

Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle

The Ascension of the Lord

Sunday, 1st June 2025



A new Lesson

As Jesus disappears from their sight, the disciples continue to gaze upwards into the sky. It is then that two men wearing white clothes stand beside them and say: 'Men of Galilee, what are you doing looking at the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

The disciples have a new lesson to learn, they will not now find Jesus in the sky, in 'heaven'. The Jesus they knew before the crucifixion has left them for good. They must go back to Jerusalem. There, through the outpouring of the Spirit of the Father and Jesus on them, they will begin to understand and grow in understanding. If they want to find Jesus, they will find him in the Christian community, in those they mix with every day of their lives.

When people see me, do they see Jesus? When people see me, do they want to know Jesus? When people see me, do they want to join our community, share our life, and take the Gospel as a foundation of their life? That is the meaning of the Ascension.

Today we gather here not only to remember something that happened a long time ago, but we are also here to remind ourselves that when Jesus left us, he gave us a very important mission. That mission was and is to continue his loving and redemptive presence in the world.

Let us ask him today to help us, together with him, to carry out that huge responsibility in the way he wants.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Kemal Abraham**, Kensington Road, **Shea Bobby Devlin**, Summer Meadows Manor.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Kathleen Tracey**, Strabane Old Road; **Patricia Starrett**, Knockdara Park and **Joseph Healy**, Hollymount Park.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Madge & Alfie Shotter, Pam Leitch, Maureen Armstrong, Sarah McLaughlin, Maggie Diamond, Lynne McCallion, Jim Healy, Kathleen McGrotty, Bridget & Bella Barron, Agnes & Eddie McCamphill, Thomas Tracey, Patrick Mullan, Roseleen Keane, Michael Lyons.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4741.00 Strathfoyle: £555.00

Thank you for your generosity to the collections.

Altar Servers – We are trying to recruit new Altar Servers. Children from P4 upwards are welcome.

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 us in the 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. Every **Thursday** after evening Mass.

Cemetery Sunday – Sunday 8th June - The annual service of intercession for the dead will take place in Ardmore at 6.00pm. and in Altnagelvin and Ballyoan cemeteries at 3.00pm.

Vocations – Jesus sends His disciples as His witnesses to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. We pray for those who will be ordained as priests to witness to the loving and merciful presence of Jesus in our diocese.

Columban Camino - Children in Crossfire, along with **Longtower Parish**, is organising a 'Columban Camino' between **5th** and **7th June**. Participants will walk from Derry to Buncrana, from Rathmullan to Milford and from there on to Gartan; contact shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org

Rosary on the Beach - Sunday, 1st June at 3.00pm on Lisfannon Beach. All welcome.

Parish of Culmore – Parishioners from Culmore Parish are invited to join in a time of prayer to discern our Parish needs and how the Lord invites us to respond. We will gather to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in Hollybush Primary School on ***Wednesday 4th, Tuesday 10th and 17th June*** at 7pm. This gathering in prayer is open to everyone. “At this time, Jesus went out into the hill to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God.” Luke 6-12.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty will take place on ***Tuesday, 2nd June***. Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm before Mass at 7.15pm, then the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St Pio, while closing prayers are recited. All welcome.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025 to Knock Shrine, led by Bishop McKeown, will take place on ***Sunday 15 June***, commencing with Rosary at 2.00pm, followed by Anointing of the Sick at 2.30 and concluding with Mass and Eucharistic Procession at 3.00pm. Confessions available throughout the day. Bus transport available from St Eugene's Cathedral. For further information on this, please contact Karen on 028 71262 894. In conjunction with the pilgrimage, St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, is running a two-night pilgrimage to Knock from ***15th - 17th June***. For more information and full itinerary, contact Anne Marie on amhickey@derrydiocese.org.

“Dare to Hope” Young adult (18-35) Faith gathering at Knock Shrine on Saturday 14th June. The day will feature Fr Conor McDonagh OP as principal speaker, along with a variety of enriching workshops. Bookings can be made directly on Eventbrite by searching “Dare to Hope”.

Prayer before exams - Loving God, be with me as I prepare for my exams. Thank you for the many talents, gifts and the opportunity of education you have given me. Calm my nerves and anxiety, help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the question to the very best of my ability. Holy Spirit, be with me in my exams and always.

Ascension – No matter what suffering there is in the world and in our lives, there is also beauty. We cannot explain why it is so, we can only accept that it is so. In accepting suffering, we are also free to accept and savour even more, the beauty we see and experience in the world. Try praying for others, hold close to your heart in prayer all those who are suffering at this time; hold close to your heart in prayer all those who are sick; hold close to your heart in prayer all those who do not or cannot see beauty in their lives at this moment.

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 & 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)

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 at 5.30pm before evening Mass on Saturday.

St Oliver Plunkett — Every Saturday at 5.30pm before the Vigil Mass.

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Parish Office: 32 Chapel Road, Derry BT47 2BB Tel (028) 71342303.

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YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

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Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC	02871342303	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 PSNI101.