

Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
First Sunday of Advent [Year B] (30th November, 2014)
 The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshkinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
 Website: greencastleparish.com Tel: (028) 8164 8474 Email: greencastlepp@yahoo.com

Liturgical Schedule for the First Week of Advent [Year A] (1st December – 7th December)

Saturday Evening (29th November)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: Frank O'Hagan (Month's Mind)
Sunday 30th November First Sunday of Advent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 1st December First Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass <i>Sick and housebound will be visited</i>
Tuesday 2nd December First Week of Advent	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Wednesday 3rd December St. Francis Xavier (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Thursday 4th December St. John Damascene (priest)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 5th December First Week of Advent	St. Patrick's <i>First Friday of the Month</i>	7.30pm Confessions 8.00pm Mass
Saturday Morning (6th December) St. Nicholas (bishop)	St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening (6th December)	St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: Mary McBride (Month's Mind)
Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent [Year B]	St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9.00am Mass (Missa Pro Populo) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass: Abina Coyle (Month's Mind)

If you are a homemaker, not at work or retired you are invited to make time in your schedule to attend Mass daily during Advent – the best way to prepare for Christmas

Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection of **£983** and **£37** in loose change.

Retired Priests Fund: Thank you for your contribution of **£50**.

New Weekly Collection Envelopes: If you have been overlooked please let Stella Keenan know.

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for **Michael McCullagh, Kelly McKenna, Eddie and Mary McCullagh and the deceased members of the Legion of Mary and Naomh Padraig GAA**, whose anniversaries occur now.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Bishop McKeown has written to tell us that he will impart the Sacrament of Confirmation on our candidates who have prepared themselves to receive it on Sunday 26th April at 2.00pm.

Jack and the Beanstalk: Monday 22nd December at 3.00pm. A relaxed performance designed to create an enjoyable atmosphere for young people with learning and sensory difficulties and their families.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 1st to 6th July. The cost is £599.
 There are early payment schemes available in the Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry;
 Pastoral Centre, Maghera; St Eugene's Cathedral; Thornhill Centre and Strabane.
 Tel: (028) 7135 1233 Email: thornhillcentre@derrydiocese.org • Gift vouchers are also available for purchase

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Sunday 6th September to Sunday 13th September. Direct from Belfast. Price includes half-board, tax, insurance, will cost £439 if paid by Wednesday 10th December. For info call Maria Bradley on (028) 8164 8357 or 07768 395 038

Irish Centre Competition to Celebrating 10 Years: Win 7 nights apartment accommodation in Medjugorje for 4 people staying in our 4 star Apart Hotel. To enter text the word PILGRIM followed by your full name, county and email address to 60777.
 The winner will be announced every 3rd month during 2015. See details at med-irishcentre.com or call (028) 8224 1888

Pope Francis' Intentions for December (please remember these in your personal prayer)

Universal: That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

For Evangelisation: That parents may be true evangelisers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8; Lectionary I, page 27)

Sunday [Year B] • Weekday [Year 1]

GAA Lotto Results: P • Q • S • V • W (1 with 3 letters winning £50) **Next Jackpot:** £3,750

Parish Liturgy for December, 2014	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Francis McDermott	Catriona McCullagh	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Prayers of the Faithful	-- TBC --	-- TBC --	Conan Maguire
Collectors	Francis McLaughlin Mary Bradley	Peter Tracey Colm Keenan	Tony Donnelly Brendan Daly
Altar Society	Mary Bradley and Helen Tracey		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
New choir members will always be welcome – Contact Sinead			

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Saturday 29 th November The family of Geardoid McNamee	Offertory Gifts Rota First Sunday of Advent	9.00am Sunday Morning Sunday 30 th November The family of David Morris
Saturday 6th December The family of Darragh Morris	Second Sunday of Advent	Sunday 7th December The family of Kieran Mulholland
Saturday 13th December The family of Patrick Morris	Third Sunday of Advent	Sunday 14th December The family of Niamh Tracey
As a wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this valued task of leadership. Thanks to all who participate in the life and work of our parish faith-community.		

Child Safeguarding: If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI/or local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities. **Please familiarise yourself with the policy by reading the noticeboard as you leave Church**

Youth 2000 – Christmas Retreat: Friday 12th to Sunday 14th December in Newbridge College, Co Kildare.
This event draws about 500-600 young people between the ages of 16-35 annually

Annual Christmas Fayre: Sunday 30th November from 2.00pm to 6.00pm in the GAA Community Hall.

Clanabogan Bazaar: Sunday 30th November in Clanabogan Hall, Omagh. First Spin at 7.30pm. *Free Draw for those in by 9.00pm*

Trócaire – Christmas Gifts: You are invited to give someone special in your life a very special gift this Christmas by choosing from Trócaire's offer of the nine life-changing gifts.
Pick up a leaflet at the Church door

Pioneer Retreat in Termonbacca: Sunday 7th December. *Contact committee members for details*

Greencastle Pioneer Council Meeting: Tuesday 2nd December at 7.00pm in St. Patrick's.

St Columba's Long Tower – Healing Mass: Thursday 4th December. Followed by individual prayer for healing at 7.30pm.

Pope John Paul II Award: Tuesday 10th February in the Millennium Forum, Derry. There are 800 students currently participating in the award. This is the 8th year of the award in the Derry Diocese and it will be launched in several other diocese this year. Those who are currently doing the award are due to complete by mid-November.
Fr. Hasson would like Year 13 students undertaking the award program to offer their gifts for service in our parish

Mothers and Fathers Matter – Talk Dr. Tom Finegan on the Arguments for Defending Traditional Marriage:
 Tuesday 2nd December at 8.00pm in Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey.

Pomeroy – Confession and Healing Service: Friday 5th December Mass at 7.00pm with Eddie Stones.

Year of Consecrated Life: Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life. This year of special celebration and prayer for the gift of Consecrated Life begins this weekend with the First Sunday of Advent and ends on the World Day of Consecrated Life (Tuesday 2nd February, 2016).

Diocesan Prayer for Year of Consecrated Life

God our Creator and Guide, You call us out of darkness into Your wonderful Light, making us a Royal Priesthood, a Holy People, set apart to sing Your praises. May our families and parishes continue to nourish the seeds of vocation to the Consecrated Life and the Priesthood.	And may all who have already responded to this call, like Mary, live with openness of heart, to treasure Your presence, to ponder Your actions, so that all may joyfully proclaim Your goodness now and always. Amen
--	--

An Bruach Dearg Community Centre Events: Date for plays has been changed due to unforeseen circumstances (bereavement)

Sunday 30th November at 8.00pm Owenkillew Play Actors present 2 one-act plays: *Admission is £7.00*
 The Shadow of the Glens by JM Synge and The Dogs Acre by John McDermott.

Friday 5th December at 8.30pm Card playing.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2014-2015

St. Columba's Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street (028)8224 2439 accordomagh@accordni.com
5th and 6th December • 9th and 10th January • 6th and 7th February
6th and 7th March • 10th and 11th April • 8th and 9th May • 12th and 13th June
Couples are encouraged to complete their course six months before their wedding date

Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults: A new resource from the Irish Episcopal Conference, designed to complement the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It has been adapted for an Irish audience and is written in accessible, easy to understand language. Whilst it can be used as an Individual private resource for reflection, it is also particularly useful for Parish Study Groups, Liturgy Groups, Parish Pastoral Councils and any individuals/groups working in parishes to promote catechesis / deepening of adult faith formation. A Study Guide to complement the Catechism has also been published. The Catechism is available from Veritas bookshops, at a cost of £19.99 / €24.99 and the Study Guide costs £11.00 / €12.99. Good discounts are available for multiple purchases. Tel: 02871 266888 or E-mail: derryshop@veritas.ie

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

- Wednesday 3rd December – St. Francis Xavier (priest) [1506-1552]** One of the first 7 Jesuits, he was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and Japan. Was killed as he tried to enter China. A Patron Saint of the Missions.
- Thursday 4th 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.
- Saturday 6th December – St. Nicholas (bishop)** 4th century bishop of Myra (in modern Turkey) whose legendary kindness inspired the Santa Claus tradition. He is Patron Saint of Russia, sailors, pawnbrokers and children.
- Sunday 7th December – St. Ambrose (bishop and doctor of the Church) [340-397]** Converted to Christianity and was made bishop of Milan in 274 by popular acclaim. A brilliant teacher and preacher of the faith, he influenced Augustine who he received into the Church. Patron Saint of Milan, beekeepers and domestic animals.
[Not celebrated this year]

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – Mark 13:33-37:

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

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'. Identify with the servants as people given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person? What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God?
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?

Musings

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

In 1744, Charles Wesley (the younger brother of Methodist founder, John Wesley) published Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord. Out of eighteen hymns featured in the collection, one in particular is still closely associated with the Advent season: 'Come thou long expected Jesus'. Its first verse is a fitting clarion call on this first Sunday of Advent as we wait in expectant longing to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas: 'Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.'

The Deep End – Waiting:

Jane Mellett (janemellett@yahoo.com)

You know that feeling of waiting for something or someone? It is a feeling of excitement or maybe anxiety. It can be a creative time, a time of high alert, where we may even be more aware of ourselves. Our senses are heightened especially when we are waiting for important news or results or waiting on a loved one to call or to arrive. Waiting is not always seen as a good thing but it can be a time for growth. And so, we enter into the season of waiting: Advent.

These weeks are weeks of great hope and joy and we celebrate God entering into our lives once more. This short passage from Mark reminds us to be alert, to use this time to prepare. What will our preparations be like? God is with us in many different ways, trying to catch our attention in the midst of our crazy, busy days. As we fight our way through the queues in the coming weeks, can we use 5 minutes, 7 minutes, 20 mins... to stop, be still, to ask God to enter into our hearts and lives once more.

Public Initiative for the Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm (PIPS) (028) 3026 6195 • info@pipsnewryandmourne.org
Christmas Service of Remembrance, Hope and Healing: Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Upper Hill Street, Newry. For families and friends of loved ones lost through suicide.

Warm Homes – Are you entitled to Free Insulation and Heating?

For info call 0800 988 0559 or visit warm-homes.com

Irish Language Class for Beginners: Every Thursday in Greencastle GAA Hall from 8.00pm to 9.30pm.

Teenagers and adults are welcome.

Call Sinéad Warnock on 07849 394 001