



## Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

### *Christmas 2024*

Each year at this time we hear the ancient story of Christmas. We retell and reflect on the astonishing entry of God into our broken world. The invisible, unseen God became like one of us, though without sin.

It is difficult to reflect on the Christmas celebrations without reflecting on St Luke's gospel. Luke, like an artist, paints a beautiful picture of a virgin with child, Joseph her husband, shepherds in their fields surprised by jubilant angels, not to mention people coming with gifts to visit a child wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

As a story and a picture painted on a Christmas card it is beautiful, yet the reality of the first Christmas must have been a lot different. It's the story of a young couple who have a child without a roof over their heads. They find themselves in a stable with this special child whom angels sing about, and shepherds come to see.

Despite the fragility of the situation Luke invites us to enter a joyful and happy occasion. Just as people mentioned in the gospel were invited, likewise the invitation has been extended to all people. The Christmas story is an invitation to see God in the fragility of human nature.

Central to the Bethlehem story was that each of the people involved had a selfless concern for the other. There was no selfishness, or looking after oneself only, on that first Christmas day. Not only Jesus, but Mary and Joseph, too, accepted personal vulnerability and disadvantage for themselves so that others might be blessed.

**The Priests of the parish wish all our  
parishioners a Holy and Peaceful Christmas and  
a Blessed New Year**

**Births** – We welcome into the family of God **Rowan Robert Anthony Callan**, The Old Fort.

**Deaths** – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Anna Young**, Camellia Court.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers: *Tony Harrison, Eithne Rafferty, Terry Rafferty, Maureen Doherty, Noreen Warne, Patsy Hargan, Helen McDermott, Jim Smith, Elizabeth Muldoon, John Duddy, Leslie Moore, Kathleen Tracey, Lily Callan, Hilda Duddy, Cyril & Vera Henderson, Lily Stevenson, Hugh & Susan McMenamain, Patrick Jordan, Rose Moran, Margaret Curran, Paul Curran, Katie Ayling, Eddie Crossan, Edward Crossan, Billy Quigley, Hugh Quigley, William Quigley.*

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £ 4536.00                      Strathfoyle: £540.00**

**THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN UP AT ALL MASSES ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

**Vocations** – We pray for our seminarians and for those considering a vocation to serve as priests in this diocese that, like Mary and Elizabeth, they will be attentive to the power and movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025** and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Dares 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.

**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. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: 1000euros, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 400euros, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: 200euros, 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: 100euros. Subscription 40euros or £37. Contact: Robert Glackin 07759586666.

**The Annual Derry City GOAL Mile Walk** will take place on **Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** leaving from Sainsbury's car park at 12noon. 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.

### *The figure of Santa Claus*

The figure of "Santa Claus" or Father Christmas is also central to the Christmas story. The figure appears almost everywhere at this time of year, sometimes for commercial purposes other times as an expression of good will.

Santa Claus is a signpost to the true meaning of Christmas. Santa is always associated with the giving of presents - signs of love that point us to a greater love - the love that God has for each one of us.

This love of God when replicated in human beings is a source of hope and a real reason to be happy, upbeat and joyful even in a year that has seen much doom, gloom and bad news. During much economic negativity Christmas is the reminder of all that is good in our world - a source of inspiration and encouragement for all at this time.

In the secular world Christmas ends late on the evening of Christmas Eve but for the believing follower of Christ the Christmas story lives on into the New Year and presents all of us with an opportunity to profoundly change our lives.

### **MASS TIMES FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS OVERLEAF**

**CONFESSIONS – Confessions will be available in St Columb's Church today (Sunday) from 5:00pm until just before the 06:00pm Mass.**

**Church of Immaculate Conception** after the morning Masses on Monday and Christmas eve.

**St Oliver Plunkett Church** on Monday after the 11:00am Mass.

**St Columb's Church** after 10:00am Mass on Monday and Christmas Eve and from 3:00pm – 4:00pm on Christmas Eve.

*Mass Schedule - 23<sup>rd</sup> December - 5<sup>th</sup> January*  
**2025**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** St Columb's Church 10:00am, 7:30pm  
Immaculate Conception 09:15am  
St Oliver Plunkett 11:00am

**Tuesday - Christmas Eve**

**St Columb's Church 10:00am, 08:00pm**  
**Immaculate Conception 09:15am, 06:00pm**  
**St Oliver Plunkett 06:00pm**

**Wednesday – Christmas Day**

**St Columb's Church 10:00am, 12:30pm**  
**Immaculate Conception 10:15am, 12:15pm**  
**St Oliver Plunkett 11:15am**  
**St Mary's Oratory 09:15am**

**Thursday- St Stephen's Day and Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

St Columb's Church 10:00am and 07:30pm

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**

St Columb's Church 10:00am

**Saturday evening and Sunday the usual Weekend schedule**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>**

St Columb's Church 10:00am and 07:30pm

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve**

St Columb's Church 10:00am and 4:30pm  
**(Eucharistic Adoration from after the 4.30 Mass until Midnight**  
**Rosary and benediction at Midnight)**

**Wednesday – New Year's Day – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

St Columb's Church 10:00am and 7:30pm

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>**

St Columb's Church

10:00am

## **Saturday Evening 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Usual Weekend schedule**

### **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 342303 emails: [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Web: [www.watersideparish.net](http://www.watersideparish.net)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/WatersideParish](http://www.youtube.com/WatersideParish)

Rev. Michael Canny PP 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto: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](mailto:marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org) or PSNI 101 or emergency 999**