



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 21st July 2024

Loving all those in need and distress.

Being compared to sheep – lost or found – may seem quite unflattering to most people today. Yet, the pages of the bible are strewn with references to sheep and shepherding. The theme of sheep and shepherding is the focus of today's readings.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah, pulls no punches in condemning the leaders (kings) of his time for the poor quality of their leadership. He calls them *'wretched shepherds who allow the flock of my [God's] sheepfold to be destroyed and scattered'* (Jer 23:1). These leaders were more concerned with protecting their power and feathering *'their own nest'* than with protecting and caring for the people they were appointed to serve – sadly, an all too prominent failing among leaders throughout human history, down to the present day.

In contrast to the way we often behave, Jesus' approach to people was never moralistic. At the very heart of his ministry was a concern for their integral well-being. To quote the stirring words of the noted Scripture scholar, N.T. Wright: *'In Jesus we see the biblical portrait of God come to life: the loving God, rolling up his sleeves to do in person the job that no one else could do, the Creator God giving new life; ... the faithful God dwelling in the midst of his people; the stern and tender God relentlessly opposed to all that destroys or distorts the good creation, and especially human beings, but recklessly loving all those in need and distress'*.

As disciples of Jesus, called to be his witnesses in the world of time, we must imitate the compassionate shepherding of Jesus. An essential dimension of our mission as Christians, as the Body of Christ, is to reach out to the uprooted, homeless people of our time, and help to create a safe space where they are accepted and feel at home. In this way we can continue the shepherding ministry of Jesus and help to bring healing and peace for our broken world.

Fr Tom Casey SMA

Death – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Sheila McBride**, late Campion Court.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Dolores McGuinness, Cahir & Mamie Fitzpatrick, Agnes Webb, Johnny McChrystal, Patrick McConomy, Ellen Lynch, Lexie Smith, Mary Murray, Kathleen Murray, Annie & Billie Gillespie, Terry Doran, Joe Leitch, Catherine Caldwell, Kevin McWilliams.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £5071 Strathfoyle: £700

Peter's Pence collection: Glendermott: £2245 Strathfoyle: £220

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, 26th July**, and concludes on **Sunday, 28th July**. Bus will leave St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Friday 26th 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.

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.

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.

Vocations – We pray that those called to be priests of the Derry diocese will be faithful shepherds who will feed their people with the Eucharist and the Word of God.

ACCORD Derry – Marriage Preparation Course will be held on the following dates **September 20th & 21st 2024, October 18th & 19th 2024**. These courses are now online for booking at 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, 11th 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

Group Pilgrimage to Medjugorje running from **4th – 11th September 2024**. Total cost 835euro. Full religious programme operated by Marian Pilgrimages. Includes daily breakfast and evening meal. For more information contact Group Leader Luke McCann on 07955386288. To book contact Marian Pilgrimages On 02895680005.

Prayer to SS Joachim and Anne.

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us Ss Joachim and Anne as examples of holiness. Help us to imitate the devotion to You they showed throughout their sufferings of infertility.

Ss Joachim and Anne, you were eager to live out your vocation as a married couple fully. You longed for a child but suffered from infertility for many years. Despite this suffering, you continued to serve God faithfully.

Please continue to bring my petitions before the throne of God! God saw your sufferings, and He heard your prayers for a child. He answered your prayers after many years, and you became the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pray for me, that I may never grow discouraged when I face sufferings. Pray that I may remain faithfully no matter what difficulties or trials I might face. SS Joachim and Anne, pray for us!

The Camel - *We can learn from the camel. It prepares well. A camel can carry seven days' water supply. It learns to pace itself, trot only if forced. Evenings are cooler, so if time has been lost in the heat, it can be made up in the evening. If we can prepare and be as calm as the camel, then one day we will pass through the eye of the needle and enter the kingdom of heaven.*

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 | 9:15am |
| 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

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

Web: www.watersideparish.net

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| Rev. Michael Canny PP | 028-7134 2303 | secretary@watersideparish.net |
| Rev. Patrick Lagan CC | 028-7134 2303 | secretary@watersideparish.net |
| Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC | 028-7134 2303 | secretary@watersideparish.net |