



Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

Sunday, 6th April 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus corrects our faults gently

A very wise person once said: *“The worst calamity that can befall a person in their life is, after climbing the ladder of success, you discover that the ladder is up against the wrong wall.”*

Our gospel passages this weekend model mercy at its very best. Mercy looks at the other person with compassion, it understands, it does not condemn, it sets free, it inspires to go and live life, as God would want you to.

The ideal of the gospel inspires many but for many reasons Jesus' example of tenderness and mercy proves hard to accept. The scribes and Pharisees were very uncomfortable with moral failure. Their solution is to eliminate the sinner. According to their standards of justice the sinner must pay the price for the wrong done. In the gospel this weekend that price is death. In their eyes Jesus is far too lenient. He is seen as letting the sinner off – all be it only one of the sinners are found guilty. The man slips out of the picture quickly.

In the eyes of the Scribes and Pharisees the Law of Moses makes for order in life and keeps chaos at bay. For Jesus the law also gives direction to life, but he looks to its deeper significance and for the need to understand everyone who seeks to follow its guidance. Jesus is not threatened by moral failure.

When Jesus invited the one who was without sin to cast the first stone, the crowd melted away. To stand their ground and possibly hear their sin named was a risk they could not afford to take. The feet of clay prevailed that day.

In Jesus there is no menace no threat no desire to punish our mistakes. His mercy is experienced as no-violence. He corrects our faults gently.

Palm Sunday next weekend. Palms will be blessed at all Masses next weekend.
A church door collection for the Holy Land will be taken up at all Masses next weekend - **Palm** **Sunday.**

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 couple's work. Course fees paid and placement provided by Accord NI. For further information and to obtain an application form please email info@accord.ie

Baptisms - We welcome into the family of God **Dutton Colm Maguire**, Cuthbert Street; **Kai McCarter-Johnston**, Irish Street; **Hugo David Crumlish-Bamford**, Butlers Wharf.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Paula Coyle**, Clondermott House.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers – *Mary Rose & James Hargan, Kathleen Arbuckle, Anne Doherty, Paddy Doherty, Philomena Oakley, Susan Arbuckle, Jim Ward, William Brennan, Drew Callan.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3775.00 Strathfoyle: £490.00

Thank you for your generosity to the Stipend collections.

Trocaire Boxes are available at the church porches.

Vocations – That those called to serve the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry will, in their ministry, show the mercy and compassion (without condemnation) which Jesus shows to the woman in today's gospel.

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.

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima: We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 4 nights **14th July – 16th July 2025**. Cost is £700 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposits of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 0044 2871264087

Mid-Waterside Community Group meeting in the Parish Hall, Malvern Terrace on **Wednesday, 9th April** at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Rosary on the Beach (today) **Sunday, 6th April** at 3.00pm Lisfannon beach.

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 – **30th April, 28th May and 25th June 2025**.

‘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

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.

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

Young Residential Retreat Termonbacca – Friday 16th – Monday 19th 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 or 353 (0)719861518

New offertory envelopes – new offertory envelopes are available at the back of the churches. Please take one and use it weekly.

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	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

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**