



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday 14th April 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

'Others will follow!'

There are a few lines in the Gospel today that are very revealing. When Jesus came and stood among them – coming through locked doors – we are told that some of his followers “were in a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost.”

Some of his followers couldn't understand it. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said to them: “Why are these doubts rising in your hearts?” He met their fears ‘head-on.’ He challenged them to “look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves.”

He asked them if they had anything to eat and he ate the grilled fish offered him in front of them and said to them, “a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see, I have (Lk 24:39). ‘So, I am not a ghost!’

Christ is stating very clearly that he was a living, mortal person before he was crucified, died, and was buried. But now he has been raised from the dead. Yes, he is alive, but he is now a living, immortal, eternal person. That's the difference. The mortal Jesus has become the immortal Christ.

So, what's that saying to us? It's saying very clearly that there is another world. And that this new world is a real world, and that those in this new, real world have been changed or re-created by God. They are no longer mortal, time-bound, embodied people – just as the risen Christ is. The other gospels and letters of St Paul all agree – that Christ has been raised by God as a living, ever-lasting, spiritually embodied person who will never die again.

The Gospels are also saying that Christ is not alone with the Father in this new world. When Christ hung on the cross on Good Friday, the (good) thief who hung beside him on another cross asked Christ to ‘remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ Christ answered: ‘this day you will be with me in paradise’ (Lk 23:43) St Paul said that Christ was the ‘first person’ to enter this new world (1Cor 15:23) The ‘first,’ meaning that others would follow.

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God **Rudi O'Hara**, Benwarden Avenue; **Lexie Violet Simpson-Doherty**, Pelham Road; **Bonnie Robertson**, Stradowen Drive; **Milo McCann**, Stradowen Drive.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Kathleen Dunlop**, Bentley Terrace.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers Kathleen Boyle, Teresa Brady, Philomena Oakley, Susan Arbuckle, Brian Gibbons, Charlie Kelly, Roseleen Elliott, Terry Neely, Kathleen McLaughlin, Willie Deane, Brian Dunlop, William Muldoon, Margaret Muldoon, John Boyle, Daniel Brown.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3930.00 Strathfoyle: £490.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

TROCAIRE BOXES TO BE RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MOST GIFT AID ENVELOPES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED DURING THE PAST WEEK

If your Gift Aid Envelope has not been delivered by next weekend use the spare envelope in your current box.

If you are currently paying tax and not already using a Gift Aid Envelope, please consider joining the scheme. In our Parishes the returns from Gift Aid are equivalent to about 8 weekly collections. With people dropping out new members are always welcome.

Gift Aid forms and direct debit forms are available from the Parish office.

Vocations – As we approach the end of the Year of Prayer for Vocations to the diocesan priesthood, we continue to pray for the men of our own diocese who are discerning God's will for them, that they will be witnesses to the Resurrection of Jesus and to His presence in the Church and the world, preaching the message of "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Anyone interested in serving the Church as a priest of the diocese of Derry should contact Fr Pat O'Hagan, diocesan Director of Vocations at pgoh2111@gmail.com or at (o28) 79386259.

An Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held in St Columb's Church next **Sunday 21st April** - 5.00pm – before 6pm Mass to pray for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – The Department of Education are seeking the names of people who would be willing to become members of Board of Governors in our schools. If you are interested and willing for your name to be considered please leave your name and contact details with the parish office.

Lough Derg One Day Retreats in May – These guided days of prayer and reflection will take place on Sunday 5th, Monday 6th, Sunday 12th, Tuesday 14th, Saturday 18th, Sunday 25th, and Monday 27th May. More details can be found at www.loughderg.ie. The Lough Derg traditional **Three-Day Pilgrimage** begins on Friday, 31st May and continues until 15th August.

Reflection Day at SMA Retreat Centre, Domantine: Saturday 4th May 9.30am – 5.00pm: ‘forgiveness: the journey from hurt to healing, freedom, peace and happiness.’ Led by Fr Des Corrigan SMA. Cost (inc lunch) £38/43euro. Tel. 028 30821964.

Accord Derry Marriage Preparation Courses - April 19TH & 20TH, May 17th and 18th, June 14TH and 15th 2024. Courses can be booked online at www.accordni.com (Please note that all courses are now in person)

Sister Clare’s retreat begins every morning with 7 am. and 10 am. Mass followed by Benediction and a guest speaker in the evening at 7.00 am. A healing service will take place on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00pm. On Saturday, April 20, there will be a guest speaker at 10 am. Mass, and 3pm. Mass – and the retreat will conclude on Sunday, April 21 at 3 pm with a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown.

you can stream the services online at www.longtowerchurch.org

Thought for the Day

Risen Jesus, we thank you for your greeting, ‘Peace be with you.’

The shalom of God, deep lasting peace; peace that brings inner calm.

That keeps a person steady in the storm.

That faces the persecutor without fear and proclaims the Good News with courage and with joy.

This is the peace that reconciles sister to brother, black to white, rich, and poor, young and old.

But not peace that is quiet in the face of oppression and injustice.

This is the peace with God, the peace that passes understanding.

Mass Schedule

Sunday

St Columb's Church	10:00am, 12:30pm, 6:00pm
Immaculate Conception	10:15am & 12:15pm
St Oliver Plunkett	11:15am
St Mary's Oratory	09:15am

Monday - Friday

St Columb's Church	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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