



## PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

PARISH BULLETIN 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Pádraig, Aspal Mór na hÉireann

Annually, we tell the story and keep the memory of St Patrick, slave, keeper of sheep, bishop, Apostle and Patron of Ireland.

The telling of the story of Patrick is complex, as much of what we have to know of the man and his life is drawn from an amalgam of fact and legend. Many voices and causes have shouted down the centuries, rallying Patrick to their particular cause, painting him for their own image and likeness. But take away the dear little shamrock, the crozier-stabbed snakes and the sweet-smiling mitred prelate, and all that is left is...well the man, as in his own words he reveals himself to us; *Ego Patricius peccator – I am Patrick a sinner, a simple country person, and the least of all believers, utterly worthless in the eyes of many.*

His principal writing, his 'Confession' we meet the raw humanity of a man bearing no resemblance to the caricature. A man, whose struggle with life events resonates in a much deeper way in reality with ours.

Patrick was a slave for six years from the age of 16, his only day was today. Slaves didn't have a future, they didn't generally get away, so there was no wiling away his time 'till it was over and he could get back to how things used to be. No. 'today' was all he had; life or death. And it was into this day of tedium and isolation that God became known to him.

The trappings of what was a life of privilege at home now stripped, he had all the time in the world for nothing as it were, and God made his way in. That ever-present-God in the highs, the lows and even the even-plains of our daily living.

Patrick was clearly well versed in scripture, and prayed by day and by night, in rain, hail, and snow. It's clear that prayer was not simply an activity, but the very attitude of his being; as if his breathing pulse was the Spirit, and every moment, movement and word were of Christ.

Patrick, a man all too familiar with adversity and suffering; loneliness for his own family and place, brokenness from betrayal, daily fear of enslavement and death; with God's grace, becomes resilient, courageous and persevering. How beautiful became those muddied feet, the bringer of good news.

**Mass arrangements for Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March (St Patrick's Day)**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March (Vigil)**

Church of Immaculate Conception	6pm
St Oliver Plunkett's, Strathfoyle	6pm
St Columb's Church, Chapel Road	7:30pm

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick's Day**

St Mary's Oratory	9:15am
Church of Immaculate Conception	10:15am, 12:15pm
St Oliver Plunkett's, Strathfoyle	11:15am
St Columb's Church, Chapel Road	10am, 12:30pm, 7:30pm

**Collection at Vigil Masses and Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March (St Patrick's Day)** is the annual for Clerical Education and Ongoing Formation.

**Please note: No 7.15am Mass on Friday St Patrick's day**

**TROCAIRE BOXES** are available from the churches in the parish – we encourage support for this annual appeal.

**Deaths:** We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families **Ann Murray, Gortmore Place, Strathfoyle.**

**Anniversaries:** William Diver, Jim Robb, Kathleen Donaghy, Dermot Donaghy, Phonsie McWilliams, Vincent Magee, Brian Foster, Bridget Foster, Pat McCourt, Paddy O'Kane, Mary McCauley, Jim McGinn, Esther McClintock, Pat McFadden, Chrissie Lyons, Margaret Clifford, Sadie Bolster, Edward & Molly Donaghy, Shea Bradley, Gerard Hegarty, James Strain, Philomena Carlin.

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,155 Strathfoyle: £545**

**Thanks for your generosity towards the upkeep of the parishes**

**Lectio Divina on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Church of Immaculate Conception starting at 8:15pm.**

**Vocations** – "O that today you would listen to His voice! Harden not your hearts." The response to today's Psalm is our prayer for those called to serve the Lord as priests of the diocese of Derry. Friday, 17 March, marks the end of the Diocesan Year of Prayer for Vocations, but please keep this intention in your thoughts and prayers as the Church constantly needs workers

**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](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com), tel. 02871 260 293

**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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org)

**Evangelium Young Adult Catholic Apologetics Conference** – on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March** from **9am to 6pm** in **DCU All Hallows, Dublin 9**. Mass will be celebrated on the day. Cost 38 euro includes dinner, refreshments and social event. To book please go to [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie) or search "Evangelium Ireland" on Eventbrite.

**Safeguarding** - If you have 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 7131409

**Prayer: "Lord help me to live from day to day in such a self-forgetting way, that even when I kneel and pray my prayer will be for others"**

# 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	<b>7:15am*</b> , 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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