



Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

Sunday, 2nd March 2025 – Temperance Sunday

The example of Matt Talbot

In Ireland as in so many other countries we have always had a very difficult relationship with alcohol. Excessive drinking is tolerated and accepted regardless of its damaging and often catastrophic effects. Added to the problem of alcohol misuse is the widespread and relatively cheap availability of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine

While funding and publicity are hugely important in the fight against addiction, a focus on the spiritual side of the person is also vital. Today, Temperance Sunday, is a day of prayer for those who struggle with addictions of all kinds.

We are fortunate here in Ireland to have Venerable Matt Talbot to draw on as an example of how prayer and abstinence can help overcome substance addiction.

In 2025, we celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Matt Talbot. Born in 1856 into a poor working-class family in Dublin, Matt as the second of twelve children. He left school early to go working for a wine merchant and then, later, to work on the Dublin docks. In both locations, Matt had access to alcoholic drink, and, by his early teens, he had become an alcoholic. For more than ten years, he was a severe addict.

At the age of twenty-eight Matt was at his lowest point and, in a state of destitution and despair, he decided to give up alcohol. The only way he could do it was to rely on prayer and abstinence. Once he embraced his faith in God, Matt never drank alcohol again. It was only when Matt died suddenly on the way to Mass on 7th June 1925, that those preparing his body for burial discovered the true extent of his penitential acts. There is little doubt that Matt overcame his addiction through the willpower, determination and courage that his spiritual practices brought to him.

The example of Matt Talbot along with annual moments such as Temperance Sunday, and the Lenten season that begins in a few days on Ash Wednesday, remind us that it is only from within - from the Spirit - that personal and communal restoration and renewal can be attained and maintained.

(This is based on an article for the Irish times by Bishop Michael Ruter to mark Temperance Sunday)

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3945.00 Strathfoyle: £535.00

Thank you for your generosity to the Stipend collections.

Lectio Divina: Our weekly meditation on the Sacred Scriptures will continue 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 **8th** Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: Luke 6:39 – 45. All welcome.

Vocations – With encouraging words for those contemplating a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, St Paul says in our second reading this weekend, “..keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.”

We pray in particular for those attending the Vocations Weekend in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, this coming weekend.

A Theology Course for Lent – An exploration into Theology – Reading the signs of the times: A theology course presented by Fr Brian Brady will take place on the Tuesdays of Lent, at 7.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall. St Eugene's Cathedral Hall is just a few yards outside the cathedral grounds. The first evening will take place on **Tuesday, 11th March**. All are welcome.

Holy Souls in Purgatory Prayer Group – There will be a meeting of the Holy Souls in Purgatory Prayer Group in Termonbacca on the following Wednesday from 12.30pm – 1.30pm – **26th March 30th April 28th, May and 25th June 2025**.

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal – Healing Night with guest speaker Br Benedict Delarmi, CFR on **Friday, 7th March 2025** in St Joseph's Church, Derry at 7.00pm. Refreshments provided.

Rosary on the Beach -Today **Sunday, 2nd March** at 3.00pm on Benone Beach. All welcome

'Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage' to Rome: Led by Thornhill Ministries. **16th October 2025** x 4 Nights £1095 stg pp sharing. Txt: 07736832458 with name and address for Forms and Details

Sing for Joy - We invite you to join us for 'Sing for Joy!' - A Day of Music and Ministry. **Saturday 26th April 2025** at Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co. Donegal. Boat departs at 9:30am. This day is open to young people aged 18-35 and is free to attend (supported by the Knights of St Columbanus). Tel. +447759496677.

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