



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT
& STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 18th August 2024
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'I Am the Bread of Life'

In the gospel according to John two words are repeated regularly to leave a lasting imprint on our awareness of Jesus: **"I AM"**.

Of course we use these words ourselves all the time: 'I am from Ireland', 'I'm tired', 'I am on the way to the shop'. But in the gospel according to John the words **'I am'** are used regularly in a solemn and beautiful manner: **I am the Bread of Life, I am the Good Shepherd, I am the Gate, I am the way and so on.**

Hidden behind these simple words is the mysterious name of God. Remember the call of Moses at the burning bush, when he was sent to bring his people out of slavery in Egypt. He asked the Lord for his name. He was told to say 'I AM has sent me...' Now Jesus says, 'I Am...I AM...' His awesome identity is being hinted at through the repetition of these mysterious words.

If Jesus really is, then everything he has been saying in the gospel accounts of recent Sundays makes sense: He is the bread which come down from Heaven. He invites us to come to him, to believe in him, to entrust ourselves to him, to listen to him, to learn from him.

Today he takes it even further: the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world. I AM has taken flesh. The life that comes from heaven, the life that took flesh among us, is given as bodily food and drink.

Sharing in this food is sharing in the life of God himself. The sharing in God's life implies everything else that Jesus has been speaking about: coming to him, believing in him, entrusting our lives to him, listening to him, learning from him. What we do at his table every Sunday is the culmination of all of this; It is also the fountain of life that makes it all possible.

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God: **Tia Danni Eileen Higgins**, Campion Court; **Felix Martin O'Doherty**, Glenmore Park; **Myla Grace Doherty**, Ballinaska Heights.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: *Ethna McGrath, James Devine, Cathy McCauley, Terry Doherty, John Minihan, Jim Quigley, Rhona Wilson, Dia Parkhouse, James Mullen, Bernard Doherty, Dorothy Keogh, Frances Brown, Elizabeth Kelly.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,470 Strathfoyle: £500
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 – That those called to serve the diocese of Derry as priests in the 21st century will find the strength and encouragement they need in Jesus, the Bread of Life, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist, and that they will be filled with wisdom, joy, and faith.

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.

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.

Praying for the Holy Souls: Our Lady of Montligeon Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 10.00am in the Kildare Room, adjacent to St Brigid's Parochial House, Carnhill, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The Group also meets monthly in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca for the Intercession of priests: 7.30pm on Mondays - 9thSeptember, 14thOctober, 11th November, 9th December 2024.

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. Whether it's at home, work or in your local community, get your friends together and get the kettle on, it's a piece of cake!! To request your FREE host pack or for more information, call Ailbhe McDaid, Community Fundraiser on 028 7135 9888 or email: ailbhe@foylehospice.com

Saints of the Week:

The Queenship of Mary. During the Middle Ages, Mary was venerated as queen of the angels and saints. Pope Pius XII prescribed the memorial for the universal Church at the close of the Marian Year 1955. It is placed on this day to stress the connection of Mary's queenship with the Assumption.

St Pius X, 1835-1914, Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, then Pope from 1903. Encouraged pastoral liturgy and sacramental practice, especially of frequent communion, to which he admitted young children.

St Bernard, 1090-1153, became a Cistercian monk of Citeaux in 1113 and was chosen Abbot of Clairvaux in 1115. His writings reveal a solid group of biblical studies, spiritual theology and philosophy, Patron of Gibraltar and beekeepers.

Reflection: *Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I together can't handle. 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	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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