



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday 28th April 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

'Through our actions to others'

Most of us are familiar enough with growing tomatoes, apples, etc to know that no branch, if separated from its trunk, will survive for long. And that is the point St John is making in today's gospel – that no branch will survive if it is separated from its tree trunk.

The life-giving nutrients or nourishments that come from the earth are drawn up through the trunk and are spread around the branches through the sap. The sap is literally the lifeblood of the tree. But, if the branch is separated, or broken off from the trunk, then without its lifeblood it will quickly die.

St John, in today's gospel, likens us – individual Christians – to the vine branches. If we are not united or joined to Christ – our trunk – then we cannot flourish or bear fruit. However, if we are united to Christ we will bear abundant fruit.

Today's gospel says: "Cut off from me (Christ) you can do nothing." Cut off from Christ we can achieve nothing worthwhile. But, if Christ is literally our lifeblood, then we can bear much fruit, we can do great things.

But what does St John mean by this last sentence? How can Christ be our lifeblood? He gives us the answer in the Second Reading of today's Mass. There we are told that if we keep the commandments of loving God and loving our neighbour, then we live in God and God lives in us" (John 3:24). Then, the love of God, the love that is God, will course through our veins and will reach out – will be channelled out – through our actions to others.

If God's love is coursing through our veins, pumping through our hearts, flowing through our thoughts and actions, then it cannot but bring that same Christ-like peace, pardon, help, hope, and love to others – and that cannot but help others; it cannot but be 'a sacrament of God's love for them,' a visible sign of God's love.

Furrow 2024

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God: **Esmee Amor McGinley**, Gortnessy Meadow; **Lena April Quigley**, Newlyn Terrace; **Turlough Patrick Quinn**, Moyglass Place.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Andrea McCorkell**, Ardilea Drive.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: Joe Carr, Margaret Frazer, Sarah Given, George O'Neill, Eamonn O'Neill, John Carlin, Joe Brown, Gerard & Kathleen Fleming, Mary McGee, Helen McWilliams, Ernie & Annie Irwin, John Mullan.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,180.00 Strathfoyle: £675.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Gift-Aid - 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.

Lectio Divina – Our weekly meditation on the Sunday readings will continue each 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.

'Youth of Acutis': A group of young people, aged 16-21, are seeking to explore and develop their faith with other like-minded people, while also making a positive impact on their community. They have chosen the name 'Youth of Acutis'. The group will be launched in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, following 7.30pm Mass on Friday, 3rd May 2024, the birthday of Blessed Carlo Acutis. All interested young people in the 16-21 age-bracket are welcome to attend!

'Fan the Flame' Annual Open-Air Mass for all the children in the diocese who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. It will take place in Celtic Park, Lone Moor Road, Derry on **Thursday, 6th June 2024** beginning at 11.30am and finishing around 1.00pm. Schools need to be seated by 11.00am.

SERVICES OF INTERCESSION FOR THE DEAD

Blessing of the Graves will take place on *Sunday, 2nd June* at 3.00pm in Altnagelvin and Ballyoan cemeteries and at 6.00pm in Ardmore cemeteries.

The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on *Sunday, 30th June 2024* at 3.00pm.

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 – For those considering a vocation to the priesthood of this diocese, that they will look to Jesus as “the true vine,” their inspiration and guide, the one who will nourish and sustain them in their desire to serve Him and His people.’

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	10am, 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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