

Parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle



Third Sunday of Easter

4th May 2025

‘Do you Love me?’

Today’s gospel from St John gives us a detailed and moving account of ‘the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples after rising from the dead’ (Jn 21: 10). The setting for this appearance of the Risen Jesus is by the Sea of Tiberias in Galilee, about eighty miles from Jerusalem. The disciples have moved from the safe house in Jerusalem but not yet embarked on the mission Jesus gave them (cf. Jn 20:23). Instead, they have returned to the homes they had left behind to follow Jesus and resumed their former occupation – fishing.

Simon Peter who takes the initiative, announces to his companions that he is going fishing. They agree to join him. Despite fishing throughout the night in the stark words of St. John: ‘that night they caught nothing’.

We can imagine how they must have felt – tired and weary, frustrated and dispirited. It is at this moment, when their hearts are as empty as their nets, that the risen Jesus makes his appearance, standing on the shore.

The Risen Jesus comes to his disciples just after daybreak. The dark hours and fruitless labour of night-time have given way to the dawn of a new day, offering new hopes, new possibilities. Darkness does not win. The light always prevails.

Today’s gospel reading reminds us that it is precisely at such moments that the Risen Jesus comes to us, challenging us to trust in his word, as the disciples did. No matter how dark and hopeless our world, or the circumstances in which we live, may appear, with our Risen Lord, ‘there is always light if we are brave enough to see it’ (Amanda Gorman).

By Michael McCabe

Little Way Novena - The Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux will take place at St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, from Saturday 10 May until Sunday 18 May 2025.

The Novena begins with a Mass with the Anointing of the sick at 7.30pm on Saturday 10 May. Sunday 11 May at 6.00pm there will be Devotions and a talk. Monday to Friday (12 to 16 May) Novena Masses will be celebrated at 6.30am, 10.00am each morning and there will be an evening service with a guest speaker at 7.30pm. On Saturday 17 May the 10.00am Mass will be offered up for those who have died. The Novena will close on Sunday 18 May at 3.00pm.

Everyone is welcome to St Eugene's Cathedral for this time of prayer and petition.

Deaths – we offer our sympathy to the family of **Mary (Masie) Sharkey**, Violet Street.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our *prayers* *Danny Morrin, Bronagh McMenamin, John and Phyllis McCourt, Kathleen Sweeney, Thomas and Teresa Nicholas, John Mullan, Thomas Parke, John Monaghan, Annie Quigley, Roseanne Quigley, Sheila Kelly, Jim Kelly, Frank Kelly, Margaret Sanzo Curran, Margaret Muldoon, Shawn Quinn, Sally McCallion, Samuel Strawbridge, Paddy Loughed, Thomas McLaughlin, Marie Coyle, Liam McColgan, Patrick Bradley, Eileen Strain, Sean McHugh, Alex Doherty, Annie Starrett*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermot: £3,772.00 Strathfoyle: £610.00

Thank you for your generosity to the Stipend collections.

Trocaire Boxes to be returned as soon as possible

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 evening after evening Mass.

Rosary at the beach in Lisfannon today Sunday 4th May at 3pm

Cemetery Sunday – Sunday 8th June - The annual service of intercession for the dead in Ardmore, 6pm. Altnagelvin and Ballyoan cemeteries at 3pm.

Vocations – Jesus invites His disciples to listen to His advice and to spend time in His company. We pray that the men considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood will be inspired and encouraged through their prayer, meditation, and reading of the Scriptures.

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 00353 (0)719861518

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; overnight stays will be in the Inishowen Gateway and Mulroy Woods. contact shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org

Encounters with the Heart of Jesus - A weekend retreat (16th-18th May) that dives deeper into Sacred Heart Spirituality. Time for prayer and chat. Retreat £90 and is full board. Join us at the peaceful Termonbacca Retreat House in Derry. Led by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Email termonbaccaderry@gmail.com to register.

Prayer to the Virgin Mary for the Month of May

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel,
Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven,
Blessed Mother of the Son of God,
Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.
O Star of the Sea, help me and show me,
That you are my Mother and protector.
O Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Queen of Heaven and Earth,
I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart
To aid me in my need.

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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YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

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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 or PSNI101.