



Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

Sunday, 5th January 2025
Second Sunday of Christmas

“Trust in Him unreservedly”

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; but the real tragedy is when people are afraid of the light.” Plato

Jesus came among us as the light of the world. There are many reasons why people fear what the light may reveal if it is allowed to shine into the dark corners of their lives. The American writer Mark Twain relates how he spent big money tracing his family tree and then how he had to spend nearly twice as much trying to keep it a secret.

The light which the birth of Jesus brought is a truly wonderful light for those who welcome it into their lives. According to St John in the fourth gospel the light brings life, truth, joy and salvation. Where there is darkness Jesus brings light that makes it possible to see things in their proper perspective.

Despite that, most of his hearers preferred the darkness to the light. As was in the time of Jesus many still do. Jesus and the light that he brings is seen as a threat.

Set at the beginning of a new calendar year the gospel reflects on the implications of the Christmas event. The birth of Jesus is no passing occurrence it is a gift that lasts forever. The beginning of another year offers the opportunity to reflect on how the presence of Jesus can make us more fully alive.

Beginning another new year perhaps we could make the prayer of St Patrick our own; ***“I praise and proclaim you name in all places, not only when things go well but also in times of stress. Whether I receive good or ill, I return thanks to God, who taught me always to trust in him unreservedly,”***

The Priests of the Waterside Parish thank the many people who have given so generously of their time, talents and

resources over the past year. We pray a Blessed and Peaceful New Year on all our parishioners.

The Feast of the Epiphany – Monday 6th January 2025

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| St Columb's Church | 10:00am and 7:30pm |
| Immaculate Conception | 09:15am |
| St Oliver Plunkett | 11:00am |
| St Mary's Oratory | 11:00am |

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Cara Kathleen O'Connell**, Woodside Heights; **Ailish Aine Maire O'Neill**, Foxhill and **Hallie Mary Ryan**, Woodside Heights.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **John McFeeley**, Ashburn Avenue; **John Doherty**, Knockwellan Park; **Ann McIntyre**, Knockdara Park.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers: **Maureen McGinn**, **Mary Bradley**, **Chris Canavan**, **Eleanor McBride**, **Iris Storey**, **Gary Strawbridge**, **Marjorie Holmes**, **Eugene Canning**, **Roseanna Kelly**, **John Green**, **George Flynn**, **Frank Guckian**, **Brian Hegarty**, **Hugh Henry**, **Eddie Crossan**, **Joseph O'Hagan**, **Marjorie Holmes**, **Mary Devlin**, **Art Devlin**, **Elizabeth Bradley**, **Celine Faulkner**.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,490.00 Strathfoyle: £480.00

Sincere thanks for your generosity in the Christmas collection.

Thank you for your generosity to the church collections.

Vocations – At the start of the new year and Jubilee of Hope we ask God's blessing on our seminarians and those discerning their vocation, remembering especially Gary Duddy, Gerry Friel and Gary White as they begin their propaedeutic studies in Salamanca. With St Paul in our second reading this weekend, we pray: "May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised that the saints will inherit".

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. It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening beginning **8th January** at 7.00pm, concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, **Tuesday 11th February**.

Safe Place Training – Wednesday, 15th January 2025. St Eugene’s Cathedral Hall - 1.00pm – 2.30pm. Domestic abuse, in its many forms, it is a blight on our society and a terrible experience in the place where any person should feel safest. It can be challenging to provide practical assistance to those whom we encounter. Training is now available in a simple but effective initiative, to enable us to provide practical assistance to those who experience domestic abuse.

This training initiative allows a parish to provide a ‘Safe Place’, where anyone affected by domestic abuse can confidentially access information.

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.

St Mary’s College, Northland Road, Derry: Open Day is on **Saturday, 11th January 2025**. The principal’s address is at 9.15am and 10.00am. Tours of the school will begin immediately after each address. Open day ends at 12.30pm.

The Epiphany

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And would do it again, but set down This Set Down.
This: were we led all that way for Birth or Death. There was a Birth
certainly.

We had evidence and no doubt, I had seen the birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our Death.

We returned to poor places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.

I should be glad of another Death

T.S. Eliot, from The Journey of the Magi

Mass Schedule

Sunday

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 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

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 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

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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