



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

PARISH BULLETIN
1ST January 2023

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

As a new calendar year begins, with echoes of “ringing out of the old and ringing in the new” still fresh in our ears it may seem strange that the Church is still inviting us to reflect on Christmas with a focus on Mary, Mother of God. It was Mary’s “Yes” and faith that is a vital part of the Christmas story.

Today’s gospel incites us to meet the shepherds, humble visitors from the hills, not even given names. They were God’s chosen messengers to Mary, confirming for her what she already heard at the Annunciation about the identity of her child.

Mary gave birth to the human child that was Jesus. For the believer the child is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. Today’s feast reminds us that Mary as mother of Jesus is also the Mother of God. The nature of God is beyond us. We need the simple and trusting faith of the shepherds

When the shepherds realized that they had been witnesses to a wonderful manifestation of God’s love for his people they glorified and praised God.

Today’s feast also challenges us to express our gratitude to God for entering our human condition.

Ordination to Diaconate of Stephen Ward will take place in **St Columb’s Church at 12noon on Friday, 6th January 2023**. Stephen is a native of Killyclogher parish in Omagh and has been in our parish as a student since Easter. All are welcome to the ceremony and keep him in our prayers

Baptisms – We welcome to the family of God: **Rose Maura McLaughlin**, Woodside Road; **Joseph Alexander McLaughlin**, Woodside Heights; **Odhran Ruairi Gordon**, Oak Country Way.

Deaths: We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of **Patsy Hargan**, Hollymount Park; **Jim Shiels**, Asthorpe; **Bernadette Wyer**, St Mary's Terrace; **Maureen McGinn**, Silverbirch Crescent.

Anniversaries: Mary Alice McClelland, Anthony McClelland, Rebecca McClelland, Kathleen Devine, Edward Crossan, Rosena Kelly, Kathleen Tracey, Eleanor McBride, Nellie McCloskey, Frank Guckian, Paul Curran, Ethna Barr, Mary Bradley.

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

Acknowledgement – Fr Canny acknowledges with thanks a donation of **£750** from the Syro Malabar Community.

Collection – The priests of the parish thank you for your generosity in the Christmas collection and your ongoing support over the past year.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

It is generally believed that Matthew's gospel was addressed to a community with strong Jewish connections. Matthew's task as evangelist included some teaching on God's great plan of salvation for Gentile as well as Jew.

Today's Gospel, an infancy Narrative unique to Matthew, offers a perspective of God's generous plan which knows no boundaries. The manifestation of epiphany of Jesus Christ as light of all nations is Good News for all and accessible to all.

Even though our Christmas Cribbs portray the wise men from the East as royal and as three, the biblical text focuses on the wisdom and singlemindedness of the visitors to Bethlehem and on the fact that they were strangers, even outsiders. Perhaps these wise seekers had intuited something precious beyond their experience that made them leave their country and their daily routine to set out on a perilous journey, led only by a star. It took courage and steadfast determination to follow that star.

Today, we re-visit the Crib, we re-visit our own moments of epiphany, moments we caught a glimpse of something transcendent. It may be at the birth of a child, or the death of a loved one or while watching an Autumn sunset. Special moments of epiphany for us, as for the seekers from afar, are not meant to last. They are precious and for treasuring, momentary flashes of light for life's journey.

Today we give thanks for guiding stars in life, for our own moments of epiphany and for lessons to be learned again and again from the story of the 'wise men from the East'.

Mass Times during the coming week.

Monday-Wednesday:	C.O.I.C.	09:15am
	St Columb's	10:00am
	St Columb's	07:30pm
Thursday: 5th	C.O.I.C.	09:15am
	St Columb's	10:00am
	C.O.I.C.	06:00pm
	St Oliver Plunkett:	06:00pm,
	St Columb's	07:30pm
Friday: 6th	C.O.I.C.	09:15am
	St Columb's	10:00am
	St Oliver Plunkett	11:00am
	St Mary's Oratory	11:00am
	St Columb's	12noon
		(Diaconate ceremony)
	St Columb's	07:30pm
Saturday: 7th	St Columb's	10:00am
	C.O.I.C.	11:00am

Back to usual weekly schedule Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th

New Year – Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true. Ring out the grief that saps the mind for those that here we see no more; Ring in the common love of good. Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out

the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace. Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Mass Schedule from 8th January onwards

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, 8pm
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 5.30 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