



**PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT
& STRATHFOYLE**

**Sunday, 24th December 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

***“I am the handmaid of the Lord,
let what you have said be done to me”***

“Christmas was built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox, that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home” (G. K. Chesteron)

In Mary, the word of God becomes flesh, becomes a living person. Jesus came among us so that everyone might know him as someone living and life-giving to them. Like Mary we are invited to be receptive to his word in faith.

In St Luke’s account of the Annunciation we get a portrait of Mary’s soul. When the shepherds came to Bethlehem to see the child we hear nothing from Mary. She is silent. A mother normally draws attention not to herself but to her child. At Bethlehem Mary is silent about Jesus. It is the shepherds who talk about him and praise God for what they have seen.

Christmas is about our call to be little. In Bethlehem those who were little in the eyes of the world were the most receptive to Jesus and to the gifts that he brought. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi continue to show us how to welcome the gift of Jesus and the gospel he proclaims from the manger.

The manger reveals some central gospel truths. The whole gospel is contained in the manger. There is the physical poverty of the manger and that of humble surroundings. There is the poverty of being born far away from home, from family, relatives and neighbours. There is also the poverty of being helpless. In the manger Jesus is all dependent, open to receive from others. Those who are little are capable of receiving from God and others. The ability to receive with graciousness is a mark of human and Christian maturity. It is acknowledging that we need each other.

The challenge from all of us is to ruminate on and digest the Christmas message and make it our own.

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***The priests of the Waterside Parish thank you all for your
generosity over the past year and wish you all every blessing
for Christmas and New Year***

Deaths– We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Sylvia Doherty** Tamworth Crescent and **Hilda Duddy** Bard's Hill and **Serafim Barbosa**, Windridge Drive.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: **Tony Harrison, Eilish Harley, Terry Killen, Lily Callan, Noreen Warne, Chris Canavan, Anna Kealey, Patsy McDermott, Hugh & Susan McMenamin, Elizabeth Muldoon, Leslie Moore, Jim Smith, Kathleen Tracey, Margaret & Dan Kelly, Frank McGinley, Nancy Brown, William Quigley, Michael Quigley Jnr, Mary Patterson, Frances McLoone, Mary Jane Kerr, Patsy Hargan, Cyril & Vera Henderson, James & Margaet Casey, Sean Quinn, Elizabeth Carlin, Matthew Kelly, Les Moore, Rosenna Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Winnie Murray, Willie Doherty, Peter Shiels.**

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,256.00 Strathfoyle: £460.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Donation Acknowledgement – We wish to acknowledge with thanks a donation of £750.00 from the Syro Malabar Community.

Prayer by Telephone - The Sisters of Mercy "Bethany" 34 Point Road, Dundalk Welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. All requests are confidential. 9am - 9pm. Telephone: 042 9331602 or ROI 00353 42 9316021 One of the sister's will be happy to LISTEN and PRAY WITH YOU

Vocations – Our prayer this weekend for the seminarians of the diocese of Derry and for those discerning their vocation that Mary's "Yes" to the Lord will be an inspiration to all those called to serve the Church as priests of the diocese.

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.

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

The Net newspaper – copies are now available at the church doors.

A first Christmas with Jesus

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars reflecting the snow.
The sight is so spectacular- please wipe away the tear
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear
But the sound of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here
I have no words to tell you the joys their voices bring
For it's beyond description to hear the angels sing

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.
So be happy for me dear ones you know I hold you dear
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift for my heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.
After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do.
For I can't count the blessing of love he has for each of you.
So have a merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Mass times for Christmas Day and the coming week.

Christmas Eve: 6:00pm Church of Immaculate Conception
6:00pm St Oliver Plunkett Church
8:00pm St Columb's Church
8:00pm Altnagelvin Hospital

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

St Stephen's Day 26 December until Friday 29 December:

10:00am & 7:30pm St Columb's Church

**No Masses in any of the other churches until the evening of Saturday 30th
December when the normal weekend Mass schedule will resume.**

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	09:15am

Monday - Friday

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

(11:00am 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

Parish Office: 32 Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry BT47 2BB

Phone: (028) 71 342303 email: secretary@watersideparish.net

Web: www.watersideparish.net

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

Rev. Michael Canny PP 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net