



**PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT  
& STRATHFOYLE**

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*LENT*

Wednesday of this week (February 14<sup>th</sup>) marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the 40-day period modelled after Our Lord's 40 days in the desert. After the example of Jesus, we are encouraged to commit ourselves to a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Lent is a time of preparation in two different senses. In the first it is a preparation for celebrating the Lord's resurrection on Easter Day in the second it is a preparation for our entry into our eternal home in heaven. Lent is another opportunity to grow more into the likeness of Christ.

In the few days between now and Ash Wednesday we have an opportunity to reflect on what we can do this Lent. A few points worth considering –

**Prayer:** Can I make a commitment to daily Mass? If not, can I commit to dedicating some time every day to prayer?

**Fasting:** As well as reflecting on the usual sweets and alcohol, perhaps I can reduce the amount of time I spend on my mobile phone or watching TV.

**Almsgiving:** The Trocaire boxes are available at the church porches. Hopefully when Easter day arrives we can truly celebrate the Resurrection.

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**Walk with Me Booklets** - 'A Journey of Prayer' for Lent 2024 are available. Price £1. Ideal for reflecting on the readings for Lent.

**Trocaire boxes will be available at church doors.**

## *Mass Times for Ash Wednesday*

St Columb's Church	7.15am*, 10.00am & 7.30pm
Church of Immaculate Conception	9.15am, 6.00pm
St Mary's Oratory	11.00am
St Oliver Plunkett Church	11.00am, 7.00pm

*\*Extra Mass at 7.15am Monday to Friday during Lent in St Columb's Church.*

*Ashes will be distributed during each Mass on Ash Wednesday.*

**Baptisms** – We welcome into the family of God *Lily Geraldine Whoriskey*, Butlers Wharf; *Connie Eden Austin*, Eastbank, Strathfoyle; *Freya Catherine Callaghan*, The Old Fort.

**Deaths**– We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of *Jean Bradley*, Richill Park; *Helen McGilloway*, Rockport Park; *Phyllis Carlin*, Benvarden Avenue.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers *Charlie Storey, John & Kathleen Doherty, Maureen Doherty, John Murray, Jean Foster, Peggy Waller, Frank Cassidy, Nora Brolly, Anne Shiels, Joe Kelly, Kimmy Cirillo, James Kelly, Jim McChrystal, Lizzie McGee, Catherine Callan, Andrew Allen, Pat Simms, Joe Cooke, Teresa Wiseman, Joe Melarkey, Brigid Miller, Brendan Johnston, Eithna McLaughlin.*

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,007.00      Strathfoyle: £650.00**

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

**Lectio Divina** – Come and encounter Christ in the word. Our weekly Lectio Divina continues each **Thursday** 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.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** There will be Adoration in St Oliver Plunkett Church, Strathfoyle on **Wednesday** evenings from 7.00pm – 9.00pm in addition to Monday mornings. All welcome.

**The Lourdes Hospitalite Collection**, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, will be taken up at this weekend Masses. 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** – We pray for those discerning a vocation to the priesthood, especially those from our own diocese, that, like St Paul, modelling themselves on Jesus, they will “do everything for the glory of God... helpful to everyone” and working to save souls. There will be a Vocations Retreat in Larne on the weekend of **8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March** for men ages 18+ who are interested in the diocesan priesthood. Anyone interested is asked to contact Fr Pat O’Hagan at [pgoh2111@gmail.com](mailto:pgoh2111@gmail.com) or at (028)79386259.

**Meeting in the Carmelite Retreat Centre**, Termonbacca, every **Sunday** at 3.00pm for adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families. This is an anonymous programme for those 18years and over who grew up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home.

**Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** – We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 9 nights from **30<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024** For more information contact [lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:eamonnkelly1949@gmail.com)

## *Jesus is a healing agent!*

Today’s gospel tells us how Jesus responded with compassion to the leper who pleaded with him. Because it was a contagious disease lepers were forced to live apart from others in the community. Segregation from their own community and not allowed to worship was one of the most painful aspects of their illness.

To the leper’s plea for help Jesus responds with compassion and reaches out and touches him. In doing so Jesus does something that is forbidden by the law. To touch a leper was to become unclean. The contact by touch in the case of Jesus does not result in the leper passing on his impurity but instead it is Jesus who passes on purification to the leper. The touch of Jesus is a healing agent.

# 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	09:15am

## Monday - Friday

St Columb's Church	10am, 07:30pm
Immaculate Conception	09.15am
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	06pm (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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