



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday 23rd June 2024

Jesus always accompanies us!

Most people visiting the Holy Land are struck by the serenity of the lake of Galilee, yet as today's gospel reading illustrates, the lake is not always serene. Lying approximately 700 feet below sea level, at end of the Jordan Rift Valley, it is prone to sudden, violent storms. In a matter of minutes, the normally calm surface becomes a raging torrent that can easily swamp small boats, like the one used by Jesus and his disciples.

The Lake of Galilee looms large in the ministry of Jesus. His first disciples were fishermen whose livelihood depended on the lake. Jesus began his preaching in the towns and villages around the lake, and he used Peter's boat to address the people when the crowds became too large. We know that he crossed the lake many times. Today's gospel begins with Jesus asking his disciples to '*cross over to the other side*' (Mk 4: 35), that is, to the eastern shore of the lake.

As the disciples begin their journey, in obedience to Jesus' command, the wind suddenly turns into a gale, '*and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped*' (Mk 4:37). And where was Jesus? Asleep in the stern with his head on a cushion. But not for long! The terrified disciples rudely wake him up, shouting, '*Master, do you not care? We are going down!*' (Mk 4:38). Mark then tells us that Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind and the sea so that '*all was calm again*' (Mk 4:39). And then he rebukes his disciples for their fear and lack of faith.

The message of today's gospel is that Jesus always accompanies us on our journey to God. He is on board, even if he seems to be asleep at times like the present, when we see so much chaos and disorder around the world.

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God: **Thomas Christopher Gillespie-Sharkey**, Grangewood Drive; **Oskar William Michael Gibson**,

Arden Place; **Fiadh Mary Coyle**, Strabane Old Road; **Noah Michael Dixon-Burke**, Stradowen Drive.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Margaret Mary Deane**, Clondermott Park; **Bertie Doherty**, Hollymount Park, **Margaret Curley**, Bawnmore Place, **Richard Edwards**, Butlers Crescent.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: Ruby Bradley, James McNulty, Gerard Callan, Sarah Jane Monaghan, Sadie McIntyre, Bridie McGinley, Sean Ward, Donald Ward, Joseph McConomy, Bridget Brown, Frank McLaughlin, Louis McLaughlin, Etta Smith, Jeannie Hargan, Minnie McGee, William Hegarty, Harry & Rita Doherty.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4067 Strathfoyle: £525

Peter's Pence Collection will be taken up this weekend as a second collection.

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 1st – 5th July 2024: All pilgrims are invited to a meeting in the Everglades Hotel, Victoria Road, Derry on **Tuesday, 25th June** at 7.30pm. Important information will be shared at this meeting, and it is intended that we will have pilgrims' packs and tickets for distribution. If anyone cannot attend in person, they should designate someone to represent them, if possible.

Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2024 led by Bishop Donal McKeown starts on **Friday, 26 July, and concludes on Sunday, the 28 July**. Bus will leave St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Friday 26 July at 11.00am and will travel via, Strabane, Lifford and Ballybofey. Cost £80 including transport. Cost for those making their own way to Lough Derg, £70. Please contact Tony Brennan on tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocesan Office on 028 7126 2302 for booking form. We look forward to welcoming you!

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.

Vocations – There will be a Vocations Day (for those considering diocesan priesthood) in Bunrana on **Sunday 8th September**, from 12noon – 6pm. Anyone

interested should please contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan by email: pgoh2111@gmail.com

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – This significant event will take place on **28th July 2024** at Knock Shrine, with His Excellency Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, Apostolic Nuncio of Ireland, as the principal celebrant.

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

Car parking advice for City Cemetery Blessing of the Graves

Members of the public wishing to attend the Annual Blessing of the Graves at the City Cemetery scheduled to take place at 3pm on Sunday 30 June, are advised that 130 car parking spaces will be made available for Blue Badge holders within the Cemetery. The places will be allocated on a first come first served basis to current Blue Badge holders and can be booked at www.derrystrabane.com/cemeterysunday

When booking online for the City Cemetery spaces users are advised that they must provide a **Name, Mobile number, Vehicle Registration Number, Blue Badge Number and email address** – any submissions without this information will be considered invalid. The people using these spaces can access them via the Lonemoor Road entrance and they are to arrive before 2pm as the gates will close promptly at this time.

A Prayer for Hope

Lord Jesus, I pray this day for strength, because there are times when things get tough, and I want to quit.

Lord Jesus, I ask this day for a generous share in your love, because there are times when people forget me, and I am tempted to lose hope.

Lord Jesus, I seek this day for your light to guide my steps, because there are times when it gets cloudy and dark, and I lose my way.

Help me, O Lord to pick up the pieces, wipe my tears, face the sun, and start again, for all is possible when I place my faith and trust in You, my saving God. Amen.

Blessed Charles de Foucauld.

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

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