



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday 24th September 2023
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Generosity of God

The parable of Mt: 20:1-16 originally ended at v15 and the key to it is the last phrase of that verse: 'because I am generous.' It is the generosity that explains the apparently capricious conduct of the householder.

For, indeed, at first sight, it does seem unfair that all the workers were to receive the same wage.

But when we understand his motive, we judge his conduct very differently. A denarius represented a day's wage, just enough to support a family; anything less, and especially payment for a single hour, would be inadequate. It is because he had pity on them that the owner called them to the vineyard in the first place, and it is because he has pity on them, that he pays them all, the full wage.

There is nothing arbitrary in his conduct – it is the action of a man who is full of compassion. So too, does God act, for God is all goodness and mercy. This is the message of the parable.

But if we look again, we see that it is two-tiered, that it is made up of two episodes. First, we have the hiring of the labourers and instruction of their payment(vv1-8) and then follows the indignation of the recipients who feel themselves cheated. It is characteristic of such parables that the emphasis falls on the second part.

Because that is so here, we should realise that the parable is aimed at people who resemble the murmurers. The fact is: God is not 'fair'! The parable shows what God is like, full of compassion for the poor- and for sinners, poorest of the poor. It points out how wrong-headed it is to be scandalised by his great goodness,

Matthew is hitting at some 'begrudgers' within his community. God's prodigal goodness is an affront to human level-headedness. God's love of sinners is an insult to the pious.

An Evening of Songs of Faith, Hope and Love at Knock Basilica -Friday

1st December - Friday, 1st Dec - 8pm, featuring Dana, John McNicholl, Margo, Philomena Begley and Marc Roberts with Úna Nolan & Schola Cantorum Basilicae choir. A fundraising concert for Victim Assistance Charity. Tickets from Ticketmaster.ie Tickets also available at 094 9000 251/ 086 3938871.

St. Therese Tridium - Will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca on **Friday 29th September - Sunday 1st October**, beginning each evening at 7.30p.m.

Day Retreats in honour of St Michael the Archangel - Will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca on **Friday 29th September**, from 10a.m. - 3.00p.m. This is a donation only event. Please bring a packed lunch.

Baptism – We welcome into the family of God **Oliver Allan McCloskey**, Sevenoaks: **Tommy Joe McBride**, Bards Hill.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family of. **Ann Mulhern**, Violet Street; **Joseph Heery**, Oak Country Green and **Patricia Wright** nee Doherty, Hollymount Park.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers **Redmond Gallagher, Bert Del Pinto, Sadie Conaghan, Vincent & Bridie Armstrong, Anna McGarvey, Dan Doran, Robert McMenamin, Pat & Jean Mullan, Eileen Whoriskey, Mervyn Conway, John Sweeney, Maureen Deehan, David Doherty, Tommy Nicholas, Christopher Duddy, Frankie Cullan.**

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £5,577.00 £Strathfoyle: £690.00
Thanks for your continued generosity towards the parishes.

ULSTER PROJECT DERRY/LONDONDERRY

Applications are now open for Ulster Project 2024

Teens who are eligible must be: 15 on or before 1st July 2024 regular attender of chapel/church. A written reference from/priest/minister on attendance must be included with application form A written reference from form teacher to be included with application form Must be available for all meetings and our USA dates are provisionally from 26th June to 18th July onwards.

For an application form please email: ulsterprojectderrylondonderry@outlook.com

Closing date: Sunday 15th October 2023

Annual 100-mile Charity Cycle

During this coming week, (weather suitable)

Father Canny will undertake a 100-mile cycle in aid of the NI Children's Hospice and a Parish Project in South Sudan aided by The Good Sisters. **Donations can be left with Fr. Canny at the Parish Office at St. Columb's in Chapel Road.**



St Columb's Church Choir would like to welcome new members. The choir sings at the 10am Mass in St Columb's Church every **Sunday** morning. If you would like to join the choir please contact the Parish Office, one of the priests or a choir member. (Practice is Sundays after Mass.)

Trench Road Folk Group have returned for practices at 7.00pm on **Wednesday, evenings** in the Parish Hall, Malvern Terrace. New and returning members, particularly singers, are welcome, from P7 up to and including adults.

Lectio Devina – Scripture meditation on **Thursday** evenings at 8.15pm in Church of the Immaculate Conception, Trench Road. All Welcome.

Vocations – During National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood and as the Church prepares for the Synod due to begin in Rome on 4th October we ask our loving, merciful, and generous God to send the Holy Spirit down powerfully on all of us that we will walk together in faith, renewing the Church here in the diocese of Derry, each one fulfilling our baptismal promises as lay, religious, and ordained members of the Body of Christ, and that the Lord will bless our diocese with an abundance of priestly vocations.

Prayer for Migrants and Refugees - World Day 24th September

Lord, make us bearers of hope, so that when there is darkness,
your light may shine, and where there is discouragement,
confidence in the future may be reborn.

Lord, make us instruments of your justice,
So that where there is exclusion, fraternity may flourish,
And where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.

Lord, make us builders of your kingdom,
Together with migrants and refugees,
And with all who dwell on the peripheries.

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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