



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 29th October 2023

Love is Demanding

The American novelist, Arthur Miller, underlined the importance of love when he wrote: *"The one thing we can never get enough of is love. And the one thing we can never give enough of is love."* Love is the greatest of the commandments, the mother of all virtues, and the heart of the Christian message. We are created in the image of a God who is Love; so we cannot live without love. St Paul writes, 'Without love, I am nothing' (1Cor 13:2)

The word 'love' is so overused in contemporary discourse that it has lost much of its meaning. We speak of love of work, love of country, love of sport, love of food, love between friends, love of parents for their children, romantic love, etc. There are indeed many kinds and forms of love.

Genuine love is manifested in action; it is practical and outgoing. In the words of St Augustine: *'It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of people.'* Such love is demanding. It summons us to leave our comfort zones, to give our time, our energy, our talents, and, indeed, our very selves to others.

The early Christians understood and lived the great commandment of love by the testimony of a second century philosopher, Aristides. Writing to the Emperor Hadrian in defence of the Christians he stated that: *'Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If one member of the community has something, he gives freely to those who have nothing... There is something divine in them.'*

100mile Cycle – *I express my gratitude and say a very big thanks all those who contributed so generously to my recent sponsored cycle. The amount raised was £11,340.00.*

Baptism – We welcome into the family of God: **Willow Elizabeth Louise Lanigan**, Virginia Court.

Mass Arrangements for Feast of All Saints (Wednesday 1st November)

Tuesday 31st October:	6.00pm	Church of Immaculate Conception
	6.00pm	St Oliver Plunkett Church
	6.30pm	St Columb's Church (note change of time).
Wednesday 1st November:	9.15am	Church of Immaculate Conception
	10.00am	St Columb's
	11.00am	St Oliver Plunkett Church
	11.00am	St Mary's Oratory
	6.00pm	Church of Immaculate Conception
	7.30pm	St Columb's Church

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Colette Dolan**, *Deanfield* and **Una Collins**, *Springburn Park*.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our Prayers **Paddy Joe McPeake**, **Greta Murray**, **Eamon Houston**, **William Barr**, **Frances McGowan**, **John McLaughlin**, **Nora Brown**, **Charlie Mullan**, **Bob Kelly**, **Joe Fegan**, **Mary Gillespie**, **Liam Collins**, **William McConomy**, **Kathleen McLaughlin**, **Jack McLaughlin**, **Eva McGinley**, **Eileen Sweeney**.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3073.00 Strathfoyle: £445.00.

Thank for generosity in the second collection last weekend for the Missions.

The Liturgy Team has organised a morning of prayer and reflection for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers on **Saturday, 25th November** in the Parish Hall, Malvern Terrace after 10.00am Mass. Guest speaker Fr Peter O'Kane.

Lectio Devina – Scripture Meditation on **Thursday** evenings at 8.15pm in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road. All welcome. (Please not change of venue)

Long Tower Annual Solemn Novena - in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help takes place in St Columba's, Long Tower, Derry. This year's theme: **'Year of**

Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood'. Guest speakers **Sunday, 29th October** (Martina Purdy) former BBC political correspondent and Elaine Kelly (former Barrister in family law) who will speak on 'St Patrick and Vocations'.

Mass for Deceased Young People and Children will take place in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.00pm on **Sunday, 12th November**.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh beginning **Monday, 23rd October** and continuing for 9 Mondays ending with a Penitential Service on **18th December**. Theme: **"Our Lady's Fiat"** with reflections on the Seven Sorrows, Candlelit, Rosary, Adoration, Benediction, and speakers. Everyone welcome.

Vocations – For our seminarians and all those hoping to become priests of the diocese of Derry, that they will keep the commandments of love – love of God and love of neighbours – as respect for everything they say and do.

Monastic Experience Weekend – A weekend for those considering a calling to the monastic life with the Cistercians monk of Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey, Portlengone on Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th November Phone Fr Aelred 252 21211

Big Feasts this coming week

While this secular world will celebrate the coming days with Halloween dress and fireworks the church invites us to reflect on all saints and souls.

Wednesday the feast of All Saints is our opportunity to reflect on the lives of the many very ordinary women and men who have prayed and worshipped in our own churches that are now numbered among the saints.

On **Thursday the Feast of all Souls** we are asked to reflect on the people who are still on the journey to union with God and who can be assisted by our prayers. Belief in the resurrection of the dead is an essential part of Christian faith. Death is the end of earthly life, but "not of our existence" (St Ambrose) since the soul is immortal. Death is the passage to the fullness of true life.

Feasts of the coming week - as well as the big feasts mentioned above this coming week on **Friday**, we celebrate the feast of **St Malachy** and on **Saturday** we celebrate the feast of **St Charles Borromeo**

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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