



Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

*Sunday, 15th December 2024
Third Sunday of Advent*

What must we do then?

John the Baptist is usually portrayed as a lonesome figure, with a weird wardrobe and equally weird diet. Despite this image John was a magnetic character who intrigued people to seek him out and also follow him. People did not seek out John for his diet or wardrobe. In seeking out John they could catch something of God's way.

For this reason, they ask him: "What must we do then?" John's answer is to challenge people's generosity and sense of fairness so that others have a reason to rejoice. Give bread to the hungry and clothes those who have none. When the tax collectors asked what to do, John tells them to keep to the going rate without over taxing people to cream off the extra for themselves. People were burdened enough. Be fair and just. To the soldiers John is clear, not to use their position as a weapon for their own reward. Be content with your pay and stop stealing from the poor and the weak. John is clear be happy in doing what is just.

John made such a deep impression on people that word goes around that he might be the Christ. John is clear he is not the Messiah. That role is for someone greater and more powerful.

John faced opposition that was determined to destroy him, yet he had a belief that encouraged him beyond imprisonment and execution.

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

St Oliver Plunkett Church 6.00pm

Immaculate Conception Church 6.00pm

Columb's Church 8.00pm

Altnagelvin Hospital 8.00pm

The usual Sunday Mass times on Christmas Day

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Kevin O'Donnell**, Windridge Drive and **Hugh McLaughlin**, Osprey Drive.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: Jim Monaghan, Winifred Murray, Sylvia Doherty, Anne Shiels, Harry Frances, Monica Kelly, Isaac Duddy, Catherine Rawlings, George Starrett, Jackie Dalton, Noel Elliott, Tilly Killean, Pat Boyle, Bridie McConnell, Cyril Callan, John Gillespie, Maura Callan.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3726.00 Strathfoyle: £585.00

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Vocations – With St Paul we pray for our diocesan seminarians and those discerning their vocation, that” ...the peace of God will guard (their) hearts and thoughts...”

Invitation to 33 Days of Family Prayer: Bishop McKeown will lead the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, as part of a diocesan programme for the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pilgrims of Hope. It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening at 7.00pm, starting on **Thursday 8th January 2025** and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, **Tuesday 11th February 2025**.

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.

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.

The Annual Pioneer Supporters Draw for Pioneers and Friends of the PTAA will take place from **January – June 2025**. The draw will take place on the third Wednesday of each month. 1st Prize: 1000euros, 2nd Prize: 400euros, 3rd Prize: 200euros, 4th Prize: 100euros. Subscription 40euros or £37. Contact: Robert Glackin 07759586666.

Christmas Carol Service – Pupils and Staff of St Cecilia’s College would like to invite you to our annual Christmas Carol **Service on Tuesday, 17th December** at 1.30pm in St Mary’s Church, Creggan.

Digital Advent Calendar 2024 with the theme of ‘*Hope*’ is available daily throughout Advent on the Irish Bishops’ Conference website, 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 Annual Derry City GOAL Mile Walk will take place on Thursday, December 26th leaving from Sainsbury’s car park at 12 noon. The GOAL Mile is an opportunity for local people to walk in solidarity and show support for those struggling to survive in countries ravaged by war, famine, disease and the effects of climate change. Irish humanitarian charity GOAL is currently working in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Niger, Uganda, Sudan, Colombia, Haiti and Honduras.

Thought for the Week – Joy is not passive. It is active. If suffering is “like Velcro”. Negative experiences are apparently 2.5 times more impactful as positive experiences. Perhaps the key, then, is to actively look at joyful experiences 2.5 times more than negative ones.

FAMILY BLESSING FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE

God of all creation, we praise you for this tree
Which brings beauty and memories
And the promise of life to our home.
May your blessing be upon
All who gather around this tree
All who keep the Christmas festival by its lights.
We wait for the coming of the Christ,
The days of everlasting justice and of peace.
You are our God, living and reigning,
For ever 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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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