0020 Text ACTION to 81025 Email covid19@adviceni.net**  
Support and advice is available from 9.00am to 5.00pm, seven days a week.

**Trócaire:** Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org)
2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)
4. As with your parish envelope please leave at Broughderg Post Office, St. Patrick's Church Sacristy outside door postbox or the Parochial House. No boxes please.

Please also fill in Gift Aid details on envelope. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

**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](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus)*  
Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741      Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996      Briege Beggs: 07799 058 273

**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.

**Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel:** *John Byrne OSA ([jpbymeosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpbymeosa@gmail.com))*

1. The coming of the Lord is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces – good things that happened when they were not anticipated.
2. Perhaps some of these were moments when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in you and around you and this enabled you to be open to the moment of grace. Recall the contrast with moments when that alertness and awareness were not present.
3. The servants were given charge of the household 'each with their own job'. See yourself as a person given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God? What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person?
4. Jesus says that what he is saying to his disciples he is saying to all. Have there been times when you have been a messenger of hope to others, encouraging them to wait for a moment of grace. Who have been the ones to encourage you?

**The Deep End – Finding Our Feet:** *Jane Mellett ([mellettj@gmail.com](mailto:melletj@gmail.com))*

It can be very hard to live with uncertainty. Back at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a counsellor was interviewed on radio about how people were coping with the 'lockdown'. People were anxious and fearful, she said. Many were experiencing loneliness, as their normal routines and social life came to an abrupt halt. Another thing that people really struggled with was the inability to make decisions. They felt trapped and stuck, unable to plan ahead. They couldn't make plans to visit family or go on holidays. They didn't know if their jobs were secure, or if their children would return to school. When things are up in the air, it is hard to find your feet and feel grounded. Many of us are still struggling with these feelings. Today we enter a new church year, and our first Advent season since the pandemic hit. Many of us are feeling more subdued than normal as we begin our preparations for Christmas. It will be very different from the usual family and social occasion, and we are saddened and worried by this. In today's gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to 'stay awake'. We might feel we have no choice at the moment – the feeling of not knowing what is coming is very familiar. We are on our guard, on edge, waiting for the latest news. Yet already, there are initiatives springing up to support those who are vulnerable or in need this Christmas. In our own families, we are plotting ways to ensure no one is alone or isolated. We are 'awake' to the strange circumstances, and we are finding ways to cope. We pray today for the strength to guide us through the coming weeks, and for the peace and joy of Christ to lift our hearts and carry us onwards.

In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you, greets you and says: 'Rejoice.'

*Pope Francis*

**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%

**This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – St. Nicholas (bishop)** 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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

**ASPIRE:** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's employability service, is currently active with new ways of working. ASPIRE staff are ready to help people apply for and secure jobs; support from the initial search through to the application and with interview prep. Also provide training courses and arrange work experience placements. Omagh (028) 8224 6535 • Enniskillen 028 6632 6478 • Mobile 07799 471 448 • aspire@fermanaghomagh.com

**SUSE+ New Courses:** Have you recently been made redundant or are you currently unemployed? SUSE+ can help you, we are currently offering help and support to gain qualification and employment. We run Job Searches, CV Building, Interview Preparation. Mentors work 1:1 with participants to help secure a job in the local area.

New courses include Foundation Skills in Working with Children, Personal Success & Wellbeing, Progression to Employment, Customer Service, Money Management, Retail, Business Administration, Barista and Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy. *For more information email tracy.sharkey@swc.ac.uk or call 074 3653 3475*

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