



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 10th December 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

JOHN THE BAPTIST

The Story of the coming of Jesus Christ is incomplete without the story of John the Baptist his precursor and forerunner. The graciousness of God conferred on him the title of the greatest among all born women.

The graciousness of God in the Baptism brought about the following rare and significant qualities which we ought to emulate:

Material detachment: John left home and comfort. In doing this he became spiritually enriched. In our world today that is driven by so much materialism, there is need for us to practice material detachment to gain divine attachment.

Humility: John the Baptist was no doubt gifted but in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ he was humble and demonstrated his humility. He acknowledged the coming of the Messiah and his incompetence before him; 'There is one that is coming after me whose sandals I am unfit to untie' (Matt 3:11 Marl 1:7) It was also with humility that he declared the presence of the Lord before his disciples: 'Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' (John 1:20).

Truthfulness: John the Baptist was not ready to compromise the truth even before threat of the authorities. This was why he was arrested and executed thereafter (Matt 14:1-12).

Services to God and Humanity: A critical look into the life of John the Baptist indicates that he did not live for himself. He was rather dedicated to working for God and others. He was always found at his duty post preaching (Mt 3:1-3; Mk 1:14-15) and baptising (Lk 3:21; Jn 3:23).

St Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will be taken up outside the churches this weekend 9th and 10th ***December***. All donations gratefully appreciated.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Margaret Irvine**, Poplar Road: **Marie Devine**, Ross Downey Road and **John McHugh**, Ebrington Oaks.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers **Joe & Teresa Campbell, Adam Campbell, Monica Kelly, Mabel White, Bridie McConnell, Mary McDevitt, Ryan Mullan, Rita Mclaughlin, Fia Mclaughlin, Margo Gallagher, Tommy & Vera Watters, Peter Melarkey, Kathleen Devine, Anastasia Warne, Helen McDermott, Margaret O’Kane, George Starrett, Bridget O’Donnell, Michelle Webb, Terence Caldwell, Joseph Vaughan.**

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,021.00 Strathfoyle: £620.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Divine Child Novena – The Carmelite Fathers in Termonbacca will begin their Divine Child Novena in the coming days. We are delighted that they will be visiting the Church of the Immaculate Conception on **Thursday evening 14th December** at 7.00pm as part of their tour of the city. All are welcome to attend this evening of prayer which will include a time for reflection led by the Carmelite Fathers and the celebration of the Sacrament of Confession.

Lectio Devina – Scripture Meditation on **Thursday** evenings at 8.15pm in St Columb’s Church, Chapel Road. All welcome. (Please note change of venue).

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 various reflections.

Vocations – We pray for our diocesan seminarians and for those currently discerning their vocation to the priesthood that, like John the Baptist, they will prepare God’s people for the coming of Jesus at the end of time and as He comes to us every day.

Carols by Candlelight – A Candlelight Christmas Celebration on **Wednesday, 20th December** at 7.00pm in St Mary’s College. Tickets £5 with proceed going to St Mary’s College Choir.

Children in Crossfire’s 2023 Advent Appeal – Packs are now available at the church porches. This year, they are raising funds to support a programme in Tanzania.

Joint Emergency Services Carols – Northwest Community Carol Service will be held on Monday 11th December at 7.30 in St Columb’s Cathedral.

Radio Maria Ireland – Christmas Fundraiser on **Thursday, 14th December** in the Drummond Hotel, Limavady, Derry. Doors open that evening at 6.00pm followed by a four-course meal, live music. Tickets (£65 per person). You can contact the station on 353 14 123456.

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. Please leave donations at An Chriog, Trench Road by **Friday, 8th December**. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Concern Worldwide - Currently 3.1 million children under 5 are dying annually from hunger related causes. If you wish to help, **Concern Derry** is opening a pop-up donation office in the Millenium Forum on Saturday 16th December from 10am until 5pm. Donations can also be made at the Concern Bookshop, Ferry quay St.

Accord Ni – Marriage courses for January – March 2024. Venue Everglades Hotel. The courses are held on a Friday evening and Saturday morning. The dates are January 19th/20th, February 23rd/24th and March 22nd/23rd. Booking online at www.accord.com

Trocaire School Volunteers Do you have a passion for making this world a better place? Trocaire is looking for volunteers to support its school Talks Programme for Lent 2024 in parishes in the Derry Diocese. If you think you have the right skill and have a few free hours contact Casey Schell on 028 90 808033.

Blessing for a Christmas Tree

Lord God, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds.

Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us, may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

May all who delights in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 10:00am Mass, Friday 5:00-6:00pm during Adoration and Monday – Thursday at 7:00pm before evening Mass

Immaculate Conception – after 11:00am 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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