



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT  
& STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

*God is always speaking to us!*

The theme of rejection looms large in today's scripture readings. Ezekiel, the prophet of today's first reading suffered rejection because he predicted the destruction of Jerusalem. The exile was a traumatic experience for a people who saw themselves as specially chosen by God. Captured and enslaved in Babylon, they had lost everything they held precious. Many of them were so disheartened that they lost faith in the Lord and in his promises.

Our second reading reminds us that St Paul's mission, was not all plain sailing and that he experienced what he calls '*a thorn in the flesh*' to stop him '*from getting too proud*' (2 Cor 12:8). He mentions '*weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints*. All these Paul is prepared to accept for the sake of Christ. '*For*', he adds, '*it is when I am weak, that I am strong.*' (2 Cor 12:10).

In today's gospel from Mark, Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth *not to a hero's welcome, but instead to jealousy, ridicule, and rejection. Clearly taken aback by the people's 'lack of faith', Jesus responds with words tinged with bitter disappointment: 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house' (Mk 6:4).* We know that, following this incident, Jesus would not return to his hometown or set foot in another synagogue in Galilee.

Today's readings call on us to open our hearts, our minds and our whole being to the challenging and often surprising presence of God among us: in others, *in the events of our lives, in the Church, in our world. God is always speaking to us, but we must listen and allow him 'to surprise us.*

Michael McCabe SMA

**Baptisms:** We welcome into the family of God: **Roghan Seamus Quinn**, Jasmine Court; **Jack Felix Lynch**, Birch Hill; **Cillian James Burley**, Birch Hill; **Rian Sean Tiffney**, Barleyfields; **Ronan McNamee**, Riverview Terrace.

**Deaths:** We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Jack Campbell**, Grangewood Drive; **Kevin Donaghy**, Hollymount Park.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers: Frank Mclaughlin, Hugh Murray, Mary Leitch, Mary McGinley, Bridget McDaid, Laurence Conaghan Jnr., Annie O’Kane, James Quigley, Roseann Evans, Elizabeth Gilmartin, Eileen McGowan, Noel McBride, Neil Curran, Mary Diver.

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3857 Strathfoyle: £570.**

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

**Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2024** led by Bishop Donal McKeown starts on **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> July**, and concludes on **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July**. Bus will leave St Eugene’s Cathedral, Derry, on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org).

**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** – We pray that those being called by the Lord to prophets as priests of our diocese in the coming years will know that his” ...power is at its best in weakness...” and that, like St Paul, they can say...” it is when I am weak that I am strong.”

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

**The Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock** will take place on **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July**. Mass at 3.00pm will be followed by Eucharistic Blessing and Presession to the Shrine. Pioneers along with friends and relations who are living “one day at a time” n with addiction are welcome.

**Our Lady of Montigeon**, monthly prayer meeting will be held in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> July** at 7.30pm. There is also a weekly prayer meeting held on Wednesdays after 9.15am Mass at St Brigid’s Church, Carnhill in the Kildare Room. All are welcome.

**ACCORD Derry** – Marriage Preparation Course will be held on the following dates **September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 2024, October 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2024**. These courses are now online for booking at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com). Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

**Mary’s Meals** are organising a ‘Two Bridges’ walk on **Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> August** over the Foyle Bridge and Peace Bridge in Derry. We will meet in Sainsburys car park at 11.45am to begin the walk. The distance is approx. 5 miles. The walk is part of a series of walks taking place across Ireland in early August to raise awareness of Mary’s Meals and the work they do. You can register for the walk at [Bit.ly/stepbystepwalk](https://bit.ly/stepbystepwalk)

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### **Providing Compassionate care at the end of life**

To address the sensitive issue of compassionate care at the end of life, and in response to the need to inform the faithful of Catholic teaching on this important life issue that effects so many families, the Bishops of Ireland have published the pastoral letter: *Freedom to Live Fully, Until Death Comes*. The key message of both letter and video remains intact regardless of their circumstances.

To read *Freedom to Live Fully, Until Death Comes* and to watch *Through the Valley*, visit the following link

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/06/24/bishops-statement-on-end-of-life-care-freedom-to-live-fully-until-death-comes/>

# 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 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

**Parish Office:** 32 Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry BT47 2BB Phone: (028) 71 342303 email: [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Web: [www.watersideparish.net](http://www.watersideparish.net)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/WatersideParish](http://www.youtube.com/WatersideParish)

Rev. Michael Canny PP 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)