



Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

Sunday, 9th March 2025
First Sunday of Lent

God's Dream

God's dream makes its home and lives in each one of us so that at every Easter, in every Eucharist we celebrate, we may be truly children of God.

Lent is a time for reflection on the lives we live, for letting our eyes be opened to the realities in our own lives and in the world. Many of these realities stand in opposition to God's dream. Lent is a time to reflect on the three great temptations that wear down and fracture God's plan for us.

The first temptation is wealth: possession of earthly goods and using them only for 'my own good'.

The second temptation is vanity: the pursuit of prestige based on the continuous exclusion of those who 'are not like me' or 'not in my group'.

The third, and worst temptation, is that of pride, feeling that one is better than others and yet being one who prays every day: 'I thank you Lord that you have not made me like these others.

These were the three temptations of Christ and the temptations which the Christian is faced with daily. Three temptations which seek to corrode, destroy and extinguish the joy of the Gospel.

We have opted for Jesus and not for the devil; we have opted for following Jesus' footsteps, even though we know that it is not easy. It is easy to be seduced by money, fame and power. For this reason, the church gives us the gift of this Lenten season, inviting us to reflect and refocus ourselves on living our lives closer to the way Jesus has called us to.

Shamrock Boxes - At Masses on the weekend before St Patrick's Day Shamrocks will be available at the entrance to the church and can be picked up on a 'donation' basis. This is a fundraising appeal by the Cuan Mhuire Addiction Treatment Centres. Sr Consillio founded Cuan Mhuire to help those suffering from addiction to alcohol, gambling, drugs etc.

Trocaire Boxes are available from the church porches

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – ***Elsie Rose Robinson***, Gortmellan Road; ***Isla Mary Doherty***, Ashthorpe; ***Autumn Donna-Eileen Thompson***, Glenrandle, Eglinton.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers – *Lisa Orsi, Jim Robb, Maeve Marshall, William Dooher, Mary Gormley, Kathleen Donaghy, Dermot Donaghy, Brian Foster, Bridget foster, Mary Russell, Pat McFaden, Mark Gibbons, Norah Gibbons, Susan Maguire, Edward & Mollie Donaghey, Shea Bradley, Johnny McChrystal, Isobel Donnan, Alice Melarkey, Gerard Hegarty, Laurence Conaghan, James Strain.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4197.00 Strathfoyle: £475.00

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.

Vocations – As we pray for the men attending the Vocations Retreat in Larne this weekend, we ask the Lord to bless all those who are discerning their vocation at this time. May God give them the grace to follow whatever path in life he wants them to take and, like Jesus in today's gospel, in times of temptation or trial, to draw courage and inspiration from the words of Scripture.

'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

St Paul's Bookshop and Gifts – Join us at 20 Shipquay Stret, Derry on ***Friday, 14th March*** as we celebrate the Grand Opening of St Paul's Bookshop and Gifts. Discover a beautiful selection of Books, inspirational gifts, and unique treasures

to nourish your faith and spirit. The Grand Opening is from 10.00am until 5.00pm. The shop is at the site of the former Veritas shop on Shipquay Street. We can't wait to welcome you!

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***.

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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.

Eternity

*I am in the light, I am in the dark,
In wind swept trees in the corner of a park.
I am in your laughter and in your tears,
I share your joy; I share your fears.*

*I am in your thoughts and in your prayers,
In a corner of your heart, a place that cares.
I closed my eyes knowing one thing,
I have memories so rich, fit for a king.*

*Upon the way as you live your life,
I will lend a hand in struggle or strife.
I have not gone, Eternity I have found*

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	7.15am* 10.00am and 7.30pm
Immaculate Conception	9.15am
St Oliver Plunkett	11.00am

(11.00am mass in St Mary's Oratory every Wednesday)

* Monday to Friday during Lent

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

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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**