



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

**St. Patrick's, Greencastle      Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg**  
**Feast of the Holy Family [Year A] (29th December, 2019)**  
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU  
**Website:** greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474



**Thought for the New Year:** “Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancour and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time. Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavour of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don’t do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humour.”  
*Recipe for a Happy New Year (Anonymous)*

Liturgy Schedule for First Week of Christmas [Year A] (28th December – 5th January)			
<b>Saturday 28th December</b> Holy Innocents	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 29th December</b> Holy Family	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass
<b>Monday 30th December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon</b>	Mass
<b>Tuesday 31st December</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>4.00pm</b>	Final Mass of 2019 at sunset
<b>Wednesday 1st January</b> Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God	St. Patrick's	<b>12 noon</b>	Mass: Mickey Neilly McCullagh (5th Anniversary) <i>There will be no Adoration this week</i>
<b>Thursday 2nd January</b> St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen (both bishops and doctors of the Church)	St. Patrick's	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Friday 3rd January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>7.30pm</b>	Mass: Tessie McElhatton (1st Anniversary)
<b>Saturday 4th January</b>	St. Patrick's	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass: Maureen Morris (9th Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 5th January</b> 2nd Sunday of Christmas	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Mass (Missa Pro Populo) Mass

**Prayer for the New Year, 2020:** Another year has turned its page, O Lord. We feel promises about to be fulfilled, hopes that may be realised and sorrows unknown—that may become ours to bear. All of this, we carry into a New Year. We do not expect, in this New Year, for our every prayer to be answered in a way we would like. You are in control, and we release our lives to you. We put our trust in this: that You who have been with us through this past year, Emmanuel will be with us in this New Year. This is our prayer: in all things that happen this year we ask that we would be aware of Your presence, O Lord. We will stumble and fall, and we will also succeed and triumph. We will laugh, and we will also weep. With You we walk, with confidence and trust, into this New Year. *Amen*

**New Year Message:** Firstly, may I thank all who made our Christmas celebrations so special and memorable. Thank you for your generosity of time, talent and resources. May I wish each of you and your families every grace and blessing for the New Year. May our parish and its people continue to flourish as we face the future together. Happy New Year to you all.  
*An t-Athair Eamon O'Gallchoir SP / Fr. Edward Gallagher PP*

**Baptism:** We offer our prayers and best wishes to the family of **Shea Patrick O'Donnell** who was welcomed into the family of the church through the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday 22nd December in St. Patrick's Church.

**Remembering our Dead:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Tessie McElhatton** whose First Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Friday evening. We also pray for the repose of the souls of **Harry Donaghy (3rd)** and **Mickey Neilly McCullagh (5th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Weekly Collection:** £1,280      *Thank you for your generosity*

**Pope Francis' Intention for January (please remember this in your personal prayers)**  
**Promotion of World Peace:** We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world

**Next Week's Readings:** Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12 • Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20, R/ • John 1:14  
 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 • John 1:1-18 • Lectionary 1:141      **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 3]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gift Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
28th December • <b>Caoimhe Coyle</b>	Feast of the Holy Family	29th December • <b>Tadhg Clarke</b>
4th January • <b>Emma Fox</b>	Second Sunday of Christmas	5th January • <b>Lee Coyle</b>
11th January • <b>Fionn Harte</b>	The Baptism of the Lord	12th January • <b>Erin Donnelly</b>
18th January • <b>Caoimhe Maguire</b>	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	19th January • <b>Danielle Gumley</b>
<b>If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented</b>		

Parish Liturgy for January, 2020	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
<b>Readers</b>	Roisin Scullion	Siobhan McKenna	Martina Daly
<b>Eucharistic Ministry</b>	Brigid Keenan	Eugene McCullagh	Patricia Donnelly
<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	Shauna McGurk	Caoimhe Warnock	Colleen Brogan
<b>Collectors</b>	John Bradley Colm Devlin	Eoghan Clarke Frank Keenan	Daniel McCrory Tony Donnelly
<b>Altar Society</b>	Margaret McCrory	Patricia Donnelly	Anne McDermott and Mary Bradley

**Fun with Fitness – Box Fit and HIIT:** Starts Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th January at 6.30pm for 6 weeks.  
 £30 for 1 class and £50 for 2 • To register call Darryl McCullagh on 07979 378 732

**Children in Crossfire** would like to wish parishioners a happy Christmas and peaceful new year. We will collect all the Advent box donations over the weekends of 11th and 12th January and 18th and 19th January. We thank you in advance, your support will make a huge impact on the lives of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Ethiopia. [childrenincrossfire.org](http://childrenincrossfire.org) • (028) 7126 9898

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2020:** Thursday 2nd to Tuesday 7th July. Applications are now being sought for the 2020 Youth Pilgrimage, from those who will be age 17 at time of travel. Forms can be requested through schools or directly from the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ (email [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com)). *Gift Vouchers for all pilgrims to the value of £25 and £50 can be ordered via these same contact details*

**Catholic Marriage Encounter Ireland – Marriage Enrichment Weekend:** Friday 31st January at 8.00pm to Sunday 2nd February at 4.30pm in Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry. Offers married couples of all ages in a good relationship, private time to rekindle the joy of their love.  
*For more info and to book visit [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie) or call 0770 281 2321 [NI] / 00353 (87) 2162436*

**Greencastle Community Association – Cards:** Sunday 29th December at 7.00pm in the Community Centre.

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages:** April – October. 7 night stay and airport shuttle service from Dubrovnik or split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for more info and book the dates that suit you. *0144 345 10 • [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com)*

**Catechetical Centre – Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** Tuesday 28th July to Tuesday 4th August (ages 16 to 18). A unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with peers from around the world in a faith context. Up to 50,000 young people attend the Medjugorje Youth Festival each year. Cost is £599 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and a deposit of £100 are due by Sunday 1st December.  
*For more info or to book email [lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org) or call 00 44 2871264087*

**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).

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

**Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2020:**  
 “Faced with the consequences of our hostility towards others, our lack of respect for our common home or our abusive exploitation of natural resources – seen only as a source of immediate profit, regardless of local communities, the common good and nature itself – we are in need of an ecological conversion. The recent Synod on the Pan-Amazon Region moves us to make a pressing renewed call for a peaceful relationship between communities and the land, between present and past, between experience and hope.....All this gives us deeper motivation and a new way to dwell in our common home, to accept our differences, to respect and celebrate the life that we have received and share, and to seek living conditions and models of society that favour the continued flourishing of life and the development of the common good of the entire human family.”

**Thornhill Ministries, Derry – Holy Land Pilgrimage Retreat (applications now available):**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Tel:** (028) 7135 1233 • **Email:** thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org • **Website:** thornhillministries.co.uk

**Accord Counselling Services:** Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

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

**Foyle Hospice – Become a Compassionate Neighbour:** Do you have 1-2 hours free once a week to support Foyle Hospice's Compassionate Communities 'Reach Out' voluntary befriending service. It might be as simple as calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, or taking someone out to do a bit of shopping. A volunteer's visit is invaluable to someone who is feeling lonely and isolated due to an illness. Full training and ongoing support with additional training opportunities are offered to all volunteers. *Call Tracy Gray, Volunteer Coordinator on 07841 101 932 or email [tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com](mailto:tracy@compassionatecommunitiesnw.com)*

**ASPIRE Employability Programme – Free CSR Card and Forklift Licence Training**

To be eligible you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.

**Omagh Office:** (028) 8224 6535 • **Enniskillen Office:** (028) 6632 6478 • **Facebook:** Aspire Employability Programme  
*The Aspire Employability Programme is part funded by the European Social Fund and Department for the Economy*

**Strule Arts Centre – Irish Cultural Activities Every Wednesday**

**Sean-Nós and Set Dancing** 6.00pm to 7.00pm • **Singing in Irish** 7.00pm to 8.00pm

**Irish Language Classes for Beginner, Improver and Advanced Levels** 8.00pm to 9.30pm

**Email:** kevin.goodwin@fermanaghmagh.com • **Tel:** 07747 899 249

**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. *Call Carol on (028) 8225 1559 to book*

**Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):**

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) • Join our faith family!*

**Accord Counselling Services:** Available to couples regardless of their faith or denomination.

*If you would like to avail call (028) 8224 2439 or email [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure:** If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.

*If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting [derryyouthcommunity.com](http://derryyouthcommunity.com) or emailing [dyc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dyc@derrydiocese.org)*

**Support Foyle Hospice by hosting a Coffee / Tea Morning with friends, family, groups or work colleagues:**

All funds you raise will play a vital role in funding the essential care and support Foyle Hospice provide to people in our communities affected and living with terminal illness

*For a free pack and more info call Michelle McGinn on (028) 7135 9888 or email [michellemcginn@foylehospice.com](mailto:michellemcginn@foylehospice.com)*

**Drink Wise, Age Well:** Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

*For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240*

**ACCORD – Relationship Counseling:** A service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriages and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non-judgmental setting.

*An appointment can be arranged by calling the Omagh Centre on (028) 8224 2439 or emailing [omagh@accordni.com](mailto:omagh@accordni.com)*

**Armchair Exercises:** Continues every Monday night in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. *Suitable for all ages*

**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](mailto:info@ruralsupport.org.uk) **Website:** [ruralsupport.org.uk](http://ruralsupport.org.uk)

To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

**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

**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)*

**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)

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages (April to October):** 7 nights B&B and Airport

Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing.

any flight, any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service.

*Call us on 01 4434510 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com) for further info and book dates that suit*

**Volunteer at White Oaks Acorn Organic Farm:** If you have an interest in organic growing and have a few hours to spare, why not spend them with us? Contact us using the details below.

**Address:** IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal

**Tel:** (00353) (0) 74 9384866 • **Website:** [celticprayergarden.com](http://celticprayergarden.com) • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

**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)*

**Catholic Marriage Encounter, Ireland Weekend:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November in the Lake Hotel, Killarney.

*For more information and / or booking visit [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie) or call 07702 812 321 or (087) 784 0408*

**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](http://towardspeace.ie) • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** [towardspeace@jecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@jecon.ie)

**Epilepsy Action NI:** Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury? Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

**Mid Ulster Agewell:** Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

*For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email [marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org](mailto:marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org)*

**Eucharistic Adoration** Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration

**12noon – 1.00pm** Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life

**1.00pm – 2.00pm** Married couples and those preparing for Marriage

**2.00pm – 3.00pm** Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people

**4.00pm – 5.00pm** Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth

**6.00pm – 7.00pm** The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

**Red Cross:** Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.

*Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011*

**Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. £545 (includes half-board, tax and insurance) if paid in full by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – £100 extra after that date.

**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*

**String Instrument Music Lessons:** Every Thursday evening in Greencastle Hall

For kids to learn banjo, guitar and violin with qualified tutor Frank Nugent

**Beginners:** 6.00pm to 6.45pm • **Advanced:** 6.45pm to 7.30pm • Call Sinead on 07788 266 387 to book a place

2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2017
(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	<b>Baptisms</b>	(26) 10 Boys • 16 Girls
(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	<b>First Communion</b>	(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls
(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	<b>Confirmation</b>	(15) 7 Boys • 8 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish	<b>Weddings</b>	2 within parish • 3 outside parish
10	<b>Deaths and Burials</b>	12

**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*

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend – The Joy of Love in Marriage:** Offers married couples of all ages in a good relationship, private time to rekindle the joy of their love. The next (residential) Weekends (Friday, 8.00pm to Sunday, 4.30pm) will be held at the Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September and at The Lake Hotel Killarney from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November.

*For info and to book visit [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie) or call (087) 784 0408 [ROI] / 0770 281 2321 [NI]*

**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%

**In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II – 10 Night Pilgrimage to Poland:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2020. Follow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, visit the capital of Divine Mercy, venerate the messenger of Mercy, St. Faustina’s relics, see the cell that imprisoned St. Maximilian Kolbe (martyr) as well as visit the largest Marian shrines and sanctuaries in Poland – daily Mass and spiritual activities. Flights from Belfast, luxury coach travel and excellent accommodation.

*For more info, a detailed itinerary and price email Fr. Micheál McGavigan at [michealmcgavigan@icloud.com](mailto:michealmcgavigan@icloud.com)*

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

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

**Email:** [anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org](mailto:anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org) • **Website:** [familycaresociety.co.uk](http://familycaresociety.co.uk)

**Diocesan Catechetical Centre – Training Opportunities for Young People / Adults:**  
 The Diocese in conjunction with Youthlink NI are offering an exciting training opportunity for young people aged 16-18 interested in Youth Work and Leadership Training. An OCN Level 1 Award in Practical Youth Work / Ministry Skills. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March in Maghera Pastoral Centre.  
 The Diocese are also offering a training course for adults interested in Parish Pastoral Ministry. A Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work Practice and it will run over 5 Saturdays and a few evenings beginning Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 6.00pm tp 9.00pm in Maghera Pastoral Centre.  
*If interested call Yvonne Rooney, the Diocesan Pastoral Youth Leader for more details or an application form on 0044 28 7126 4087 or email yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org*

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

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God** At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer. *Lumen Gentium (52)*

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – St. Basil the Great (bishop and doctor of the Church) [330-379]** Bishop of Caesarea, a brilliant preacher who lived an ascetic life, establishing norms for Monastic life. Implemented the decrees of the Council of Nicaea. Patron Saint of Russia.  
**St. Gregory Nazianzen (bishop and doctor of the Church) [330-379]** Bishop of Constantinople. He was known as the 'Theologian' because of his wisdom and skill in defending orthodox doctrine.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – St. Charles of Mount Argus, Dublin (priest) [1821-1893]** Born in Holland. Took vows as a Passionist in 1846 and came to Mount Argus in 1857, it was there he spent most of his priestly life. His ministry in the confessional was renowned and the poor of Dublin found in him a strong support. Died on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1893. St. Charles was canonised on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2007.

**PARISH EVENTS IN 2018**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February** Service of Light for P7      **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March** First Confession for P4  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March** 5 Parishioners receive Pope John Paul Awards in Armagh Cathedral  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** Confirmation by Bishop McKeown      **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May** First Holy Communion  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June** P7 attend Fan the Flame Mass in Celtic Park Derry  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June** Presentations to P7 Leavers and Mr. Noel McGinn on retirement as principal  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July** Cemetery Prayers in Parish Cemeteries  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August** Parishioners, along with Fr Gallagher attend Festival of Families in Croke Park and Papal Mass in Phoenix Park  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September** Mr. Neil McCloy officially takes up role as principal of Our Lady of Lourdes PS  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** All-Ireland Final – Tyrone v. Dublin      **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** Mass for Parish Deceased  
**10<sup>th</sup> November** Sr. Bride Counihan makes Mission Appeal  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November** Inaugural Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December** Advent Penance Service      **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** 2 New Altar servers welcomed  
**31<sup>st</sup> December** Large congregation gathers for Mass at final sunset of 2018

Some Important Dates		
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm</b> Service of Light for P7 Confirmation children		
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm</b> First Confession for P4 Children	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm</b> Confirmation	<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 12noon</b> First Holy Communion

**Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy – Upcoming Events:** [saconlon15@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saconlon15@hotmail.co.uk) • (028) 8775 7800

**Reading Group** | Every Tuesday (10.30am – 11.30am) *Please donate your old books / magazines*  
**Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Language Conversation Circle:** | Every Thursday (10.30am – 11.30am)  
**Walking Group:** | Continues every Monday (11.00am – 12.00 noon). Meet in Pomeroy forest car park.