



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

PARISH BULLETIN

5th March 2023

God sees beyond the obvious

When the great sculptor Michaelangelo visited the different mountains in Italy in search of marble that might be suitable for his purpose as a sculptor what he saw was not just a piece of marble. With his artist's eye he could see a beautiful figure inside the piece of rock.

His task and challenge as a sculptor and artist would be to chisel and polish the marble so that the beauty hidden inside could be released and revealed to the world.

The imagery of the sculptor and his art work is in a small way a reminder of how God sees each of us. To the human eye we all look much similar but God sees us differently and like the sculptor God sets to work to make each of us like his Son. The transformation takes place over a lifetime.

The Transfiguration

In the transfiguration Jesus gives his disciples a glimpse of his glory. He opened their eyes; it could be said that he gave these blind men new sight. "It is good to be here" is the reaction.

This insight comes at a significant time in Peter's journey of life. He has left behind the valleys and hills of Galilee and committed himself to following Jesus. He now has professed his faith in Jesus at Caesarea Philippi and Jesus announced him as the rock on which the church was to be built. Immediately we hear of Peter's resistance to the demands of discipleship and is rebuked as a stumbling block, a hindrance to the mission of Jesus.

As was the custom of Jesus, he withdraws to the mountains to pray and reflect and takes the chosen disciples with him. In their presence he was transfigured. The experience was important not only for Jesus but also for the disciples. A glimpse of Jesus glorified was given to sustain Peter in the difficult times that lay ahead hence he says that "it is good to be here".

The fact that the story is recounted in all three gospels points to its importance in the life of the early church. In the words of the New testament scholar, Thomas Wright: "It demonstrates, for those who have eyes to see, and ears to hear, that Jesus is the place where God's world and our meet.."

TROCAIRE BOXES ARE AVAILABLE AT CHURCH PORCHES – We encourage support for this annual appeal.

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

Deaths: We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of **Anne Ferguson**, *Clooney Estate* and **Josephine Tracey**, *Hollymount Park*

Anniversaries: Philomena McWilliams, Liam Arbuckle, Maeve Marshall, Jim McLaughlin, Jane Kelly, Marie Kennedy, John McCrystal, Lawrence Conaghan Sr, Catherine Mullan, Mary & Dan Boyle, Mary Bradley, John Devine, Mary Russell, Pat Leitch

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,502.00 Strathfoyle: £505.00

Lectio Divina – **CANCELLED** this week, will return next **Thursday 16th March** at **Church of Immaculate Conception** starting at **8:15pm**.

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 Lord as priests of the diocese of Derry may, like Abram, have the courage to leave behind what isn't necessary, and devote themselves to the spreading of the Good News of God's love. The next monthly **Holy Hour for Vocations** will take place in **St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, at 8pm on Friday 10 March**. It will be led by the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, PP Bellaghy and Greenlough. Everyone is welcome to attend or to follow the Devotions via the Cathedral webcam.

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

Archbishop Eamon Martin is leading a pilgrimage to Fatima from 20th – 27th July 2023. Cost for 7 days is £799/€899 per person sharing. Flights depart Dublin at 6.05am Thursday 20th July arriving in Fatima 11.00am. Single room supplement and insurance is additional. For further information contact Joe or Maureen McLaughlin on 00442890701606 or 00447711808207.

Into Great Silence - The 2005 Documentary Film by Director Philip Growing, which illustrates the life of the Carthusian Monks of the Grand Chartreuse Monastery in France will be shown at **7:00pm on Thursday 9th March**, at the **Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry**. All are welcome to attend.

Knock Shrine Lenten Reflections – Weekly Talks with Guest Speakers taking place **Online** and at **St John's Welcome Centre, Knock Shrine** from **8.15pm -9.15pm. 7th March – Kieran Cronin, 14th March – Jane Mallett, 21st March – John Connell.**

A Concert to Celebrate Saint Patrick – Celebrate Lá Fhéile Pádraig, Saint Patrick's Day at Knock Shrine by joining us for a special concert on **Thursday 16th March**. Celebrating Irish music, heritage and culture with many well-known Irish favourites performed on the night. The concert will take place in **Knock Basilica** at **8.30pm. Admission is free** and all are welcome.

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on **Tuesday 7th March** at **Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry**. Starting with the holy rosary at **18.45pm**, mass at **19.15pm**, and novena to St. Pio directly afterwards. There will be a **first-class relic available for veneration**. All welcome

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers a **Masters in Catholic School Leadership. An information session via ZOOM will be held on Monday 8th May 2023 at 3.30pm**. If you require any further information, or wish to register for the information session, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry is offering a Day Retreat on **Thursday 9th March** from **10am – 3pm**. This retreat is for all laity who have a special role in the Church (Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, Church Readers, Church Cleaners, Altar Society, Collectors/Counters). Cost for the day including meals £25/30 euro. Deadline **Monday 6th March**.

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

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