



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 3rd March 2024
Third Sunday of Lent

'A place of worship for all'

Jesus's call for a change of attitude to the Temple met stubborn resistance. For centuries the Temple in Jerusalem held a hugely important place in Jewish religion. Worshippers felt that God's presence in the holy place meant that he was accessible to them when they came there to pray. This sense of God gave them a sense of security and led to a deep attachment to the building. The greater the emotional attachment to something, the more difficult it is to bring about change of attitude towards it.

The attachment of the Jewish people to the Temple is something many of us can identify with. The church building where we were baptised and received our first sacraments always has a special place in our hearts. So often we find people coming back to the place of their baptism and first communion for the sacrament of marriage for no reason other than emotional attachment.

Change was needed if the Temple was to be the house of prayer that God wanted. Many hundreds of Years before Christ the prophet Isaiah declared that the Temple was to be a house of prayer for all nations, a gift for the whole people of God. It was to be a place that facilitated access to God, not a marketplace for doing business.

Jesus called for a radical rethink of the role of the temple. The temple had become a place where religion became stale. It needed rescuing. In the Gospel Jesus is openly aggressive, words give way to actions. The Temple authorities had turned the building into a lucrative place of business. They called Temple tax and controlled the buying and selling of sacrifice. As a result, the poor were being fleeced and many could not afford to worship.

The prayer inscribed over the door of St. Stephen's Church, Walbrook, London should be over the door of all our churches:

*"O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who
need human love and fellowship,
And a heavenly father's care and narrow enough to shut out all
envy, pride, and hate".*

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Etta Beth Storey**, Lisdillon Road; **Sienna Elizabeth Mary Nutt**, Westlake; **Saerlaith Grace Linehan-Harkin**, Holymount Park.

Deaths -We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Rosaleen Kelly**, Sandringham Drive; **Hugh Duffy**, Chapel Road; **Violet Gallagher**, Farlow Road.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *John McMenamin, Mary Boyle, Jim McLaughlin, Jane Kelly, Liam Arbuckle, Philomena McWilliams, Maeve Marshall, Annie Doherty, Isobel Doran, Mary Russell, Catherine Mullan.*
Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,860.00 Strathfoyle: £575.00

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.

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.

Saint Charbel Healing Service one day retreat in the Carmelite retreat Centre , Termonbacca led by Fr Terry O'Connell. **14th March 2024 10:00am to 3:00pm.** There will be a first-class relic for individual blessing along with Saint Charbel oil for all attending. A light lunch will be provided. Cost £20. All welcome.

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

St Vincent de Paul Society – Have you ever thought of volunteering. St Vincent de Paul is an international charity and the largest voluntary charity in Ireland. If you have a spare hour and want to do some good in your local community, we would love you to come and volunteer with us. Every hour a volunteer can spare makes a difference in someone's life. To find out more please visit our website <https://www.svp.ie/ways-to-help/volunteer/>

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 **25th March, 25th April** and **20th May** at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Congratulations to the children who received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation over the past few days. We remember them in our prayers and pray for the children who will be confirmed on Friday of the coming week.

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.

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

Grand Gala Concert in St Columb's Hall – The Priests and soprano Margaret Keys are performing what promises to be a musical extravaganza on Sunday, 24th March at 7.30pm in the magnificent St Columb's Hall. The concert is a fundraiser for the restoration of the 180-year-old organ in St Columb's Church, Long Tower and for restoration of Christ Church in recognition for the kind financial support given by Bishop Hervey to the building of Long Tower 240 years ago this year. Tickets will go on sale next week, priced £30.00.

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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 it at Sunday Mass?

'Prepare' will be delivered via Zoom and facilitated by Fr Patrick Lagan, Diocese of Derry. Continuing each Monday 7.00pm – 8.00pm until **Monday 18th March** leading us to Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

To book your place click on the line: <https://forms.gle/5xdNdKWYazYjGKddA> or email: tony.brernnan@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

Web: www.watersideparish.net

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

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