



Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

Sunday, 23rd February 2025
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“Hate cannot be driven out by
hate; only love can do that” - Martin Luther
King*

Jesus’s call to love our enemies is one of the greatest challenges he puts to those who seek to serve him. The ‘enemy’ is someone who poses a threat to us. That can be a threat to our safety, our good name, our peace, to our freedom, to life itself. The danger may be very real or felt as real. The hurt already caused and the threat, real or imagined, can cause tension, stress, anger, a desire to seek justice done, even a desire for revenge. One or all of these things can make forgiveness very difficult.

The inability to forgive gives the ‘enemy’ power over us, power they have no right to have. To forgive is to claim our freedom. Forgiving of past hurts is a letting go of any desire for revenge. It often means letting go of and hope that we will see justice done or revenge. Forgiveness is often the price we must pay in order to reclaim our freedom.

This weekend Jesus is saying to his followers that down the centuries you have heard it said ‘But I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly’ and “Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate”.

The message of Jesus goes against everything we hear in our individualistic, material culture. Yet it is the message of Jesus as he calls us to be merciful just as our heavenly father is merciful.

He is inviting us to a new way – the way of God our Father

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Adaeze Ugwu** and **Somtoo-Chukwu Ugwu**, Centre Point House; **Faye O’Hara**, St Breacan’s Park; **Jordyn Kitty Ryan**, Birch Hill; **Oliver Jacob Crawford**, Butlers Wharf.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Sally McLaughlin**, Osprey Drive and **Bill Monaghan**, Coneyburrow.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers – *George Duffy, Kathleen Deeney, Grace Morrison, Peter Doherty, Maureen Campbell, Jack Logue, George Doherty, Vera Doherty, John McMenamin, William O'Donnell, John Duddy, Laurence McLaughlin.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3822.00 Strathfoyle: £585.00

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–In this weekends Gospel Jesus reminds us of the challenge to love without discrimination or counting the cost. We pray for those called to preach the Gospel of love 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 March 30th April 28th, May and 25th June 2025**.

Holy Hour for Vocations: There will be a Holy Hour for Intercession for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in the Diocese of Derry on **Wednesday, 26th February** in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road. All welcome to come and pray.

'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@knightsostcolumbanusomagh.co.uk / +447759496677.

A Prayer for Hope

Lord Jesus, I pray this day for strength, because there are times when things get tough, and I just want to quit.

Lord Jesus, I ask this day for a generous share in your love, because there are times when people forget me, and I am tempted to lose hope.

Lord Jesus, I seek this day for your light to guide my steps, because there are times when life gets cloudy and dark, and I lose my way.

Help me, O Lord to pick up the pieces, wipe my tears, face the sun, and start again, for all is possible when I place my faith and trust in You, my saving God. Amen.

Blessed Charles de Foucauld

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