



## PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*He entered the depths of His people.*

The baptism of Jesus immerses him in the life of the people. He joined the queue of people for John's baptism, waiting to share the joys and sorrows of his people. In the depths of the water, he entered the depths of his own humanity and the depths of his people.

We could say that Jesus has entered that part of us all which laughs and sings, dances and cries, feels for the sick and the suffering, desires the best for self and others; nothing human is foreign to him as he was baptised into the life of his people and the God of his ancestors.

To untie someone's sandal was a slave's task, but John feels unworthy even to do that for Jesus, because he is so important. Next the father reveals the identity of this seemingly ordinary man Jesus from Nazareth by declaring him to be his beloved Son in whom he is well pleased.

Next the Spirit descends on him like a dove. Lastly the heavens are rent open to indicate that Jesus belongs in the divine realm.

Certainly, Mark does his best to help us as disciples to keep in mind the divine reality of Jesus: we will need this help as the story moves on.

Jesus' baptism gives us a window into a powerful religious moment. Jesus knows his identity. The imprint of the Spirit has sealed his life.

*Lord, remind me that I too bear your  
Seal of approval. I am marked by your  
Spirit, call to participate in your  
Mission as your beloved son or daughter.*

Ordinary Time begins on Monday 9th - Sunday Cycle A / Weekday Cycle 1

**Baptisms:** We welcome into the family of God *Eithne Aditi Bradley D’Cunha*, Abbs Cross Road, Hornchurch; *Luna Edain* and *Eibhlin Rose Vance*, Good Shepherds Glen; *Erin Alice MacKenzie*, Yongsan, Seoul; *Ada May Barr*, Oak Country Park.

**Deaths**– We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of *Don O’ Doherty*, Glenmore Park; *Marjorie Holmes*, Canterbury Park; *Brian Hegarty*, Violet Street.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers: *James McGinley*, *George Flynn*, *James Coyle*, *Annie Doherty*, *Rosena Kelly*, *George O’Brien*, *Dermie Boyle*, *Eugene Canning*, *Gary Strawbridge*, *Gary Anthony Coyle*, *Bella & John Callan*, *Maudie McCay*, *Eddie Phillips*, *Jeannie Curran*, *Mary McChrystal*, *Celine Faulkner*, *Mary & Art Devlin*, *Liam Bradley*, *Letitia McGinn*, *Patrick McGowan*,

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,443.00 Strathfoyle: £550. 00**

**Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.**

**Vocations** – We pray for those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry. That, like John the Baptist, they will help prepare God’s people, through Baptism and the other sacraments, to welcome Jesus into their lives. We pray for our seminarians, especially for Oran Gartland of Holy Family parish, Derry, who has just begun his propaedeutic year of studies in Salamanca. Anyone interested in diocesan priesthood is invited to contact their local priest or to speak with Fr Pat O’Hagan, the Diocesan Vocations Director, at (028) 7938 6259.

**The HSC NI Foster Team** - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph no doubt experienced many of the same joys and struggles as any other family. Indeed, Mary and Joseph struggled to find somewhere safe and warm to have their child. Although there was no room for them, our traditional narrative tells us of a kindly innkeeper, who pointed them to the stable where Jesus was born.

Unfortunately, there are times when there are no available spaces for foster care placements. The HSC NI Foster Team is urgently seeking more people to think seriously about fostering. On this Feast of the Holy Family, do you think you can make that extraordinary difference to a child’s life? If you think you can help or if you have any questions at all in relation to fostering, please contact the Team: Tel.0800 0720137 or email [info@fostering.hscni.net](mailto:info@fostering.hscni.net)

**Christian Unity Week 2024** – To mark the week of prayer for Christian Unity Week there will be a walk beginning at St Columb's Church, Chapel Road at 7.00pm visiting the other churches and concluding at Ebrington Presbyterian Church on **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

**Catholic Schools Week** – Due to the teacher's industrial action on the **18<sup>th</sup> January 2024** the date of the Mass to launch Catholic Schools Week has been changed to the **16<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at 10.00am in St Eugene's Cathedral.

**Lumen Christi College Open Evening – Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
– Prospective pupils and their parents' or carers are invited to visit Lumen Christi College for the annual Open Evening on **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January** between 4.00pm and 6.30pm. Principals' address 4.00pm in College Assembly Hall.

**Annual Pioneer Draw** takes place on third Monday of every month from **January** to **June**. Contact Robert Glackin before **10<sup>th</sup> January** if interested on 077595866. Tickets £7 per month or £40 for six months.

**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 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>** and **March 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>**. Booking online at [www.accord.com](http://www.accord.com)

*Thought for the Day*- The sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession, for me is a humbling experience. I simply must recognise that I have faults. I have fault lines that run through me causing things to happen. The sacrament is basically me handing all these matters over to God and asking for his grace as I live with my faults. The only good thing about them is that they throw me back on God's love. *The sacraments are all to do with the physical celebrations by which divine life penetrates our human histories.'*

**(James Alison, Knowing Jesus)**

# 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	09:15am
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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