



PARISHES OF GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 29th September 2024
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Inclusion rather than division

The Gospel highlights an ongoing tension in the early Christian community regarding the boundaries of who could act in Jesus' name. The disciples were protective of their status as followers of Jesus, but Jesus breaks down these boundaries, pointing to the broader work of God's Spirit in the world.

The disciples' concern about the outsider performing works in Jesus' name reflects a human tendency to control and protect what we see as "ours." Yet Jesus challenges this possessiveness, affirming that those who do good in His name should be welcomed, even if they are not part of our immediate circle. This message calls for an openness to recognising God's work in people and places we might not expect.

In contrast, Jesus' stern warnings about causing others to stumble remind us of our moral responsibility, especially towards those who are vulnerable or new to faith. Leading others astray, or failing to deal seriously with sin, is something Jesus condemns in the strongest terms. This serves as a reminder that we must be attentive to how our actions, words, and attitudes impact others, particularly those who look to us for guidance.

The call of this weekend's Gospel passage is towards inclusion rather than division. While we may hold differing views, we must never forget the dignity of each person and the common good for which we seek. Being different cannot be sufficient reason for demonising others.

Annual Charity Big Cycle

Having watched the weather forecast very closely I was able to do my big cycle on **Wednesday last (25th)**. Thankfully I got around in sunshine and no wind. Equally I am grateful that I had no punctures or mishaps. 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, to any of the Church Sacristies or to the Parish Office at 32 Chapel Road.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Aidan Mulholland**, Knockdara Park; **Deborah McBride**, Hollymount Park; **Liam McCafferty**, Osprey Drive.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: *Mervyn Conway, Michael Rankin, Tommy Doherty, Noren Ferguson, Ann O'Brien, Annie Quigley, Pat O'Hagan, Jack McDowell, John & Annie Doherty, Mickey Feeney, Teresa Feeney, Agnes Jordan, Anne Doherty, John O'Neill, Eddie Fitzpatrick, Teresa Mullan, Robert McMenamin, Annie Doherty, Dolores McKinney, Ann Ferguson, William McDaid, Elsie McDaid, Sean McGill.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,532.00 Strathfoyle: £520.00
Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Vocations – As the Liturgy of the Word for this Sunday's Mass challenges us all to be "prophets" and to work for the Lord, no matter what we do, we pray for those called to serve the Lord and the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry – our five current seminarians, those who hope to begin seminary studies in January, and all those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

Holy Hour for Vocations – There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road on **Wednesday, 16th October** from 8.00pm – 9.00pm All welcome.

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.

ACCORD Derry – Marriage Preparation Course will be held on the following dates **October 18th & 19th 2024**. These courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com. Please note that these courses are in person.

"Season of Creation" – As we approach the feast of St Francis of Assisi (4th October) the church asks us to reflect on the Season of Creation. This is an annual opportunity to pause and reflect on how we care for the gift of creation. We pray for a deep spirit of care for God's creation, that we may safeguard its resources for the wellbeing of all peoples.

Diocesan Safeguarding Mass - To recognise the work that has been accomplished to date and to ask God's blessing on our work in Safeguarding within the Diocese, I would like to invite you to attend the Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving and Reflection for those in the Safeguarding Ministry in the Diocese. The 2024 Safeguarding Diocesan Mass will be celebrated on: **Friday 11th October at 7.30 pm, in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry.**

Visit of the Relics of St Bernadette to the Diocese of Derry: The Holy Relics of St Bernadette are currently on pilgrimage from Lourdes to Ireland for the very first time, visiting every diocese in Ireland during September and October. The relics will visit St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry from 2.00pm on **Sunday, 13th October – Monday, 14th October.** This very special, once-in-a-lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisma of Lourdes in their own diocese. Full programme of times of viewing can be found at derrydiocese.org

Catholic Mothers of Ireland Retreat Day: Join us for a day of Spiritual Restoration, Inspiring Talks, Holy Mass, Prayer and Confession on Lough Derg Island, Pettigo, Co. Donegal on **Saturday, 4th October 2024.** This all-day Retreat will run from 10am – 5pm. Email catholicmothers@outlook.ie for more information or to book your place.

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.

Ulster Projects Derry – Applications are now open for Ulster Project 2025. Teens who are eligible must be 15-year-old on or before 1st July 2025. For details of other stipulations and an application form please email ulsterprojectderrylondonderry@outlook.com. Closing date **20th October 2024.**

Thought for the Day – A person's way of being is the most authentic expression of their belief or unbelief. A person's way of life speaks more about their faith than what they think or say about God. How one fulfils the task of being human speaks volumes about the kind of person one is and the kind of faith that inspires and informs one's life.

Mass Schedule

Sunday

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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 – Friday 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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Web: www.watersideparish.net

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

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Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC 028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS - If you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children or a vulnerable adult **contact: Designated Diocesan person Ms Marie Gormley at +44 7596500793 or marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org or PSNI 101 or emergency 999**