



## Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
First Sunday of Advent

### *A Journey to meet Christ*

In the modern world which we in these parts find ourselves living, Christmas is for many people a winter festival with a nod to a *past event*. It gets people shopping and indulging.

In the Christian culture, Christmas celebrates what God is *still doing*, how God is still present with us now and into the future. So, while we still get ready for Christmas, we put up our Christmas tree, we exchange cards and presents, we too shop and modestly indulge: nonetheless the spirit in which we do these things is one of confidence, enjoying the life God has given us so far as we can, and trusting in God and valuing what we have even when it falls short and troubles abound.

For Christians, Christmas is worth getting ready for because it affirms the value of life, even in the face of life's trouble. Christmas is not a time to lose the run of ourselves. It is a time to sensibly savour and foster our friendships and family connections.

Advent also speaks to the deep human longing for meaning and security. In a society where truth is often subjective or denied, Jesus' declaration that He is the ultimate source of truth helps us stand our ground.

His call to "stand erect" and "hold your heads high" is an invitation to live courageously and authentically, bearing witness to the enduring hope we have in Him. *"The Advent season invites us to pause and remember that life is both a preparation and a journey to meet Christ."* – Pope Benedict XVI

***Advent*** - The Advent spirit of waiting and longing for the Lord reminds us of the daily call to holiness. We are to be found blameless when He comes, living lives of honesty and integrity. We are to avoid the temptation to escapism from the true meaning of life. The temptations come in many guises.

***Baptisms*** – We welcome into the family of God **Niall Paul Keenan**, Birch Hill; **Odhran Daniel McConnellogue**, Gelvin Grange.

**Deaths** – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **John McBride**, Strabane Old Road.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers: *Marjorie Clift, Margaret Curran, Marie Devine, Margaret, May & Lal Nash, Peter Murphy, Willie Ayling, Mary Parke, Margaret Horner, Aidan McLaughlin, Gerald Toland, Mary Brady, Sarah Deeney, Annie Bryson, Raymond Coyle, Marjorie Coyle, Christopher James, Christina McLaughlin, Goretti McMenamin, Tommy & Maureen Morrison, Rosemary Doherty, Mary Gibbons, Seamus Cox, Sadie Conaghan, Reggie McClay.*

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,907.00 Strathfoyle: £505.00**

**Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.**

**Vocations** – For those considering a vocation to serve the Church as priests of the Derry diocese we pray in the words of St Paul in our second reading, that they” ...will make more and more progress in the kind of life (they) are meant to live, life that God wants...”

**Lectio Divina** – Our weekly meditation on the Sunday readings will take place next **Thursday at 8.00pm** in the side chapel of St Columb’s Church, Chapel Road. Come and join in the ancient practice of the Church of praying God’s word.

**Hillcrest Trust Christmas Appeal** – This year Hill Crest Trust will be running our annual Christmas Appeal to support individuals and families within our community who are in need. If you can help us this year, please leave your donations of non- perishable food items/ new toys/ toiletries at the rear of the chapel or An Croi Community Hub, 10 Trench Road by **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Relics of Venerable Matt Talbot** – On **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at 7.30pm at the monthly Matt Talbot Prayer Society Mass in St Eugene’s Cathedral there will be relics of Venerable Matt Talbot present.

**Altnagelvin Hospital Choir - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7pm in St Mary’s Church, Ardmore. All welcome**

**St Oliver Plunkett Primary School** will be hosting their Open Evening on **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December** from 5.45pm – 7.00pm. Prospective families are

warmly invited to come along and find out about the exceptional provision the school can offer to your child.

**Termonbacca Carmelite Retreat Centre** – On **Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December** from 1.00am – 5.00pm Fr Andrew Marshall will lead a day of retreat with St Michael in Termonbacca. A special blessing with St Michael's sword and relic will also be given on the day. The day costs £20 which includes light lunch, to book a place call 02971262512 or email [termonbaccaderry@gmail.com](mailto:termonbaccaderry@gmail.com)

**Christmas Carols by Candlelight** followed by Live Crib at 5.00pm in St Patrick's Church, Crossroads, Killygordon, on **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December**. Hot Chocolate will be served! Everyone welcome.

**Children in Crossfire** - This weekend Children in Crossfire is launching their 2024 Advent Appeal, which focuses on children growing up in deep poverty in inner-city Dar es Salaam. Packs will be available over the next few weekends at the chapel doors. The support you give will help provide access to education, nutrition, and vital healthcare, for highly vulnerable children in Tanzania.

**Padre Pio Prayer Group**, Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty will take place on **Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December** starting with rosary at 6.45pm.

**Digital Advent Calendar 2024** with the theme of 'Hope' is available daily throughout Advent on the Irish Bishops' Conference website, [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie). Appropriately, the theme of 'Hope' is based on the upcoming Jubilee Year 2025, announced by Pope Francis, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Each day of Advent, open a digital door of the calendar to uncover the short, inspiring reflections, prayers, and messages of hope aimed at guiding us through this sacred season. The Advent journey begins today, **Sunday 1 December**, so open the door of hope!

**Mary's Meals – Double the Love** - Amongst the many challenges we see in today's world, your little acts of love can bring hope to desperately hungry children with a daily school meal with Mary's Meals. At this time, all donations made to Mary's Meals are being doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £900,000. Please keep us in your prayers during this Advent season that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. There are many ways to give, including our gift cards and online Christmas Trees of Hope. Find out more at [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk) or freephone 0800 698 1212.

## **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

(11:00am 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 – 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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**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](mailto:marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org) or PSNI 101 or emergency 999