



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE  
PARISH BULLETIN  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

## Carry Christ's light!

The theme of light looms large in the readings of today's Mass. In our first reading, the great prophet Isaiah uses the image of light to announce a message of hope for an oppressed and downtrodden people: *'The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone'* (Is 9: 2). Our gospel reading from Matthew repeats the prophesy of Isaiah and identifies this *'great light'* with Jesus of Nazareth. The responsorial psalm confidently proclaims our trust in the Lord, employing the image of light: *'The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?'* We, too, are called to be, not just disciples, but also apostles of Jesus, his light-bearers to a broken world, still mired in deep shadows. And, as St Paul reminds us in today's Second Reading, it is Christ's light we carry, not our own.

### **Bishop McKeown's Pastoral continued from last week.**

#### **A future full of hope will involve change**

"In our time of listening and sharing during our parish synodal conversations, there was a recognition of change in our faith community. But the key question is not merely how we change so that we can maintain the current model and structures.

With that model we have been failing in our mission of bringing people to know and love Jesus. "If we ask the right question, we discover that renewal is not only a question of managing changed structures and rescheduling parish Mass. This is a time where we need to make space for grace so that God's plans – and not our limited imagination - can renew the mission of the Church.

"I believe that we will be more like the Holy Spirit-filled Body of Christ when our diocese is blessed with many:

- Families which hand on the faith;
- People of all ages exploring and developing their faith;
- Lay people with the official ministries of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist;
- Consecrated Virgins – who publicly dedicate their lives to the Lord but live and work among their fellow-parishioners
- Female and male religious (such as the Carmelites and various communities of religious Sisters);

- Permanent Deacons; and
- Ordained priests.

“I encourage each parish to promote a specific period of time to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray and reflect on this mission of renewal. Only by being open to the Sacrament of the Cross will we be renewed.

“In a context of prayer and of openness to the Holy Spirit, I invite the parishes of the diocese to set out on this mission of renewal, believing that if we listen for the voice of the Lord, we can enter into His peace. Like generations of missionaries before us, we walk into the future, filled with hope, that the Lord has already prepared for us.”

[The full text of the pastoral letter](#)

**Unity Walk 2023 - Our church Unity walk will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January (postponed from Wednesday of last week). The walk begins in All Saints Church Clooney Terrace at 7pm and continues by going to the Clooney Hall, Methodist Church and finishes at St Columb’s Church, Chapel Road with prayers and refreshments in the hall. All welcome. Since this is the first in person gathering since before Covid it would be nice if we had a good attendance.**

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2023** – The theme this year is “Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst injustice

**Deaths:** We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of **Joyce Hart** – Thorndale

**Anniversaries:** Grace Grimes, James McGurk, Aaron McMenamin, Dolores O’Donnell, Bernie Willis, Julia & John McAuley, John Quinn, Sr. Teresa Nicholas, John Whoriskey, Billy McGowan, Michael Owens, Matthew Sheils, Pat McCallion, Joe McFadden, Danny & Evelyn Killen, Eileen Mellon, Richard O’Donnell, Michelle Webb, Catherine Callan, Madge O’Donnell

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,568.00 Strathfoyle: £560.00**

**Lectio Divina – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at Church of Immaculate Conception starting at 8:15pm.**

**Vocations** – In today’s gospel Jesus calls Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow Him. We pray for those the Lord is calling today to follow Him and

serve the Church as priests, deacons, religious or in consecrated life, that they will have the willingness and the courage of the first disciples. Anyone interested in serving the Church as a priest in the diocese of Derry should contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, **Fr Pat O'Hagan**, PP Bellaghy and Greenlough, at **(028) 7938 6452** or at [pgoh2111@gmail.com](mailto:pgoh2111@gmail.com)

**Lourdes 2023** – The Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Donal McKeown, will go direct from City of Derry Airport. 3rd to 7th July, four nights full board in the Hotel Agena: £745 sharing, £35 single supplement. Travel insurance up to age 79-£39. Age 80 to 94-£78. (Pilgrims may wish to use their own insurance). Further details and payment arrangements will be available in the new year via the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com), tel 02871 260 293

**Catholic Schools Week 2023** – begins on 29<sup>th</sup> January and continues until 4th February in the Diocese of Derry. The theme for this year is '**Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith and Love**' During Catholic Schools Week families, parishes and schools are invited to participate in a week of celebration of Catholic schools, reflecting on their contribution to the common good of society. To launch Catholic Schools Week in our diocese, the Eucharist will be celebrated by Bishop McKeown in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on **Thursday 26th January at 10.00am**.

**Christian Unity Ecumenical Service – 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 12.30 Saint Eugene's Cathedral.** As part of Saint Eugene's Cathedral 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, Bishop Donal McKeown will host a Christian Unity Service for schools in the City on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 12.30pm**. Bishop Andrew Forster, Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, will join with Bishop McKeown for this celebration. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Sincere thanks form Sister Ann, Gerry Deeney and Margaret Hamilton to All who contributed in any way to the Christmas Raffle/ Fundraiser in aid of the vulnerable children and their families in Kenya, India, Chile, Nigeria, Zambia and Haiti. Thanks also to the Hunger Box, in our Church. We had a very successful event and none of which could be done without your continued support. This Christmas we raised £21, 655 plus 448 Euros. May God reward and bless you all.**

## **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)
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

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