



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 19th November 2023
Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary time

WE HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH TALENTS

In today's Gospel we are introduced to a man who entrusts his property to his servants while he is abroad. He is an enterprising employer, who hopes that his own flair and daring in business matters will be reflected in his servants' attitude to this challenge. He doesn't instruct them what to do with the talents; he trusts them to use their own initiative and imagination.

Jesus is seen to be making a point against the scribes and the Pharisees. Their chief aim was to keep the Law which they had been given exactly as it was – not to change it, not to develop it, not to alter it in any way.

Like the man with one talent, the Pharisees are seen to have an investment in keeping things exactly as they are, and it is for that stale attitude that Jesus condemns them. In this parable Jesus tells us that there can be no religion without risk, no religion without adventure, no religion without enterprise. Willingness to dare is an essential part of our faith.

The parable speaks to us about God. Through the story we are invited to imagine a God who bestows gifts on all of us – and so we are gifted. He is a God who gives talents to all of us – and so we are talented. What matters is not what people's talents are, but how they are used in the service of the kingdom.

The parable imagines God as a gambler, one who is forever taking risks in entrusting us with his gifts. He has no guarantee on his return, but that is the risk. He dares us to share a common enterprise; he trusts us to do it in our own way, knowing that if it succeeds *both his will and ours will be done*.

Feast of St Cecilia – 22nd November – Action to the church in Need is asking us to reflect on the those persecuted because of their faith. Last year over 5,000 Christians were killed in Nigeria for their faith. 1 in 15 suffering in Latin America, 2 in 5 in Asia and 1 in 5 in Africa These are not just figures but real people.

Baptism – We welcome into the family of God: **Logan Noel McGill**, Templeton Park; **Lottie Zadie McLaughlin**, The Old Fort; **Aoibhe Leonie Jean Hayes**, Dunhugh Manor; **Rian Micheal Storey**, Ballybogie Road.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Kathleen McClay**, Fallowfield.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our **prayers Maureen Doherty, Patrick McBride, Dan Doherty, Dr Terence Quinn, Roisin Thornton. Sally & Willie Mc Feeley, Dorothy Gillespie, Daniel Kelly, Barney O’Kane, Bernadette O’Doherty, Ann Devine, Annie Leonard, Bridie Kelly, Carla Ward, Kay Pavia, Liam McGuinness, Rosaleen Ward, Celine Hargan, Anthony O’Doherty, Philomena Kirk.**

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,195.00 Strathfoyle: £545.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Holy Hour for Peace – Bishop McKeown will lead a Holy Hour for Peace from 8.00pm to 9.00pm on **Monday, 20th November** in St Eugene’s Cathedral, Derry. Everyone is welcome to attend. You can also join in this time of prayer for peace via the St Eugene’s Cathedral webcam.

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 continues 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'**.

CONFIRMATION DATES - 2024

Thursday, 29th February: 1.00pm **St Oliver Plunkett PS** and **Oakgrove PS** in St Oliver Plunkett Church, Strathfoyle. 3pm **Chapel Road PS** in St Columb's Church

Friday, 1st March: 11.30am and 1.00pm **Good Shepherd PS** in St Columb's Church.

Friday, 8th March: 1.00pm and 3.00pm **Sacred Heart PS** in **Church of Immaculate Conception**. 5.00pm **St Columba's PS**, and Others in **Church of Immaculate Conception**.

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 - Mass and Holy Hour for Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood: As we continue our Year of Prayer for an increase in vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood, we will have a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Derry beginning at 8:00pm on Friday 24th November in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road. All welcome.

Vetting of Parish Employees and Volunteers; We have been asked by the Safeguarding Office to renew the vetting status of all Parish Employees and Volunteers following the Covid 19 Pandemic.

This applies to the following employees and Volunteers in our Parish: Sacristans, Choir Leader, Childrens Liturgy Leads and Eucharistic Ministers (only those of you who bring the Eucharist into Care Homes or into any of the Hospital settings.)

Blood Transfusion Service – Kilfennan Presbyterian Church, **Monday 20th November** from 12.30 – 4pm and 5pm – 7.30. Book by appointment 08085534653

Top of the Hill Christmas Appeal: Once again this year Hillcrest Trust and Hillcrest Youth Club in conjunction with Waterside parish will be supporting families and individuals over the Christmas Period. We are asking if you can donate no matter how small it will be much appreciated. Items we need include the following:

Non-perishable Goods: Tins, Cans. Jars and dried foods. Tins of Biscuits, Sweets or Selection Packs. Toiletries or Gift Sets. New – Children's Toys/Clothing (all Sizes). Please leave donations at An Chrio, Trench Road by **Friday, 8th December**. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mass Schedule

Sunday

St Columb's Church	10:00am, 12:30pm, 6:00pm
Immaculate Conception	10:15am & 12:15pm
St Oliver Plunkett	11:15am
St Mary's Oratory	9:15am

Monday - Friday

St Columb's Church	10:00am, 7:30pm
Immaculate Conception	9:15am
St Oliver Plunkett	11:00am

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

Saturday

St Columb's Church	10:00am, 7:00pm (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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