



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

**PARISH BULLETIN
SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER 2022**

Rejoice in the Lord always

This Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, takes its name from the first word of the Latin antiphon of the Mass, “Gaudete” which means “rejoice”. In this antiphon the church invites us to “Rejoice in the Lord always”. We rejoice in the Lord as we remember his first coming into the world, over 2,000 years ago as well as his ongoing presence among us.

In the gospel we hear of John the Baptist in prison having heard of the teaching and preaching of Jesus. John was a fiery preacher, and he hears of Jesus preaching about love, mercy and mixing with sinners. John must be wondering if Jesus really is the Messiah. To resolve his doubts, he sends messengers to Jesus to ask; are you the Messiah, the promised one?

Jesus praises John the Baptist for speaking in defence of the truth and says that he is the greatest and closest to God of all the prophets and invites the messengers to go back to John and tell him what they see and hear.

John the Baptist the fearless desert preacher had his doubts and this is a reminder of the fragility of faith. John’s doubt is a reminder that we also can have doubts, we can have crisis of faith. At such times we need to reflect on the words and actions of Jesus. In good times and in times of doubt we are challenged to Rejoice in the Lord always.

Christmas Hamper Appeal 2022 – The parish Pope John Paul II Award Group would like to appeal for donations for their Christmas Hampers. Please drop donations into any of the Sacristies or the Parish Office in Chapel Road

Lectio Divina – continues Thursday 15th Dec 8:15pm, Church of Immaculate Conception, Trench Road

Adoration – Church of the Immaculate Conception on every Thursday after 9:15am mass until 8pm, Chapel Road on Fridays from 1pm until evening mass, and Strathfoyle after 11am mass on Mondays.

St Oliver Plunkett's Strathfoyle – We are recruiting new eucharistic ministers and readers to our team for Saturday, Sunday and Weekday masses. If you'd like to become involved, there will be an information/sign-up sheet at the back of the Chapel until the 6th January. For more information, please feel free to speak to Catriona Coyle after Saturday night mass or Róisín Coyle after Sunday morning mass or get in touch with any of the priests or Michael in the Sacristy who can pass your name on to us. Thank you in advance for your support and involvement.

Divine Child Novena – The Carmelites in Termonbacca have commenced the Annual Novena to the Divine Child for 9 nights in December. As part of this Novena, the statue of the Divine Child will be passed from Church to Church, and it will be in St Columb's, Chapel Road this coming **Thursday 15th December**.

Deaths – We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of: **Eric Cutter**, Hollymount Park and **Gregory Wild**, Strabane Old Road.

Anniversaries – **Val McLaughlin, Hugh Diver, Cyril Callan, Brian Mullan, Rita McLaughlin, Fra McLaughlin, Margaret & Dan Kelly, George Starrett, Danny McCafferty, Mary Boyle, Joe Ferguson, Helen McDermott, Bernard Boyle, Monica Kelly, John McClelland, Seamus Healy, Patrick Jordan, Liam McLaughlin, Billy Quigley, Terence Caldwell**

Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace.

Collections for last week: Glendermott: £3,550.00 Strathfoyle: £450.00

St Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will be taken up outside all churches this weekend.

Vocations – In our second reading, St James writes to the early converts to Christianity to give them encouragement saying: “You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon”. We pray for all who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, that they will not lose heart and that they will be blessed with grace by the Lord’s coming. Anyone interested in serving the diocese of Derry as a priest should contact their local priest(s) and/or the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O’Hagan, PP, Bellaghy, at pgoh2111@gmail.com

Mary’s Meals – Double the Love – all donations made to Mary’s Meals until 31st January 2023 will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5million. For more information, visit www.marysmeals.org.uk or contact Caoimhe McCann on 07394564065.

Pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome – Bishop McKeown will lead a pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome from 25th – 30th September 2023. Price is £879pps (Single room supplement £150). For more details, email info@marian.ie or call Belfast on (028) 956 80005 or Dublin on (01) 878 8159.

Be still and know that I Am God – Adults silent retreat, Ards Friary, Donegal, February Fri 3 – Mon 6th 2023. The Servant Brothers from the Home of the Mother will lead a series of Spiritual Exercises each day along with Confession, Rosary, Adoration and Holy Mass. Cost: £190 this includes private room accommodation in the Friary and all meals and drinks. To book or for more information contact Rory on 00353 86 8231717

Walk in the footsteps of the Holy Family this Christmas: *An Irish Pilgrimage Guide to the Holy Land* - a new book by Michael Kelly, Editor of *The Irish Catholic* newspaper which explores the places associated with the life of Christ. It is available now from all good bookshops, www.columbabooks.com or by calling 0035316874096 price €16.99/£14.99. An ideal Christmas gift.

Annual Solemn Novena in St Columba's Long Tower, Derry – Sunday, 11 December, at 6pm, including Rosary, Novena prayer and Eucharistic healing ceremony with Benediction. The theme of this year's Novena is 'What do I believe? Exploring our faith in the Creed'. This week's guest speaker is Fr Noel McDermot, PP of Faughanvale and Lower Cumber, who will reflect on our believe in 'Life everlasting'. All welcome

Twelve Days of Christmas – At Christmas we celebrate the gift of Jesus, our hope and peace, Jesus, the light of the world. We pray this Christmas that each of us will rediscover the meaning of Our Lord's Nativity and the great hope that it proclaims for the world. You are invited to spend time with scripture, reflection and prayer. A Christmas prayer resource is available to download on the Diocese of Derry website for private prayer at the church or home, to share with a neighbour who may have no online access or for a time to gather each day with your family. The booklet can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/12-days-of-christmas-2022>

Children in Crossfire – Advent Appeal 2022. This year the theme is “Clean Water saves lives”. Donation Packs are available in the porches of the churches this weekend.

Prayer for Advent – Lord Jesus, welcome to my heart. Lord Jesus, come give me yourself. Lord Jesus feed me with the bread of life. Welcome Lord Jesus to my heart

Mass SCHEDULE

Sunday

St Columb's Church	10am, 12:30pm, 6pm
Immaculate Conception	10:15am & 12:15pm
St Oliver Plunkett	11:15am
St Mary's Oratory	9:15am

Monday - Friday

St Columb's Church	10am, 7:30pm
Immaculate Conception	9.15am
St Oliver Plunkett	11am

(11am mass in St Mary's Oratory on Wednesdays)

Saturday

St Columb's Church	10am, 7pm (Sunday Vigil)
Immaculate Conception	11am, 6pm (Sunday Vigil), 8pm (Hospital Mass)
St Oliver Plunkett	6pm (Sunday Vigil)

Confessions:

St Columb's – Saturday after 10am Mass, Friday 5-6pm during Adoration and Monday – Thursday at 7pm before evening Mass

Immaculate Conception – after 11am Mass every Saturday and at 5.30pm before evening Mass on a Saturday.

St Oliver Plunkett – Every Saturday 5.30pm before the Vigil Mass

Parish Office: 32 Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry BT47 2BB

Phone: (028) 71 342303 email: secretary@watersideparish.net

Web: www.watersideparish.net

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

Rev. Michael Canny PP 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net