



**PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT
& STRATHFOYLE**

Sunday, 4th February 2024
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'The Mission his Father had given him'.

When there is a way out there is always a way up

The gospel extract today tells us that in a world tormented by possession, by disease and stress, Jesus responded by beginning the day with time set aside for presence to his father. Namely in prayer. From prayer he went to exercise his ministry of compassion.

Mark appears to be describing a typical day in the life of Jesus . The daily schedule included prayer, time spent with people, reaching out to heal, make decisions, moving on to new missionary territory. Time spent in prayer led to active engagement with life.

The precious first moment of each day were given to prayer, to going off to a quiet place to be present to his Father. In the solitude of prayer Jesus drew strength and inspiration for his mission of service. A close relationship with his Father is the key to his mission in the world

God speaks to us in his word, in the events of life and through our deepest desires. Jesus was all turned towards his Father, perfectly in harmony with what his Father wanted of him. At prayer he received the strength which kept him focused and faithful to the mission his Father had given him.

Feasts of the week- Monday is the feast of St Agatha, virgin and martyr.
Tuesday is the feast of Ss Paul Miki and Companions martyred at Nagasaki, Japan in 1597. The six Franciscans, seventeen Tertiaries and three Jesuits died suspended on crosses.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Emily Sarah Coyle**, Cromkill Place; **Conlan Ray Glenn**, Lisaghmore Avenue; **Ada Maeve French**, Lisowen, Limavady Road.

Deaths– We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Daniel Shiels**, Strabane Old Road and **Christopher Cooley**, Harkness Gardens.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers **Celine Houston, Joan Deehan, Annie Dillon, Paddy Dillon, Vera McLaughlin, John Moore, Michael Donaghy, Danny Gillespie, Danny McNally, Eamon Flanagan, Mary Jane Doherty, Billy Leitch, William Leitch, Nellie Kelly, Barney Devine, Michael & Margaret McConnell, Hugh Brady, Owen McDaid, Mary Ellen McDaid, Gerry McDaid, Jim Casey, Michael & Annie Casey, James Monaghan, James Doherty, Margaret Hargan.**
Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,555.00 Strathfoyle: £540.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Lectio Divina – Come and encounter Christ in the word. Our weekly Lectio Divina resumes this coming **Thursday (8th February)** at 8.00pm in the side chapel in St Columb’s Church, Chapel Road. All are welcome to attend as we gather to pray and reflect on the Gospel for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time. All are welcome.

The Lourdes Hospitalite Collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, is due to take place at weekend Masses on **10th/11th February 2024**. As in previous years, we appeal to your generosity for this worthwhile cause as we take the pilgrimage forward once again in the wake of the Covid pandemic. The collection will be taken up as a retiring collection.

Vocations St Paul tells us in our second reading this weekend that he made himself “all things to all people” so that he could “save some at any cost...for the sake of the gospel. “We pray for those being called today to preach the gospel to the people of our diocese in the years ahead, that they will know the joy that comes from spreading the Good News.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 - Monday 1st – Friday 5th July from City of Derry Airport. Led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Full board £799, single room supplement £150. The pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop Street Derry will open to the public 11.00am – 1.00pm on Thursdays and Saturdays, starting Saturday, 10th February. Tel no. 028 71260293.

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje – We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 9 nights from **30th July – 8th August 2024** for more information contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or 00 44 2971264087

Synodality Gatherings – The Diocese as part of the ongoing Synodal process is holding a session **on February 17th from 11am – 4pm**, at the **St Pio House** in grounds of St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. If you would like to be involved and represent the parishes at the meeting, please leave your name at the parish office.

Divine Mercy -We have established a Divine Mercy Alcove in St Mary's Church, Convoy, Co Donegal. As part of the on-going development, we would like to draw up a list of Divine Mercy Groups. Please send the details to Fr Eamonn Kelly, Parochial House, Convoy, Co Donegal, F93HX2R or eamonnkelly1949@gmail.com

The mystery of human suffering

Human suffering is one of the greatest mysteries of life. It is difficult to reconcile the terrible sufferings many people have to endure with the existence of a good and all-powerful God. The book of Job, from which our first reading is taken, presents this issue very dramatically. Written about 700 years before Christ, it tells us the story a just man, Job, who suffers a frightful string of calamities. Having lost everything and everyone dearest to him, he is left to bemoan his sad plight in words surely find an echo in our hearts: *'Is not our life on earth no better than hired service, our time no better than hired drudgery?'* (Job 7:1).

Jesus echoes the teaching of the Book of Job in rejecting the view, commonly held by his contemporaries, that human suffering is a punishment for sin. (cf. Lk 13: 1-5). But he goes well beyond this teaching in portraying a God who is more compassionate and loving than the austere God of Job. While Jesus does not explain the mystery of human suffering, his words and actions manifest a God who is profoundly moved by human suffering and responds to it with love *'beyond all telling'*. Jesus reveals a God, who, in the words of today's responsorial psalm *'heals the broken hearted and binds up all their wounds'*. As today's gospel clearly shows, Jesus went out of his way to heal all kinds of suffering, physical and mental. He is the lived embodiment of the divine response to human suffering, sowing seeds of hope where he finds despair, restoring broken relationships, and drawing life from the teeth of death.

Fr Michael McCabe SMA.

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	9:15am

Monday - Friday

St Columb's Church	10am, 7:30pm
Immaculate Conception	9.15am
St Oliver Plunkett	11am

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

Saturday

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