



**PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT  
& STRATHFOYLE**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

St Patrick's Day (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)

## **Feast of Saint Patrick**

As we reflect this weekend on the life of St Patrick, we can without fear of contradiction say that the efforts of St Patrick began a chain of events that led not only to the spread of the Christian faith in Ireland but also to the arrival of Irish missionaries into mainland Europe and in time to other parts of the world. The legacy of the many Irish missionaries down through the years originated in St Patrick.

For this reason, St Patrick is celebrated not just by the Irish but by Churches and people all around the world. The effort of one person has had an enormous impact down the years. What the example of St Patrick teaches us is the importance of witness and example of each individual. Our witness in today's world can have a much greater impact than we can image. The challenge is that we be the best of witnesses to the Gospel values by word and deed. The message of lent is also the message of St Patrick that God loved us so much that he was generous with his mercy and we have to bring that message to all.

### **Prayer for those away from home this weekend**

Loving God,  
We pray for those whom we love.  
But who are absent from us  
Keep them safe from all harm, evil and danger.  
Bless them with peace, laughter, wisdom, love and joy.  
Grant that we may be united in the fullness of love.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen

**Retiring Collection – this weekend 17<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick's weekend for Christians in the Holy Land.**

**Baptisms** – We welcome into the family of God family **Grace Mima Bonella**, St Canice's Park, Eglinton.

**Deaths** -We offer our sympathy to **Gabrielle Channon**, Riversdale Avenue,  
**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in prayer Margaret Clifford, Michael Hegarty, Shaun Hegarty, Patrick (Patsy) Diver, Philomena Carlin, Maurice McGinn, Phonsie McWilliams, Marion Finnegan, Brian Foster, Winnie and Clare Muldoon, Kieran Barr, Lil McLaughlin, Eamonn McDaid, Phyllis and Bert Marchini, Mary McCauley, Edmund McIntyre

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,676.00 Strathfoyle: £575.00**

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

**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 18 years and over who grew up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home.

**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. To find out more please visit our website <https://www.svp.ie/ways-to-help/volunteer/>

**Vocations** - The gospel for St Patrick's Day challenges the future priests of our diocese to die to themselves and their own desires and ambitions; to give up their "life in this world" for the sake of the Kingdom; to love and follow Jesus; to stay close to the Lord, standing with Him wherever He is, particularly in His closeness to, and love for, the poor, the needy, the oppressed, and the most vulnerable. We pray for those already answering that call, and for those who will serve the people of this diocese as priests for many years to come.

**ACCORD DERRY MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES** - APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> 2024 MAY 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 **Courses can be booked online at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com) (Please note that all courses are now in person and NOT virtual)**

**WEEKEND RETREAT FOR LADIES:** Fri. 22nd - Sun. 24th March. Conducted by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Cost £90 residential. £70 non-residential. For bookings: e-mail [termonbaccaderry@gmail.com](mailto:termonbaccaderry@gmail.com)

**Legion of Mary ACIES - meeting this year will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March in St Columba's Long Tower after the 7.30pm Mass. All legion of Mary members and auxiliaries are welcome to attend and renew their vows. Anyone wishing to join or find out what we are about contact Tom at 07521500665**

***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 **25<sup>th</sup> March 25<sup>th</sup> April** and **20<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

**Feast of St Joseph** (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March) – Speaking about St Joseph Pope Francis held out Jesus' foster father as a model for Christians, drawing attention particularly to his “father's heart” and “creative courage”. In this regard, the Pope underscored two aspects of “this very dear saint”.

**A father's heart** - First of all, everyone should keep in mind that every consecrated person and priest is called, like St. Joseph, to have a “father's heart”. This means having a restless heart that is concerned to love and care for the sons and daughters entrusted to him, especially the most fragile, those who suffer, those who have not had the experience of paternal love.

**Creative courage** - Secondly, St. Joseph also exhibits “creative courage”. These are not easy times, but they were not easy for Joseph either. “But he trusted God, he trusted Him fully, and he offered all his abilities, his talents and skills to serve Him, and God gave him His grace to carry out the difficult mission entrusted to him.”

**Gospel Message** In our Gospel from St John this weekend we hear of some Greeks who came to seek out Jesus. They were curious and excited about what they heard and came to see and hear for themselves. Somewhere deep within them there was, almost certainly, the hope that with his guidance of his wisdom they could improve their own lives.

The Greeks would have seen in Jesus a life inspired by service. Service of God and people.

For Jesus the arrival of the Greeks is a significant moment in his mission. He came into the world so as to bring salvation to all nations. Jesus reminds them and all of us that it is in dying that we are born to new life. He is clear that following him involves sacrifice. He has to die to enter new life.

# Mass Schedule

## Sunday

St Columb's Church	10:00am, 12:30pm, 06:00pm
Immaculate Conception	10:15am & 12:15pm
St Oliver Plunkett	11:15am
St Mary's Oratory	09:15am

## Monday - Friday

St Columb's Church	* <b>07.15am</b> 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	06:00pm (Sunday Vigil)

## Confessions:

**St Columb's** – Saturday after 10:00am Mass,

Monday – Thursday at 7:00pm before evening Mass

**Immaculate Conception** – after 11:00am 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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**\*Weekdays during Lent**