



Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday, 2nd February 2025

The Presentation of the Lord

The gospel this weekend recounts the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, fulfilling Jewish law and revealing His identity as the Light that enlightens all people. Simeon and Anna, both advanced in years, guided by the Holy Spirit, recognise Jesus as the long-awaited Saviour. Simeon proclaims Jesus as the light for all nations and foretells His role in the salvation of humanity. He also predicts the suffering Mary will endure as her Son's mission unfolds.

Even though the Christmas Crib is long put away, today's feast invites us back to the spiritual significance of Christmas. It invites us to keep hold of Christmas faith, Christmas hope, and Christmas love beyond the season itself. The Feast invites us to recognise Jesus as the one who brings light to our lives, a light that can illuminate the darkness that often surrounds human experience, helping us to cope when the 'sword will pierce your own heart too'.

As disciples of Jesus, we have much to learn from Simeon and Anna. Like them we are called to spread the good news that Jesus is the Light of the World. By our words and especially by our actions, we can bring the light of faith to those living in darkness, the light of hope to those without hope, and the light of love to those without love.

I conclude with the following prayer composed by St John Henry Newman:

***Lord Jesus, Help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with Your Spirit and life.***

***Penetrate and possess our whole being, so utterly, that our lives may
only be a radiance of Yours.***

***Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact
with***

may feel your presence in our soul.

Let them look up and see no longer us, but only You, Jesus.

***Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine,
so to shine as to be a light to others.***

Amen.

The Presentation of the Lord – The feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary, mother of the Lord. With candles in their hands, the people go out to meet the Lord and to acclaim him like Simeon, who recognised Christ as ‘a light to reveal God to the nations’.

Sunday, 2nd February – Candles will be blessed at all Masses this weekend.

Monday, 3rd February – Feast of St Blaise, Blessing of throats after all Masses on Monday.

Baptism – We welcome into the family of God ***Elsie Hawthorne***, The Beeches, Ardmore.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of ***Colm McLaughlin***, Meadowbank Care Home and ***William (Liam) Kelly***, Stoneypath.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Richard Moore, Pat McCallion, Vera McLaughlin, John Moore, Mary Kane Doherty, Nigel & Margaret McConnell, Danny McNally, Nuala McElhom, Kathleen McLaughlin, Kate & James Bradley, Danny Gillespie, Nellie & Paddy Kelly, John McDaid, Jim Casey, Kathleen & John Doherty, Michael Casey, Paddy & Eileen Furey, Fr Frank Furey, Brian Furey, Owen McDaid, Mary Ellen McDaid, Gerry McDaid, Felix Killen, Mary McCrystal, Jim McCrystal, Eamon Flanagan, Annie Dillon, Paddy Dillon, Jim Doherty, Dessie McGinley, Alec & William Nash, John Deighan, John Curran.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,930.00 Strathfoyle: £635.00

Stipend Collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Lectio Divina: Our weekly meditation on the Sacred Scriptures will begin at 8.00pm on ***Thursday, 6th February*** in the side chapel of St Columb’s Church, Chapel Road. Come and join in this ancient practice of praying the word of God which for centuries has led God’s people in a deeper appreciation of the beauty of God’s word. This week we will meditate on the Gospel for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: Luke 5:11. All welcome.

Vocations – For an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood – that those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry will, like Jesus, be “Compassionate and trustworthy” ministers of God’s love.

Rosary at Lisfannon Beach (today) **Sunday, 2nd February** at 3.00pm. All welcome.

The Lourdes Hospitalité Collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, is due to take place as a door collection on the way out at weekend Masses on the **8th/9th of February**.

As in previous years, we appeal to your generosity for this worthwhile cause as we take the pilgrimage forward facing many new challenges.

Derry Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July.

Fare £849(+£144 Single Supplement) We are delighted to announce that The Lourdes Pilgrimage Office will be opening on **Saturday 1st February** from 11am to 1pm in The Pastoral Centre 164 Bishop Street Derry BT48 6UJ. Phone 02871260293. It will continue to be open each week on Thursdays and Saturdays 11am to 1pm. Application Forms may be collected at these times and are also available by emailing derrypilgrim@outlook.com. We also have a youth pilgrimage coming with us and any young person 16 -18 years in any Parish may contact us by phone or email for more information.

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima – We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 4 nights from **14th – 18th July 2025**. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost £700 and there will be a budget plan to help with this Names and deposits of £100 are requested as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information, please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

St John of the Cross Series -_On **Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th February**, Termonbacca will hold three evening talks exploring the teaching of St John of the Cross. These talks will be delivered by Fr Matt Blake O.C.D. Fr Matt is a Discalced Carmelite priest, and a renowned speaker and authority on Carmelite spirituality. Each talk will begin at 7:30pm and the following topics will be discussed: Wednesday 5th- The Spiritual Life. Thursday 6th- Prayer, Friday 7th- Discernment. These talks are open to anyone who wishes to grow in their own spiritual life and learn more from the Saints. All welcome.

Calling all Knitters - Age NI is delighted to announce that the Big Knit is back for 2025! So, grab your needles and your brightest yarn and get knitting for Age NI. For every hat knitted, Age NI receives 30p, and that money helps the Charity support older people who have no-one else to turn to. To register and find out more, call Age NI on 028 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit www.ageni.org/thebigknit

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	9.15am

Monday – Friday

St Columb's Church	10.00am and 7.30pm
Immaculate Conception	9.15am
St Oliver Plunkett	11.00am

(11.00am mass in St Mary's Oratory every Wednesday)

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
342303 emails: secretary@watersideparish.net

Web: www.watersideparish.net

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