



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

PARISH BULLETIN 26th February 2023

Difficulties can crush us or bring out the best in us

In the time of Moses God had led his people out of Egypt to begin a long and trying wilderness experience.

The book of Deuteronomy tells us "The Lord your God led you, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart". (Deut 8:2) The people of Israel remembered their wilderness experience as a time of preparation for the gift of the Promised Land. Some rebelled against what God was asking of them and never made it to the new land. For others, the wilderness tested their loyalty to God, learning that life tests our commitments.

Today's gospel was first addressed to a young church coping with many problems, persecution, weakening of faith, division and scandals. Life was very difficult and their commitment was tested.

The gospel offers an insight into the tactics of the tempter who presents the half-truth as being very attractive. Material prosperity, celebrity status and power can be very attractive. Jesus firmly rejects the tempters offer because he saw clearly that they would deflect him from the mission entrusted to him.

The gospel this first Sunday of Lent serves as a reminder to us (Christians) that there is always the danger of being deflected from following Jesus. There is the ongoing temptation to put the pressing needs of the day ahead of the long term goal of following Jesus to the end of life.

**Walk with Me – A Journey of prayer for Lent 2023 booklets are available.
Price £1 Ideal for reflecting on the readings for Lent**

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. Further details and payment arrangements will be available in the new year via the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, derrypilgrim@outlook.com, tel 02871 260 293

Trocaire boxed available at church doors

LENT

A few days ago, (Ash Wednesday) many people came to our different churches and went away as marked men, women and children. Marked with a simple cross of ashes.

The followers of Christ in the first century were also marked men and women. They had to take to the caves and hidden passageways of the catacombs to put into practice their new found faith. Likewise, from our Irish history we know, that many of our forefathers had to take to Mass Rocks in hills and hidden place to practice their faith.

In our time for some being marked with the simple cross is a cold reminder of the flimsy nature of life; to a few perhaps, an old superstition that can do no harm and for others it is a symbol of an attempt to make a new beginning in following Christ more closely.

Lord help me to be master of myself this Lent, so that by Easter I will be a more Christ like person. No need to be too dramatic, no need for other people to suffer because I have made a small sacrifice – just a definite plan to make time for a word or two with God every day and a little self-denial so as to give something to the victims of war and famine.

Anniversaries: Terry McLaughlin, John McMenamin, Grace Morrison, Peter Doherty, Elizabeth Diamond, James Boyle, Mary K. Doherty, Marie Devlin, Lily Nicholas, John Duddy, Kathleen Deeney, Ronnie Warren, Lawrence McLaughlin, George Doherty

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,431.00 Strathfoyle: £480.00

Holy Land Collection: Strathfole & Glendermott £1,075.00

Lectio Divina – Thursday 2nd March at Church of Immaculate Conception starting at 8:15pm.

World Day of Prayer – A woman led Global Ecumenical Movement The service this year will be held in **First Derry Presbyterian Church** on Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

Mary's Meals – Syria Earthquake Appeal. To find out more or donate, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk or call us for free on 0800 6981212.

Vocations – That those called to serve the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry will find their strength, not in bread alone, but in every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Accord NI Catholic Marriage Care Service is recruiting Marriage Education Facilitators to provide Sacramental Marriage Preparation for couples in the diocese. For further details and an application form, please contact Brenda at 028 9023 3002 or email info@accordni.com

Foyle Hospice Make a Will Month campaign – during the month local solicitors have very kindly agreed to waive their Will Writing Fee in replace of a donation to Foyle Hospice. Participating solicitors can be found by visiting the Foyle Hospice website or calling Kathleen at the Foyle Hospice on 02871 359888.

Lough Derg are recruiting a range of roles for extra staff during their Pilgrimage and Retreat Season in 2023. The Application Pack is available on www.loughderg.org/jobs or please email: hr@loughderg.org -

Sacred Heart PS Communion Pop-Up shop – Lots of preloved suits and dresses for your child's special day. Come along to Sacred Heart PS shop to have a look! Where? 'The Hut' in school carpark When? **8.15-9am and 2.15-3pm Mon-Fri this week.** All free of charge, everyone welcome!

LENTEN REFLECTION DAY – **Saturday 4th March 9.30am – 5.00pm.** Kindfulness... a gifted way of living my life. An opportunity for time aside to reflect on the Season of Lent and to open our minds and hearts afresh to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. Led by Fr. Damian Bresnahan SMA. Cost (including lunch) £35/€40. **SMA DROMANTINE, NEWRY, BT34 1RH,** Tel; 02830821964 email: admin@dromantineconference.com

Churches Trust Food Collection – appeal this weekend. Please bring non-perishable food the parish office or to any of the sacristies for collection.

Safeguarding - If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596 500 793 or at the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police

Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Duty Social Worker, Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 7131409

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	7:15am* , 10am, 7:30pm
Immaculate Conception	9.15am
St Oliver Plunkett	11am

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

- Lent only

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

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
Deacon Stephen Ward 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net