



PARISHES of GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 3rd November 2024
Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

*'It's our actions that counts in
God's eyes'*

In our gospel this weekend we find Jesus being questioned by a scribe, though testing Jesus, he also reflects his sincere desire to understand God's expectations. Jesus' response shifts the focus from external practices to a relational faith.

In this dialogue with the scribe, Jesus summarises the entirety of the Law in two interconnected commandments: love of God and love of neighbour. He makes it clear that faithfulness to God is shown not merely through rituals but through sincere love. By uniting these two commandments, Jesus demonstrates that love for God is inseparable from love for others; one cannot fully love God without also loving those created in His image. Loving God and neighbour are two sides of the same coin. You cannot have one without the other.

Just how well the early Christian community understood and lived this double commandment of love is illustrated by the testimony of a second century philosopher, Aristides. Writing to the Emperor Hadrian in defence of the Christians he stated that: *'Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If one member of the community has something, he gives freely to those who have nothing. They don't consider themselves brothers and sisters in the usual sense, but brothers and sisters in the Spirit of God'.* There is something divine in them.'

Good faith and good religion show themselves in acts of kindness, understanding, and unity. It's our actions - what we do - that counts in God's eyes.

Mass for deceased parishioners - The evening Mass in all **3 churches** on **Saturday 16th November** will be offered for those who were buried from our churches in the past year. The names of the deceased will be read out and a candle to take home will be available.

Adult Safeguarding Training

We have invited Mrs Briega O'Neill, Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Derry to facilitate Adult Safeguarding Training.

Adult Safeguarding Training is relevant to clergy, sacristans, church secretaries, adult prayer groups, senior choir leaders, Legion of Mary volunteers, members of St Vincent de Paul and Eucharistic Ministers to those people confined to their homes/nursing homes and all those in the parish who are interested in Safeguarding Adults. Training will take place on **Monday 11th November**- 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm in Waterside Parish Hall.

Adult Safeguarding Training needs to be updated every three years. It is essential to book your place on this training course as the maximum number is twenty-five. If you are interested in attending this training, please contact the parish office on (02871342303) or leave your name in the sacristy by (Friday 8th November).

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God: **Daniel Ciaran McGrotty-Fleming**, Celandine Court; **Oisin Paraig Paul Maguire**, Barnewall Place.

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Jean McGlinchey**, Kilburn Crescent.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: **Paddy Joe McPeake, Patrick Crossan, Greta Murray, Liam Costello, Kathleen McLaughlin, Jack McLaughlin, Evelyn Friel, Anne Friel, Kathleen Miller, Margaret O'Donnell, Richard & Ann Freaney, Daniel Doherty, Jim Diamond, Olive Parkhouse, Breege Bryson, Seamus McPhillips.**

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3511.00 Strathfoyle: £495.00
Foreign Mission Collection: Glendermott: £3750 Strathfoyle: £360.
Retired Priests Collection will be taken up on weekend 10th November as a second collection.

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Daughters of Charity wishes to thank all those who donated to the appeal which amounted to **£13,550.00.**

St Columb's Liturgy Team as a preparation for Advent wishes to invite all readers and Eucharistic Ministers, past and present, to a morning of prayer and reflection in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, 30th November**. The morning will commence after 10.00am Mass with refreshments and conclude around 12.30pm. The theme this year is "Come Follow Me". We are delighted to have Fr Paddy Doherty, PP Maghera and Mary Murphy former head of English at Thornhill College as guest speakers.

Deceased Children & Young People's Mass: The Annual Mass for deceased children and young people will take place in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry next **Sunday, 10th November** at 7.00pm. There will be an opportunity to write down the name of your deceased loved one before Mass. All are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend this Mass in person but would like to have a child or young person remembered at it, please email the name to lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org by **Friday, 8th November**.

Vocations – That those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry will reflect, in their words and actions, the holiness, innocence, purity, and sinlessness of Jesus Christ, the High Priest.

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 and join in the ancient practice of the Church of praying God's word.

Christmas Craft Fair – will be held in Strathfoyle Youth Centre, Deramore Drive on **Wednesday 6th November** from 7pm -9 pm.

November prayer for the Dead - Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love: deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest. The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping, no pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. **Amen.**

Winter Road Safety

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	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

Parish Office: 32 Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry BT47 2BB Phone: (028) 71
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YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

Rev. Michael Canny PP	028-7134 2303	secretary@watersideparish.net
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