



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 11th August 2024
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Faith is a choice

No one can provide absolute proof to convince us that a loving God exists. Indeed, there are times when the suffering, death, evil, fear and terror that are part of our world seem to say that a loving God does not exist. If we limit ourselves to what we see with our eyes it may not inspire us to faith in a God who is gracious and kind.

Faith is a new way of seeing and hearing. Faith involves a decision, a choice that gives direction to how we live. It is trust in Jesus and his claim that He was sent by God the Father. Most of those who listened to the teaching of Jesus about the bread come down from heaven rejected his claims and walked away.

Faith is a choice, a decision to choose life and it is a lifelong decision. It is an ongoing choice as life's experiences calls for new ways of seeing and hearing. It involves a commitment to stay with him and learn from him always believing that Jesus was sent by the Father and that it is God the Father who draws us to him.

Bread gives us strength, energy, and life. In giving us the bread come down from heaven Jesus comes to live in us and give us the energy of self-giving in love. The strength, energy and life that are available to us through the Eucharist needs to be released again and again through prayer.

The Eucharist must make a difference in how we live. For those who receive the Eucharist the true colour of life is love. Love comes from God and draws us towards God. The main fruit of the Eucharist is love, the love of God that is poured into our hearts and inspires us to give of ourselves in love.

In giving us the bread come down from heaven Jesus comes to live in us and gives us the energy for self-giving in love.

Mass times for Thursday, 15th August - Feast of the Assumption

St Columb's Church:	Vigil (Wed) 7:30pm. 10:00am & 7:30pm.
Church of Immaculate Conception:	Vigil (Wed) 6:00pm. 9:15pm
St Oliver Plunkett Church:	Vigil (Wed) 6:00pm. 11:00am.
St Mary's Oratory:	11:00am

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God: **Oisín Patrick** and **Odhrán James Kealy**, Summer Meadows Park.

Death – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of: **Patrice Doherty**, Hollymount Park; **Thomas McLaughlin**, Woodland Close; **Steven Smith**, Drumcraig Road; **Bridie Gormley**, Knockwellan Park.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: *Rose McDonald, Marjorie Coyle, Michael Gallagher, Josephine McGrath, Don & Dolly Clarke, Sheila Kerrigan, Margaret Toland, Margaret Hopkins, Jim McColgan, Michael McLaughlin, Mickey Feeney, Josephine McGeedy, Martin McGeedy, Jim Elliott, James Ferry, Celine Friel, Sean McPhillips, Jimmy McPhillips, Mary McConnell, Jim McDaid, Annie Caldwell, Tommy McNaught, Elizabeth Duddy.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3617.00 Strathfoyle: £565.00
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.

St Columb's Church Choir -The choir will resume on **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.

Vocations – In this weekend's gospel Jesus says, "No one can come to me unless they are drawn by the Father who sent me." We pray for those drawn by the Father to know, love, and serve Jesus as priests of the diocese of Derry.

Vocations Day for those interested in the diocesan priesthood, **Sunday 8th September**, beginning with Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Bunrana 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.

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.

The Assumption of Mary

(Reflection by Sr Carol Marie Wildt, St Louis)

"I picture the Assumption of Mary as her homecoming! Having completed the mission of her earthly life and longing to be with Jesus and Joseph, Mary is now reunited with her son and her husband.

I also find myself wondering how Mary's Assumption affected John and the other disciples. Mary was no longer physically present with them, they could not see or hear her, they could not confide in her and seek counsel from her. What a challenge to their faith in Jesus and His promises. With Mary's body literally gone and no burial site to visit, there was no physical reminder of Mary, only memories and at times, an unexplainable presence.

In our own day, many of us have met or known persons who have experienced the loss of a loved one because of war, accident, violence, unknown circumstances, etc. and the body is never located. The feast of Mary's Assumption gives hope and consolation to them as they grieve and mourn the loss of their loved one, believing that the person is not lost or annihilated, but enjoys eternal life with their God who loves unconditionally.

The Assumption symbolises for me the fulfilment of Jesus' promise, 'I go to prepare a place for you.' (John 14:2). This scriptural quote speaks to me of transition, Mary's Assumption brings hope and a deepening realisation that present life, with its challenges, joys, struggles and dreams is not the definitive heaven we seek. As the funeral liturgy states: Life is changed, not taken away. If I, like Mary, continue to walk the path of my baptismal and vowed commitment wherever God leads me, I, too, will be raised up and reach the place that Jesus has prepared for me".

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	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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