



## Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

*“Do whatever he tells you”.*

The gospel this weekend marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. At the request of His mother, Jesus performs His first sign, turning water into wine at a wedding feast. This miracle not only demonstrates His divine power but also signifies the abundance of God’s grace and the joy of His Kingdom.

The culture of today is a culture of total reliance on human power, human ingenuity, human effort, human knowledge, and even of human exploitation of others in the service of oneself. When disaster strikes, there is nowhere to turn.

The Christian sees the world in more than its own terms, in more than our terms and our efforts. The Christian sees the world at ultimately a place of God. The Christian sees a depth in the world that is choked off by turning away from religious practice and closed off by agnosticism or atheism.

Mary’s words: “Do whatever he tells you”. These words invite us to step aside from our culture of self-reliance and individualism and to practice trust in God’s guidance and providence.

As Jesus turned water into wine, today’s readings invite us to believe that God can transform dire situations from ‘lost’ to ‘found’. The wedding setting is not just about the couple: it is about us. God’s relationship to us is one with all the unshakeable depth and passion of the best of married love. The hiddenness of Christ’s action: For the guest at the wedding feast, things proceeded without a hitch. God’s action in life is often ‘hidden’ in plain sight. A culture that does not look for (or refuses to look for) God’s action neither expects nor sees it.

The quantity of wine: if anything is to be remembered it had to be the sheer and staggering abundance, reflecting the generosity of God’s love. To accept faith is also to discover a hope that today’s world does not give: we are much more beloved of God than we can imagine, regardless of anything, just as the ancient people of the Holy Land in exile were more beloved of God than they ever expected.

## *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>*

The service for Waterside Parish will be held on **Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January** beginning at 7.00pm in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, proceeding to the other churches on Clooney Terrace.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025**, St Eugene's Cathedral, Christ Church along with The Association of Iconographers Ireland, invite you to an exhibition of Icons in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road, Derry from **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January – Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025** from 1.30am – 8.30pm. to exhibition is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

**The Annual Week of Prayer** for Christian Unity takes place from **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January – Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. This year of 2025, in addition to being a Jubilee Year based on the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', is also the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council of the Church, the Council of Nicaea, held in 325. That Council gave us the Nicene Creed which we profess on most Sundays and other Solemnities. Fittingly, the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year is "**Do you believe this?**", based on the Gospel of John 11:17-27 and Martha's confession of faith to Jesus.

The resources for this year were compiled by the ecumenical community of Bose in northern Italy.

**Catholic Schools Week 2025** begins on **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January** and continues until **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January**. The theme for this year is '**Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ**'. During Catholic Schools Week families, parishes and schools are invited to participate in a week of celebration of Catholic schools, reflecting on their contribution to the common good of society.

To launch Catholic Schools Week in our diocese, the Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop McKeown in St Eugene's Cathedral on **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January** at 10.00am.

**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 at 7.00pm, concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Deaths** – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Danny Ayling**, Hollywood Avenue; **Susan Duffy**, Prehen Park and **Paddy McLaughlin**, Meadowbank Care Home.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers *Letty McGinn, Dr Jim Stone, Tony McMonagle, John Quinn, Sr Teresa Nicholas, Brenda Murray, Aaron McMenamin, David & Phil Quinn, Noel Martin, Patsy Frazer, John & Julia McCauley, George O'Brien, Michael Owens, John Whoriskey, Rosalind Henry, Robert Irwin, Peggy McClay, Madge O'Donnell, Neil Harkin, George Kelly, Paddy O'Donnell, Dolores O'Donnell.*

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4193.00    Strathfoyle: £560.00**

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

**Vocations** – As we pray for the grace to use our God given gifts as God would wish us to use them we pray in particular for those called to use them as priests in the service of the parishes and people of our diocese.

**Book Launch** – You are cordially invited to a Book Launch celebrating the life of Dr Tom McGinley, Founder of the Foyle Hospice. **Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025** at 7.15pm in St Columb's Hall, Orchard Street, Derry. Proceeds to Foyle Hospice.

**Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima** – We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 4 nights from 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org)

**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 40eutors or £37. Contact Robert Glackin 07759586666.

*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – The fulfilment of God's promise is compared to a wedding feast. The wine that flows in plenty speaks of the joy of the kingdom.*

## 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

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

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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](mailto:marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org) or PSNI 101 or emergency 999