



Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

Sunday, 16th February 2025
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The myths of happiness

Today's readings teach us that true happiness lies in the awareness that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father and that we will be happy only when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need and work to uplift them, thus declaring our 'option for the poor,' as Jesus did. Contrary to the popular belief, wealth, health, power and influence are not the source of true happiness. The word 'beatitude' means 'blessedness in a double sense: both enjoying God's favour and enjoying true and supreme happiness. The eight beatitudes Jesus gives in Mathew and the four in Luke contradict the ideas of real happiness found in the Jewish culture and in our modern society, according to which wealth, health, power and influence are the true beatitudes.

Dr Harold Treffert is the director of the Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Wisconsin. In an article entitled. 'The American Fairy Tale', he discusses five dangerous ideas we have about the meaning of happiness.

First, happiness is things. The more you accumulate and have, the happier you will be. Second, happiness is what you do. The more you produce and earn, the happier you will be. Third. Happiness is being the same as others. The more fashionable you are and conform with the times, the happier you will be. Fourth, happiness is mental health. The fewer problems you have and the more carefree you are, the happier you will be. Fifth, happiness is communicating with electronic gadgets. The more you can communicate with a television set, a satellite or a computer, the happier you will be.

According to Dr Treffert, those five myths about happiness are the cause of many mental health problems today. If happiness cannot be found through these five myths of 'The American Fairy Tale,' then where do we find them? Jesus gives us the answer when he outlines the beatitudes in today's reading from Luke.

Intercom January 2025

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Mya Ann Chapman-McDermott**, St Brecan's Park; **Tom Piaras Rankin**, Summerhill; **Aoife Isabella Casey**, Oak Country Manor

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Neil Donaghy**, Foyle Fold; **Karen Mullan**, Clonmeen Drive; **Valerie McCafferty**, Jeffery Avenue; **Gerard Gillespie**, Lisnamon Court; **Elma McMonagle**, Prehen Park, **David Tracey** late of Strabane Old Road, **Annette McGonigle**, Fountain Hill.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Thomas Grimes, Ernest Birtles, Gerry McLaughlin, Marjorie Clifford, Joe Kelly, Deedee Kelly, Martin Mellon, John Murray, Paddy Conway, Lily Nicholas, Caolan McCrossan, Joseph McClean, Jim McCormick, Anne Doherty, Patricia McNally, Catherine Callan, Patrick Lynch, Lil McLaughlin, Helen McDermott, Lizzie McGee,*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £5,573.00 Strathfoyle: £755.00.

Thank you for your generosity to the Stipend collections.

Trocaire Advent Collection amounted to **£10,590**. A big Thank You from Trocaire.

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 **7th** Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: Luke 6:27 - 38. All welcome.

Vocations- Today's gospel challenges all of us to 'comfort the afflicted, and to afflict the comfortable' (including ourselves!) We pray for those being called to do so as priests of the diocese of Derry.

Vocations Weekend for men aged 18+ in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, **7th – 9th March 2025**. Anyone interested should contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

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 February 26th March 30th April 28th, May and 25th June 2025**.

Rosary on the Beach – Today (**Sunday, 16th February**) 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

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

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 4th – 9th July 2025 - Deposit and Savings scheme available on Thursday at Holy Family Parish Office, Ballymagroarty from 10.30am – 12noon., contact Margaret 07732468511

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

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). Registration is essential via <https://bit.ly/SingforJoy>. For further information please contact info@knightsfstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk / +447759496677.

Give Blood and Save Lives – Book now for your local blood donation session! Venue: Guildhall Building, Derry. Date & Time: **Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th February** 12.30pm – 19.30pm. Northern Ireland needs 1200 blood donations per week.

Thought for the Day – All through this day, Lord, by the power of your Spirit, let me touch the lives of others for good, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I speak or the life I live. Amen

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. 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