



**PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT
& STRATHFOYLE
PARISH BULLETIN**

4th Sunday of Lent – 19th March 2023

St Joseph

On Monday the church celebrates the feast of St Joseph. The feast is moved from Sunday to Monday this year because the 4th Sunday of Lent takes precedent over the feast.

In his Apostolic Letter entitled [*Patris corde*](#) (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In doing so, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the person who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

St Joseph teaches us the value, dignity and joy of work. A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,” St Joseph also teaches us “the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes Pope Francis. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”.

***Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.***

***To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.***

***Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.***

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

If Mary had been asked, at the beginning of that momentous day, how important or special she felt, she would probably have laughed at the stupidity of the question. But, by the end of the day and her encounter with the divine messenger, her life and destiny had changed.

Like Mary every day God is knocking at our door and asking us to become important and special on his behalf.

It does not matter how ordinary we consider ourselves to be - every day we are invited to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ into the world.

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 family of **Don Cusack**, Clooney Terrace.

Anniversaries: *Isobel Keddy, Maurice McGinn, Patsy Diver, Anthony Clarke, Marian Finnegan, Lil McLaughlin, Winnie & Clare Muldoon, Kieran Barr, Patricia McMenamin, Eamon McDaid, Edmund McIntyre, Susan Coyle, Jimmy Gallagher, Gerald O'Doherty, Sean Hegarty, Michael Hegarty, Johnny McNamee, Mary Murphy.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,101 Strathfoyle: £585

Thank you for your generosity towards the upkeep of the parishes.

Lectio Divina on **Thursday 23rd 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 17th March**, marked 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, tel. 02871 260 293

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

Evangelium Young Adult Catholic Apologetics Conference – on **Saturday 25th 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 or search “Evangelium Ireland” on Eventbrite.

The Sorrowful Mysteries: A dramatic presentation for Holy Week: St Mary's Church, Creggan, on Monday 3rd April at 8.30pm; Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty on Wednesday 5 April at 8.30pm.

World Youth Day - Derry Diocesan Youth is taking a group on Pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon, from 25 July to 7 August 2023. This pilgrimage is for over 18s. Limited places available: if you would be interested in travelling on the pilgrimage, or finding out more, please contact Lizzie Rea on lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org.

POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE – Tuesday, 28 March, starting at 11.00am and concluding with Mass at 2.30pm. Mass will be celebrated by the Award patron, Bishop McKeown. Open to all 16-18 year-olds. The pilgrimage, including transportation, is being organised through schools. Parental consent is required. For more information, visit www.jp2award.com or contact the Diocesan Catechetical Centre

National Day of Reflection takes place on **23rd March**, the anniversary of the first lockdown in 2020. It is a day to remember those who died during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also an opportunity to remember the many people who have lost loved one. It was initiated in 2021 by the Marie Curie charity.

Gospel thought

Today's gospel emphasises how the struggle between Jesus and the power of darkness can have no neutrals. His presence compels people to choose. The Pharisees insist that Jesus cannot be from God because he does not keep the Sabbath. He must be a sinner, they said. They remain trapped in their blindness. The man born blind receives new sight and insight.

“The greatest tragedy is not to have been born blind, but to have eyes and yet fail to see.” (Helen Keller) There is even a worse situation, to have eyes and refuse to see. Eyes of faith can detect and see the invisible.

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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***Lent only**