



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT
& STRATHFOYLE
Sunday 21st April

Good Shepherd Sunday

'He loved them to the end.'

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, a day on which the Church invites us to reflect on the meaning of God's call and to pray for vocations to the service of the Church and its mission.

To help us reflect on the meaning of vocation – today's Gospel, presents us with the figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. One of the most popular images of pastoral care is that of the shepherd who watches over his flock, leads them to green pastures, and protects them from harm.

In biblical times there were two kinds of shepherds. There was the hired hand for whom minding the sheep was merely a job. He would move from one flock to another, depending on the conditions of service, but would never dream of risking his life for the sheep. *'This is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep'* (Jn 10:13). Then, there was the shepherd-owner of the flocks who stayed with the same flock all his life. He knew every sheep in his flock individually. He could call each one by name and was familiar with its life-story – the difficulties it had gone through, its temperament and particular traits.

The shepherd-owner to which Jesus compares himself was devoted to his sheep. He knew the one that tended to stray from the flock, and he kept his eye out for it when passing through dangerous terrain. When attacked by wolves or thieves, he would fight to protect his sheep.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd *par excellence*. He laid down his life for love of us. As St John puts it: *'Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end'* (Jn 13:1). In a culture in which leaders *'made their authority felt'* Jesus modelled leadership of loving service of others that was both courageous and compassionate. (SMA Homilies 2024)

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God **Lochlan Pol Boyd**, Gelvin Grange; **Noah Michael Holmes**, Greenfield Park; **Tomas Dessie Brolly**, Garymore Place.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Roy Monaghan**, formerly of Belmont and Dunmore Gardens.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Plunkett Devine, Gerard Boyle, Noel Bradley, James Ayling, Brian Coyle, Seamus Gormley, Geraldine McCarron, Ellen Boyle, William Boyle, Rose Doherty, Fr John McNamara, Joe Arbuckle, Neil Mellon, Johnson Joseph, Arnold Doherty, Kathleen McGurk, John Douglas, Lucy Traynor, Faye Melaugh.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4760.00 Strathfoyle: £760.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

MOST GIFT AID ENVELOPES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED DURING THE PAST WEEKS

If your Gift Aid Envelope has not been delivered, please check with the Parish Office. 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.

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

Lectio Divina – Our weekly meditation on the Sunday readings begins again this coming **Thursday** at 8.00pm in the side chapel of St Columb's Church, Chapel Road. Come along and join in the ancient practice of the Church of praying God's word. All welcome.

Lough Derg One Day Retreats will take place on 5th, 6th, 12th, 14th, 18th 25th and 27th May. More details can be found at www.loughderg.ie. The Lough Derg Three-Day Pilgrimage begins on **Friday, 31st May** and continues until **15th August**.

Legion of Mary... Rosary at Home

The Legion of Mary in the Waterside have begun a campaign in promoting the Rosary at Home. We are hoping to help specific groups of people including- recently bereaved, the unemployed, mothers to be, those struggling with depression or any kind of illness, the lonely or just people who need a little help with their faith.

If you would like us to help you get started on your own, with your family or with a prayer group please feel free to call Tom from the Legion of Mary on 07521500665 and one of our groups will get back to you. It would be our privilege to help you.

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.

St Vincent de Paul are looking for your second-hand furniture, bedroom furniture, suites, kitchen tables and chairs and small furniture. If you are spring-cleaning, please contact us and we will gladly collect and reuse your pre-loved furniture. Please contact us on 028 71265489. SVP: Help us to help Others.

Vocations – As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday/Vocations Sunday we ask God's blessing on our diocesan seminarians in Rome, Maynooth, and Salamanca, and for all those working in the area of priestly formation. We pray for those discerning their vocation at this time, that they will allow themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit speaking to them through their Spiritual Director and in their personal prayer. We ask God's blessing on those applying these days to begin their studies in seminary next January. May the Lord inspire many more men to answer His call to serve the people of this diocese as priests.

Thought for the Day – 'God doesn't call the qualified, but He qualifies the called.' God knows us and He calls us by name. As we are looking at different saints or clergy to learn from them, others look at us and learn from us. And as our struggles become real even as others turn to us for guidance, we also have a shepherd to turn to for help. Most of us sometimes forget this, but we are leaders in our own way. The church of tomorrow depends on how we set the foundation for the church of today'

CARMELITE RETREAT CENTRE TERMONBACCA

Saint Peregrine Day Retreat. Thursday 2nd May 10:00am - 3:00pm.
Cost for the day including light lunch £20.

Carmelite Pilgrimage to Lourdes Thursday 22nd August - 8 nights - 979 Euro

Carmelite Pilgrimage to the Shrines of France Monday 16th September - 7 nights £1449

For booking forms / further details and to book for the day retreat
Phone 71 262512

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	6:00pm (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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