



Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

**Sunday, 16th March 2025
Second Sunday of Lent**

St Patrick – “IT was the gift of God”

The Feast Day of St Patrick is an opportunity to thank God for the faith brought to our country by Patrick. The faith was already here before St. Patrick, in the south and east of the country, probably due to traders and contacts with other parts of Europe

At about the age of 16 he was taken captive, he writes: ***“I did not know the true God. I was taken into captivity to Ireland”***. While working as a shepherd he experienced a conversion experience and found new life from God. He became a man of frequent prayer. He writes: ***“After I came to Ireland, I daily used to feed cattle, and I prayed frequently during the day; the love of God increased more and more, and faith became stronger”***.

While in captivity he learned Gaelic, which was a great help to him later for his mission.

He escaped to his native England and then went to France for training as a missionary. The date of his return to Ireland is thought to be around 432AD. While here he worked night and day to bring the faith all over the country. His vocation was to bring the Irish to know the one true God. Patrick encountered many difficulties and would have loved to return to his parents and companions in France, but he made the sacrifice for the sake of spreading the faith.

What kept Patrick going during his trials was his close friendship with God. He was humble and realised that God was working through him. At end of his ‘confession’, he says he did nothing – it was God who did it all. He writes: ***“anything I achieved was not through my effort, it was the gift of God”***.

Mass arrangements for St Patrick's Day

6pm Vigil Mass on Sunday evening will be Vigil for the Feast	
St Columb's	10.00am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm.
Church of Immaculate Conception	10.15am. 12.15pm
St Oliver Plunkett	11.15am
St Mary's Oratory	9.15am

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Angela Finlay**, Winchester Park and **Oisin Devenney**, Gelvin Gardens.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers – *Kathleen Stone, Phonsie McWilliams, Patricia Daly, Lil McLaughlin, Michael Finnis, Eamon McDaid, Maurice McGinn, Eileen Tracey, Philomena Carlin, Mary McCauley, Matt Morrison, Phyllis & Bert Marchini, Winnie Muldoon, Clare Muldoon, Pat Deery,*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,882.00 Strathfoyle: £570.00

Thank you for your generosity to the Stipend collections.

St Patrick's Day collection - for Clerical Education and Ongoing Formation please use one of the spare envelopes in your envelope box

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 – We ask God's blessing on those being called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry, that they will have the faith and trust of Abraham and St Patrick, and that they will listen to Jesus, the Son of God, the Chosen One.

'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 – Discover a beautiful selection of Books, inspirational gifts, and unique treasures to nourish your faith and spirit. The shop is at the site of the former Veritas shop on Shipquay Street. We can't wait to welcome you!

Rosary on the Beach this **Sunday, 16th March** at 3.00pm on Benone Strand.

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. 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 Wednesdays 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.

SSPX Resistance Ireland - note from Bishop McKeown. SSPX Resistance is a group holding Masses within the territory of the Diocese of Derry. Given their presence here in the Diocese of Derry, I find it necessary to stress the following:-

- The priests associated with SSPX Resistance Ireland are not in full communion with the Catholic Church and they do not accept the full teaching authority of the Church.
- The priests of SSPX Resistance Ireland administer sacraments, but do so illicitly—that is, without the necessary faculties and approval of the Church.
- The Catholic Church has no supervision whatsoever of the priests or ministers of SSPX Resistance Ireland, who have no connection with the Diocese of Derry in terms of Safeguarding practices and policies and are not overseen by the Bishop of Derry.

Considering this information, I urge all the faithful to remain steadfast in communion with the Church, united with the Holy Father and the bishops who share in full communion with him. Let us continue to pray for the unity of the Church and for those who have distanced themselves from full communion, that they may one day be reconciled. **Bishop Donal McKeown**

The 7.15 Lenten Morning Mass resumes on Tuesday

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

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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**