



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 12th November 2023
Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary time

CANNOT EXPECT TO DRIFT INTO ETERNITY

In the Palestine of New Testament times, it was customary for a wedding banquet to take place at night. Jesus presses this scenario into service as a parable for his Kingdom.

The Ten Virgins, or Bridesmaids, represent all Christians as they wait for Christ to return at the end of time in glory. But according to the parable, when he comes, he finds that half of them are unprepared. They're not evil; just rather lazy, shallow, thoughtless.

They had been hoping to free wheel into the feast, maybe relying on the good works of others to get them there. But according to the conclusion to our Gospel today, instead they hear the spine-chilling sentence: *Amen I say to you: I do not know you.*

Jesus is speaking in Jerusalem, according to St Matthew's gospel. In the last days before his passion and death. He is looking ahead to the time of the Church, and urging his disciples, in no uncertain terms, to spiritual vigilance.

Entrance to heaven, he teaches, is not simply assured for all. We cannot expect to drift gently and without effort into eternal salvation. Until the end of time, we must realise the necessity and urgency of preaching and living the Gospel; striving for true holiness of life; remaining always morally and spiritually awake. Nowadays that's not a message that's easy for people to hear.

In the centre of today's parable there is a thrilling cry. Behold the Bridegroom is coming – Go out to meet him. He is coming from heaven to earth; from his father's glory to you and me, here and now, to give himself to us in love and without reserve.

Baptism – We welcome into the family of God: **Bella Marie Kerrigan**, Carn Manor; **Saoirse McClelland**, Grouse Hill Park; **Elsie Christine Kirk-Fitzpatrick**, Ashthorpe, Belt Road.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Chrissie Philson**, Mountain View and **Patsy Carlin**, Eskaheen View, **James Hart**, Carnhill

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers **Joanne McCauley, Liz O'Donnell, Ethna Logue, Anne Kelly, Sammy Donaghy, Patrick Murray, Jack Finlay, Brendan Gibbons, Joe Cooke, Margaret Kelly, Rose Lynch, Eleanor Slevin, Patsy Casey, Desmond Deehan, Fr Harry Quigg, Jack McLaughlin, Breege Bryson, Anne Henry, Mary Anne McNicholl, Teresa McDaid, Christopher Gibbons, Patsy Quinn**

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,422.00 Strathfoyle: £475.00

Retired Priests Collection is the second collection this weekend.

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

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.

Courage It is I – In partnership with An Chroi Community Hub in Top of the Hill, the parish of Glendermott is offering a four-week programme on knowing and understanding our mental health for adults beginning on **Tuesday, 14th November** at 7.00pm in An Chroi Community Hub, Trench Road, Derry. For further information please contact Parochial House, Chapel Road Tel. 71342303.

Lectio Devina – Scripture Meditation on **Thursday** evenings at 8:15pm in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road. All welcome. (Please note change of venue).

Long Tower Annual Solemn Novena - in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help continues in St Columba's, Long Tower, Derry. This year's theme: '**Year of Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood**'.

St Mary's College Christmas Craft Fair – **Saturday 18th November** 11.am – 4.00pm. Entry £1.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh continues 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 – Lord, bless all those who are currently discerning a vocation to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry. Fill them with the Wisdom that comes from You.

FOYLE HOSPICE - November is known as Legacy Month; an opportunity to think about legacy gifts in your Will. Leaving a gift in your Will to Foyle Hospice is a loving act of kindness that will live on forever. Gifts in Wills help us to provide specialist palliative care to patients and families living with life limiting illness. If you want to know more about leaving a gift in your Will to Foyle Hospice, contact Foyle Hospice Legacy Officer, Kathleen Bradley, on 02871 359888 or email: kathleenbradley@foylehospice.com

TOTUS TUUS SCRIPTURE CONFERENCE 2023 IS LIVE ON RADIO MARIA IRELAND ON SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER FROM 2PM Speakers include FR. JOHN RYAN (CLOYNE DIOCESE), FR. LUKE DEMASI (HOME OF THE MOTHER), FR. JOHN MCENEANEY (WATERFORD & LISMORE DIOCESE), FRANCES HOGAN (SCRIPTURE SCHOLAR). **Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by downloading the Radio Maria Ireland APP, Saorview Channel 210 or listen live at (01)4373277.**

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE – Kilfennan Presbyterian Church, Monday 20th November from 12.30 – 4pm and 5pm – 7.30. Book by appointment 08085534653

In today’s Gospel Jesus speaks of what makes light shine: oil! We need to be up and doing good things in order that our light shines. We cannot be like the foolish virgins in the Gospel – needing to borrow ‘goodness’ from others. As Christians, each of us has a responsibility which we cannot expect others to fulfil on our part.

And so, I pray: *Lord God, as this church year draws to a close, may I refresh my lamp with good works and prayer so that my key will turn easily when I hear your call and may it be, ‘come you blessed of my Father, come inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world....*

November the month to remember our dead – a prayer from the order of Christian Funerals **“Lord God, whose days are without end and whose mercies are beyond counting, keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown. Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice, that we may serve you sure in faith, strong in hope, perfect in love. And when our earthly journey is ended, lead us rejoicing into your kingdom.”**

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	09:15am

Monday - Friday

St Columb's Church	10:00am, 7:30pm
Immaculate Conception	09:15am
St Oliver Plunkett	11:00am

(11am mass in St Mary's Oratory on Wednesdays)

Saturday

St Columb's Church	10am, 7pm (Sunday Vigil)
Immaculate Conception	11:00am, 6:00pm (Sunday Vigil)
St Oliver Plunkett	6:00pm (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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