

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

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year C] (30th June, 2019)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the Week: "If we approach nature and the environment without...openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously."
(Pope Francis Encyclical on the Environment Laudato Si #11)

Liturgy Schedule for Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time [Year C] (30th June, 2019 – 7th July, 2019)

Saturday 29th June St. Peter and St. Paul (Apostles)	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Celia Strauss (5 th Anniversary) followed by Blessing of the Graves
Sunday 30th June 13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady of Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass followed by Blessing of the Graves
Monday 1st July St. Oliver Plunkett (bishop and martyr)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 2nd July	St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 3rd July	St. Patrick's	12 noon to 7.15pm Adoration followed by Rosary
Thursday 4th July	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass followed by Confessions
Friday 5th July	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday 6th July Sunday 7th July 14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St. Patrick's Our Lady of Wayside	6.00pm Vigil Mass 9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 11.00am Mass: John and Mae Coyle (4 th and 2 nd Anniversaries)

Weekly: £960 • **Trócaire:** £4,530 *Thank you for your tremendous generosity to the 2019 Lenten Campaign*

Baptism: We offer our prayers and best wishes to the parents and families of **Róise Ní Ghéibhennaigh** and **Finn Pádraig McNulty** who were welcomed into God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June in St. Patrick's Church respectively.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Celia Strauss (5th)** and **Packie John McCrory (19th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sick and Housebound: Fr. Gallagher will visit those in his care Friday 5th July at the usual times.

Blessing of the Graves: Saturday 29th June after 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St. Patrick's Church and Sunday 30th June after 11.00am Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside Church (afterwards to the Cemetery at the old St. Mary's Church). Weather permitting the ceremonies will take place outside. Families are asked to bring Holy Water with them so that they can sprinkle their family graves at the appropriate time. As we gather in prayer for our beloved faithful departed let us offer a prayer especially for those who lost a loved one since our ceremonies last year.
 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." *Revelation 21:4*

Institute of Irish Leadership: Enrol now for Feile Gaeltacht Thir Eoghain, first week in July
For further details call (028) 8775 7800 or email saconlon15@hotmail.co.uk

Pope Francis' Intention for July (please remember this in your personal prayers)
The Integrity of Justice: That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 66:10-14 • Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20, R/ v 1 • Galatians 6: 14-18
 Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 • Lectionary 1:875 **Sunday [Year C] • Weekday [Year 2]**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 29 th June The family of Hollie McAleer	Offertory Gift Rota Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 30 th June The family of Myles McElduff	
If you cannot attend please ensure that you have arranged with another family for the gifts to be presented			
Parish Liturgy for July, 2019	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Nuala Glass	Siobhan McKenna	Martina Daly
Eucharistic Ministry	Mary Tracey	Eileen McKenna	Mary McCrory
Prayers of Intercession	Shea McElhatton	Ronan Hollywood	Grace Conneely
Collectors	John Bradley Shea McElhatton	Colm Keenan Ronan Hollywood	Sean McKenna Pat McGuigan
Altar Society	Mary McNamee, Mary McCrory and Patta McDermott		Anne McDermott Martina Daly

Castle Vintage Club – Run and Fun Day: Sunday 14th July from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.
Proceeds in Aid of Termonmaguire Cancer Patient Comfort Fund

Matt Talbot, Freedom from Drugs Mass: Monday 1st July at 7.30pm in St. Eugene's Cathedral. This Mass is offered for those who are addicted to drugs and for their families. We pray that through the intercession of venerable Matt Talbot that people will be freed from this addiction. Prayer cards and reflection cards will be available after the Mass and refreshments will be provided.
If you have any queries email emmett.mullan@derrydiocese.org or call St Eugene's Cathedral on (028) 7126 2894

Guided Muckish Hill Climb: The Irish Pilgrimage Trust provides a pilgrimage for children and young people with intellectual disabilities, medical conditions and social needs to Lourdes every Easter and depends on fundraising to do this. The IPT is delighted to host its first Muckish Mountain Charity Guided Climb on Sunday 21st July starting at 10.00am with registration near Our Lady's Shrine on the R256 Falcarragh Road. Cost €10.
For info call (087) 6888 230 or (087) 7962 046 or visit Facebook page Muckish Charity Climb in Aid of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II – 10 Night Pilgrimage to Poland: Tuesday 21st April to Friday 1st May. 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

Sean Davis 4-Day Outdoor "July Fun Soccer Academy": Monday 1st to Thursday 4th July, 10.00am to 3.00pm daily at Youth Sport Omagh Cookstown Road – for boys and girls aged 5 to 17 years.
For bookings and further details call Sean Davis FAI, IFA, FA European A Licence Coach on (028) 7126 3044

St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth – Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis
 Applications are now being accepted for this two-year, part-time, intensive course which begins in September
Website: drumalis.co.uk • **Email:** maura@drumalis.co.uk • **Tel:** (028) 2827 2196 / 2827 6455

An Casleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg – Dates for the Diary:
Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th July, Cultural Summer Camp for children enrolled P1 – P3
10.00am to 3.00pm Registration is Friday 21st June from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. £10

Saturday 9th November Gala at Silver Birches, Omagh celebrating 50 continuous years of An Casleán Glas

Annual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Tuesday 3rd to Tuesday 10th September.
 £579 (includes half board in Leone Hotel, tax and insurance). Spiritual Director Fr. John Forbes.
Call Maria on (028) 8164 8357 or WhatsApp on 07768 395 038 for more info

Precious Life – All-Ireland Pro-Life Rally: Saturday 6th July in Dublin. Join thousands from across Ireland to 'Stand for Life' for unborn children. Coaches will be travelling to the Rally from towns across Northern Ireland.
 For more info call the Rally for Life Committee on (028) 9027 8484 or visit rallyforlife.net

Catholic Marriage Encounter, Ireland Weekend: Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September in Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry and Friday 15th to Sunday 17th November in the Lake Hotel, Killarney.
For more information and / or booking visit marriageencounter.ie or call 07702 812 321 or (087) 784 0408

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

Owenkillew Credit Union – Death Benefit Insurance (DBI):

DBI is an insurance scheme whereby for a small premium, your nominee will receive an additional £2,000 to help defray funeral expenses. Can all members who have not paid their premium please call to either office and do so.

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

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

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 11.00am with Adoration unless there is a 12noon wedding

Each Saturday Evening 5.30pm-5.45pm and after Vigil Mass on request after Mass

Our Lady of the Wayside: Each Sunday 10.30am to 10.45am and after 11.00am Mass on request after Mass

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 • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

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 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

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 deryyyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

The Big Knit for Age NI Calling all knitters! For every hat knitted Age NI receives 25p.

To register or find out more call Dorothy on (028) 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit ageni.org/bigknit

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

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

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

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

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

Towards Peace: A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free.

Website: towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@iecon.ie

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

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

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

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

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

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 for further info and book dates that suit

Pilgrimage to Rome and Tuscany: Tuesday 18th June for nights, ex Dublin (includes

Assisi, Florence and Pisa). Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Donnelly. Guide: Kieran Troy

€1,090 per person sharing (single room supplement €280). Includes guided tours and most meals.

Call Paul or Marie at Downe Travel on (028) 4461 3288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.

Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel: *John Byrne OSA (jpbyrmeosa@gmail.com)*

- In the opening verse, Jesus is portrayed as having a new sense of clarity about his life that enables him to set out on the road 'resolutely.' Perhaps there have been such moments in your life, moments of insight and clarity about the road ahead. Recall such moments and what they were like for you.
- As he walked the road, Jesus met with opposition. This angered some of his friends and they wanted to hit back. Jesus restrained them, and would not let himself be distracted from the journey he was making. What helps you keep your goals in mind when minor annoyances distract you?
- The response of Jesus to prospective followers seems harsh. He lets the first man know that discipleship is not a path to a comfortable nest. It is a way on which we never know what is going to be asked of us next. The disciple must be ready to move on. Where have you found good news in being open to change, confident in the presence of Jesus with you?
- Jesus also demands commitment. It is easy for us to think about times when our commitment was less than perfect. But can you also recall the times when you realised the truth of this story – that commitment brings its own fruits and blessings. What specific blessings can you bring to mind?

The Deep End – I'll do it tomorrow! *Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)*

Those of us who are procrastinators will identify with today's Gospel. We have the best of intentions, but somehow our 'to do' list for today keeps getting pushed out until tomorrow, and the next day, and the next week. There is always an excuse, or something more urgent that needs to be done. The things that we do not prioritise get relegated to the bottom of the list, and sometimes drop off altogether, so that they never get done.

In Luke's Gospel, when Jesus invites people to follow him, he gets some similar responses – 'I'll be right with you, I'll add it to my 'to do' list. 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me...' The excuses these people give are far from feeble: one wants to go and bury his or her father first, another simply wants to say goodbye to their family. But Jesus has what sound like very harsh words for these predicaments. There is no time, there can be no excuses, this is more important.

Discipleship is a path that requires sacrifice. It is a path that means living in a new and different way. Rather than focusing on the past, we need to move forward and get on with the task. Jesus tells us: 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.' There is work to be done, and it cannot wait. People who are hungry, homeless, marginalised or suffering cannot wait. The earth cannot wait. Our 'to do' lists need to be shaken up. If we are to live as disciples, the time is not tomorrow, it is now.

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

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*

PARISH EVENTS IN 2018

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

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

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 • **Facebook:** IOSASCentre • **Twitter:** IOSASCentre

Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2019

Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace

'Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the polis... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have."

This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity. In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002: "Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role. Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility. Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest. Blessed be the politician who remains consistent. Blessed be the politician who works for unity. Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change. Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.

Blessed be the politician who is without fear." Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.'

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Monday 1st July – St. Oliver Plunkett (bishop and martyr) Came from Irish nobility. His family supported King Charles I. Ordained in Rome in 1654 he became a professor of theology from 1654 through 1669. He was appointed Archbishop of Armagh in 1669 and was forced to conduct a covert ministry during the suppression of priests. He was arrested and tried at Dundalk in 1679 for conspiring against the State. It was seen that Oliver would never be convicted in Ireland, and he was moved to Newgate prison, London. St. Oliver Plunkett was found guilty of high treason for 'promoting the Catholic faith' and condemned to a gruesome death. He was martyred on 1st July, 1681 at Tyburn by hanging, disembowelling, quartering and beheading. He was the last Catholic to die for his faith at Tyburn, and the first of the Irish martyrs to be beatified. His body was initially buried in two tin boxes next to five Jesuits who had died before; with his head in St. Peter's Church, Drogheda; most of his body is at Downside Abbey, England; some relics are elsewhere in Ireland.

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

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%

Family Care Adoption Services

Presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children

For a free information contact

Tel: (028) 7136 8592 / (028) 9069 1133 (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm)

us using any of these details

Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org • **Website:** familycaresociety.co.uk