



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 4th August 2024
Eighteen Sunday in Ordinary Time

'I am the Bread of Life'

Shortly before his death when Jesus sat down with his disciples at the Last Supper he asked one very specific thing of them: **'Do this in memory of me.'** (Lk 22:19) that is, do Eucharist. We do many things to honour our dead as ways to keep their memory alive. We have places and buildings; we have streets and monuments named after people.

Yet, despite our best efforts even the most famous become in time fading memories. As we focus on our various responsibilities, we tend to let go of what is behind us and engage with the current demands for our attention. Jesus wanted to be a living presence, not a fading memory, so he gave us the Eucharist. There his presence continues to be active; he speaks to us in his word, continues his healing presence, lives in us and gives us energy and enthusiasm so that we might live worthy of the gift we have received.

At the Eucharist Jesus asks us to remember his living presence and celebrate it. At the Eucharist we celebrate Jesus' presence and in doing so together we heighten our awareness of that presence and pray that his gift of salvation may be ever effective in transforming our lives.

To live Eucharist is to live love to the end. On the night that Jesus was betrayed he gave thanks. His response to betrayal, injustice and violence was the Eucharist. The Eucharist is love, love that renews, the love that is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. It is love that gives, is ready to make sacrifices. Love is forever: hatred and violence are temporary. The Eucharist reminds us that love always wins out in the end, it outlasts violence. In every struggle with evil love has the upper hand It blesses us with the staying power we need to live our 'second call' by loving to the end as Jesus did. I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry.' (Jn 6:35)

STRATHFOYLE – NO WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK - Monday 5th – 9th August.

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God – We welcome into the family of God: **Cohen Sean Kelly**, Strabane Old Road; **Rio Jack Duffy**, Templeton Park.

Death – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Charlie Hillen**, Celandine Court.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: William McGonagle, George Killen, Carmel McGarry, Bobby McCorkell, Patsy McNulty, Lily Brehaut, Elizabeth Lynch, Desmond Kerr, Pat Aquino, Laurence Deeney.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,292 Strathfoyle: £555

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

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 – That those the Lord is calling to serve the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry will be renewed in the ways of God – in goodness, holiness, and truth – and nourished every day in the Eucharist, in Jesus who is 'the bread of life.'

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](https://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.

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.

Safety on our Roads

In these parts the first weeks of August are a time of rest and holiday for many people. As many look forward to a rest and enjoying the coming weeks it is an opportunity to encourage all of us who use our roads to take extra care.

Last weekend there were five road deaths across Ireland. Up to this morning across the island of Ireland, there have been 113 road fatalities in the South, and 36 in the North. Each of us who drive a vehicle or use our roads has a responsibility to ensure we are not putting the lives of others or our own life at risk.

Slow down, never ever drink alcohol and drive, put away all distractions, wear necessary safety equipment and keep clear headed and alert when driving, walking and cycling on our roads. Everyone shares a responsibility to protect human life.

The loss of life on our roads is a tragedy for society and particularly devastating for the families and loved ones of the deceased.

A prayer for motorists

Holy Mother, hear our prayer,
Keep us in your loving care,
Whatever the perils of the way,
Let us not add to them this day.
So to our caution and attention,
We add a prayer for your protection,
To beg God's blessing on this car,
To travel safely near and far.

Amen.

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	No Mass

(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	06:00pm (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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