



**Parishes of Glendermott  
and Strathfoyle**

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025  
Third Sunday of Lent**

***“Do Not put off until tomorrow”***

The call to repentance in the gospel this weekend is a call to turn one's face towards Jesus and allow the warmth of his gentleness and mercy to touch our lives. There is a pressing urgency about his invitation because opportunities are lost in delay.

Jesus is in a hurry to let his gift of salvation take effect. His story of the fig tree is a reminder of the areas of life where there is zero growth. Stagnation could be because God is being kept at a safe distance. Lent, springtime is intended to be a time of new life, a time to prepare by removing roadblocks that might prevent Easter Joy.

It is a very popular thing for many of us to put off until tomorrow. Adopting a care free attitude, delaying the response, putting on the long finger is the easy thing to do. Yet lent calls for action now, not let opportunities slip. It is important that we grasp the opportunity of a lifetime in the lifetime of the opportunity.

***“Preach the Gospel everywhere”***

Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into the town to preach. They spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked “Weren't we supposed to preach today?” Francis replied, “We have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behaviour was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!”

Francis said: “Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words.” Witnessing to Jesus is more than quoting the bible – it is living the word of God each day. The fig tree that bore no fruit is like a Christian who attempts no good works and lives a purely selfish life.

**Accord NI** is recruiting experienced practitioners for the Derry and Enniskillen centres, to train in the specialism of couple counselling. Successful applicants will follow an 18-day (9 weekends) in-person Certificate programme, (144 hours class contact), which will provide the clinical skills essential for safe and ethical couples work. Course fees paid and placement provided by Accord NI. For further information and to obtain an application form please email [info@accord.ie](mailto:info@accord.ie)

**Vocations - In our first reading this weekend God calls Moses to lead His people from exile into the Promised Land. We pray for those being called by God today to lead His people in the ways of faith as priests of the diocese of Derry.**

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers – Jim Campbell, Mary Ellen Shango, Mary Murphy, Ita Patton, Mary Walsh, Edmund McIntyre, Marion Finnegan, Shaun Hegarty, Johnny McNamee, Gerald O’Doherty

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

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,102.00 Strathfoyle: £570.00**

Thank you for your generosity to the Stipend collections.

**Trocaire Boxes are available at the church porches.**

**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. **16<sup>th</sup> 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!

***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 –***26<sup>th</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Eucharistic Adoration: Calling all Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament in the Derry Diocese to the National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Ring to enquire or book a seat: +4477 0912 5696 or +4477 3887 3492 Full Bus details on [www.eucharisticadoration.ie](http://www.eucharisticadoration.ie)**

**YOUNG ADULT RESIDENTIAL RETREAT – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 “Called”**  
This retreat is for 18 -35 years old on their journey of Christian faith entitled – “How am I called to love and serve” Price 325 Euro per person sharing to book call or email [marcus@loughderg.org](mailto:marcus@loughderg.org) or 353 (0)719861518

**Give Blood save lives – Donation sessions at Duke Street Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 12:30 – 19:30**

**New offertory envelopes – new offertory envelopes will be available at the end of March just before the first weekend of April.**

**Gift Aid – The amount of money received for Gift Aid is significant. It is equivalent to approximately 10 weekly collections. If you are currently paying tax and not already using a Gift Aid Envelope please consider doing so. It is no extra cost to the donor.**

**Gift Aid forms and direct debit forms are available from the Parish Office.**

## 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	<b>7.15am*</b> 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](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Web: [www.watersideparish.net](http://www.watersideparish.net)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/WatersideParish](http://www.youtube.com/WatersideParish)

Rev. Michael Canny PP 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC 028-7134 2303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

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**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](mailto:marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org) or PSNI 101 or emergency 999**