



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 1st September 2024
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

A new heart and a steadfast spirit

Jesus said: *“You put aside the commandments of God to cling to human traditions.”*

The philosopher Confucius wrote: “To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must set our hearts right.”

Jesus confirms that God looks to the heart, to the very core of each person. The heart is the seat of wisdom, discernment and knowledge, the place of understanding and choices. The decisions which give direction to our living comes from the heart.

Today’s gospel offers an illustration in action. Despite their commitment to God, the Pharisees and the Scribes had mistaken the wood from the trees and put the emphasis on traditions that had become sacred to them. Confident that they were on the right road to God, they went on the defensive when Jesus challenged their priorities. The most important question, why does God want of us, had no longer become a priority.

Jesus identifies the core problem for them: “You put aside the commandments of God to cling to human traditions.” The authentic way to purity of heart is not by observing man-made norms but in giving God what he wants, namely a heart focused on serving him faithfully.

The journey towards a heart that is pure involves a humble disposition, and, most of all allowing the healing presence of the Lord who can create in us a new heart and a steadfast spirit.

Annual Charity Big Cycle- Father Canny is on his travels again. Towards mid-October, He hopes to complete an almost 100-mile cycle trip around Inishowen in aid of charities. This year the donations will go to the **Northern Ireland’s Children’s Hospice** and a project in **Bolivia supporting women who have been trafficked**. Donations for this 100-mile cycle can be made in person to Father Canny, any of the Church Sacristies or to the Parish Office at 32 Chapel Road.

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God: **Thomas Edward Mark McCarron**, Copperthorpe, Drumahoe; **Sophia Grace Stewart**, Rosstown Park.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Kay Gillespie**, Hollymount Park; **George Cooke**, Crannog Park; **Ann Frazer**, Harbour View.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: Teresa McAtamney, Edward & Margaret Houston, George McCarron, Charlie Hillen, Nellie Ward, Paul Crossan, Molly Moran, James McConnell, Joan & Norman Walker, Patsy McGrath, Rose Henry.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,790 Strathfoyle: £658
Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Could you 'Host for Hospice' October is officially Foyle Hospice 'Coffee Morning Month'. We are calling on supporters to help us raise vital funds by hosting a Coffee Morning. To request your FREE host pack or for more info, please call Ailbhe McDaid, Community Fundraiser on 028 71359888 or email: ailbhe@foylehospice.com

Vocations – For those hoping to serve the diocese as priests, that they will do what the word of God tells them St James, 2nd reading, and that they will honour the Lord and serve His people with hearts that are pure.

Vocations Day for those interested in the diocesan priesthood, **Sunday 8th September**, beginning with Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Buncrana at 12.30pm, ending with a Holy Hour for Vocations, from 5-6pm. Anyone hoping to attend should contact diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan on 028 79386259.

St Columb's Church Choir -The choir resumes today **Sunday, 1st September**. We are looking for new members. Anyone interested please get in contact with Markus or any of the choir members or just come along.

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on **Tuesday, 3rd September** at Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, Derry. Starting with the holy Rosary at 18.45pm, Mass at 19.15pm and Novena to St Pio directly afterwards. The priest will bless each person with the first-class relic of St Pio. All welcome.

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.

Weekend Retreat for Mission Supporters and Friends of SMA – Friday, 27th September(4.30pm) – **Sunday, 29th September**(2.00pm). The SMA community welcomes our Supporters and friends to this Weekend Retreat and Reflection, which will be an opportunity to take time aside in the tranquil and relaxed setting of Dromantine.

All will join in celebrating Mass each day at the Novena in honour of St Therese. The Sacrament of Reconciliation of the Sick will be celebrated during the weekend.

125 Years Pioneer Total Abstinence Association Mass – This year we are celebrating 125 years of the foundation of Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart. Ulster Provincial Pioneer Council will hold their Mass on **Sunday, 8th September 2024** at 12noon in St Micheal's Church, Darling Street, Enniskillen. All pioneers, Friends & Families are very welcome.

Blessing of Motorcycles: All are very welcome to the blessing of motorcycles on **Sunday, 15th September** in St Aengus' Church, Burt, Co. Donegal. 1.30pm and then bike ride to RNLI Station, Ned's Point, Buncrana for refreshments. Donations on the day in aid of RNLI. Fr Gerry Sweeney will be celebrating Mass in St Patrick's Chapel, Dungiven at 11.30 am that Sunday morning all bikers are welcome to come along to the Mass and then head to Burt after the brief blessing service.

"Season of Creation" – From the **1st September - October 4th** the Church asks us to reflect on and celebrate the Season of Creation. This is an annual opportunity to pause and reflect on how we care for the gift of creation. It is a church occasion that speaks to people of all ages, and one that we should cherish for the benefit of future generations.

The Psalmist reminds us "The Earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness." (Ps 24) We are custodians of our fragile environment on behalf of our children and their children.

We pray in this season of creation, for a deep spirit of care for God's creation, that we may safeguard and use its resources for the wellbeing of all peoples.

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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