



PARISHES of GLENDELMOTT & STRATHFOYLE

Sunday, 10th November 2024
Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The person who gives with bad grace gives nothing.”

— *Italian proverb.*

Widows in first-century Israel were among the most vulnerable in society, often lacking financial support and social standing. Their dependence on charity and community made them particularly susceptible to exploitation. By condemning the hypocrisy of religious leaders who took advantage of the weak while seeking honour, Jesus highlights the radical difference between authentic faith and empty piety. The widow's act of giving, despite her need, represents a bold statement of trust in God's provision.

Jesus criticises the scribes: they act for show; they want recognition. The widow, by contract, acts privately, her way is in keeping with God's way. She knows the truth of life: that we all depend on God (whether we admit it or not, whether we know it or not). She acts accordingly. Jesus makes her an example to us.

The widow's story encourages us to put God first, to do what we do for God, to help others for God, to let the small things we do find the worth that God gives them. When we are seeking attention for ourselves, we are pushing God out of the picture. When we measure our deeds by size, by the acclaim they get, we are neither acting for God nor for others: we are being self-centred. And we devalue others if we measure their work by the attention they get.

When parting with her two small coins the widow expresses, her complete confidence that God will provide. The widow's quality of generosity requires both a great detachment and great inner freedom. Such rare extravagance won't happen to us if our sense of well-being is measured by what we possess. Nor will it happen where there is greed.

Prayer - Lord God, grant us the heart of the widow who, in her poverty, gave all that she had. Teach us to trust You with a generous heart, offering ourselves freely and joyfully. Help us to give with love, not out of obligation or for recognition, but in humility and faith. May our lives be an offering pleasing to You, a witness of Your love to those around us. Amen.

Mass for deceased parishioners - The evening Mass in all three 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).

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Bronagh Doherty**, Deanfield; **Paul Doherty**, Hollymount Park; **Dermot McCrossan**, Knockwellan Park; **Gerry Lynch**, Caw Hill Park.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Patrick Murray, Margaret Doran, James Coyle, Sammy Donaghy, Jack Finlay, Brendan Gibbons, Margaret Kelly, Stella Thomas, Katie McFadden, Paddy Dillon, Rebecca Collins, Eleanor Slevin, Jim Harte, Marie Toal, Rosemary McGeady, Joseph Cooke, John McDermott, Joseph Elliott, Helen Boyle, Christopher Gibbons, Rose Lynch, Johnny McNulty.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4046.00 Strathfoyle: £510.00
Retired Priests Collection will be taken up this weekend as a second collection.

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

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 today **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

Vocations – That those who are called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry will have the generosity of the widow in today's gospel.

Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Derry will be held in St Columb's Church, Waterside on **Wednesday, 13th November** at 8.00pm. All are welcome to come and pray for this special intention.

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.

2024 Men's Adoration - St Joseph's Church, Galliagh on **Saturday, 23rd November** from 2.30pm – 5.30pm, Talk .6.00pm and Mass at 7.15. Confessions during Adoration.

Fireside Quiz sheets are still available after all Masses at the weekend. Price £1.

Termonbacca Carmelite Retreat Centre, Derry will hold a Sr Clare Crockett Advent Retreat from Friday 29th November- Sunday 1st December in preparation for Christmas. The weekend is open to both women and men. Cost £100 residential/ £70 non-residential. For further details and bookings, contact 71 262512 or email termonbaccaderry@gmail.com

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.**

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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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**