



## PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
First Sunday of Lent

### *The choices we make!*

The choices we make give shape and direction to our lives. In the wilderness Jesus firmly rejected the temptations of Satan and confirmed the direction that his baptism had given to his life. Forty days of fasting and prayer strengthened him for the time of testing.

The desert was regarded as a place of danger, a space where the demons and wild beasts dwelt. When the Hebrews escaped from Egypt and found the wilderness very demanding they were tempted to go back to Egypt, to regress to avoid what was unpleasant. Jesus did not seek to escape from the wilderness and find refuge in circumstances that were less exacting. In prayer he reaffirmed that his life revolved around communion with his Father. All genuine prayer puts God at the centre. Prayer keeps priorities clear.

For all of us the price of freedom is constant vigilance. Good decisions expand that freedom, making the next good choice somewhat easier. Jesus points the way to follow if we wish to grow in inner freedom. It is through choosing God and through rejecting evil in all its forms. Good decisions further the kingdom of God. Poor decisions may further my kingdom, But not further God's kingdom.

'For Christians the challenge of a secularised society is simply this: to place God at the centre of life, to serve only him. That means swimming against a powerful tide.' There are two important lessons to be learned on our path through life. The first is that there is a God and the second is that I'm not he! Lent seeks to teach us those lessons.

**Trocaire boxes are available at church doors.**

#### FORMS OF LENTEN PENANCE

- \*Abstaining from some food
- \*Abstaining from Alcohol
- \*Visiting the Blessed Sacrament
- \*Attending Mass
- \* Helping the poor, sick, old or lonely

**Baptisms** – We welcome into the family of God **Cormac Luke Cliffe**, Beechwood Park; **Rossa Barry Cassidy**, Pelham Road; **Moya Grace McLaughlin**, Birch Grove, Ardmore.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our **James Cairns, Gerry McLaughlin, Tony Horner, Lily Nicholas, Maureen Campbell, Caolan McCrossan, Vera Doherty, Olive Doherty, Eileen Kelly, Louise Doherty, Joseph McClean, Patricia McNally, George Caldwell, Peter Doherty, Grace Morrison, Bella Baxter, Davy Baxter, Maureen Baxter, Margaret & Michael McGonagle, May Deane, John Deehan, Patrick Lynch, Lil Mclaughlin, Brian (Bosco) McGinley, Sally Glackin, Kathleen O'Neill.**

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £5,091 Strathfoyle: £640**

**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.

**Vocations** – “Lord make me know your ways. Lord teach me your path. Make me walk in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour.” These lines from today's Psalm are our prayer for our diocesan seminarians and for those currently discerning a vocation to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry.

The annual inter-diocesan Vocations Retreat will take place in Drumalis, Larne from **8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> March**. Anyone **aged 18 or older**, interested in attending should contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com or on (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.

**Living Disciples** – Franciscan Friars of the Renewal – Healing nights every **First Friday** in St Joseph's Chapel, Galliagh from 7.00pm – 1-0.00pm.

***Our Lady of Montligeon*** prayer meeting for the Holy Souls takes place in St Brigid's, Carnhill (Kildare Room, adjacent to Parochial House) every **Monday** morning after 9.15am Mass in St Brigid's Church and also in Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on the following dates Monday **19<sup>th</sup> February 25<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> April** and **20<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

***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

***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)

***Derry Diocesan Trust – Parish of Coleraine*** - Position: Grounds person. Permanent part-time. For application pack please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry BT48 9 AP. ***Parish of Carrndonagh*** – Position: Sacristan. 20hours per week. Permanent part-time. Same conditions as previous post.

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## ***'Prepare' for the Sunday Gospels of Lent with Fr Patrick Lagan***

Would you like to spend a little time each week of Lent preparing for the Sunday Gospel before you hear is at Sunday Mass?

'Prepare' will be delivered via Zoom and facilitated by Fr Patrick Lagan, Diocese of Derry. Beginning on **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.00pm – 8.00pm it will continue each Monday until 18<sup>th</sup> March leading us to Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Using the prayer practice of Lectio Divina, Fr Patrick will lead a group to read, listen to, respond to and rest with the Word of God. As a group, it is a wonderful opportunity to place the Word of God at the centre of our prayer and spiritual life as we strive to deepen our relationship with Christ and each other.

To book your place click on the link: <https://forms.gle/5xdNdKWYazYjGKdda> or email: [tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org)

# 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,

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](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Web: [www.watersideparish.net](http://www.watersideparish.net)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/WatersideParish](http://www.youtube.com/WatersideParish)

Rev. Michael Canny PP 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)