

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 27th July 2025

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



OLD AGE A TIME OF BLESSING

In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah, and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (cf. Ex 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, the first witnesses of hope.

Looking at the elderly in the spirit of this Jubilee, we are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment. This year is a fitting time to do so. God's fidelity to his promises teaches us that there is a blessedness in old age.

Every parish, association and ecclesial group is called to become a protagonist in a "revolution" of gratitude and care, to be brought about by regular visits to the elderly, the creation of networks of support and prayer for them and with them, and the forging of relationships that can restore hope and dignity to those who feel forgotten.

That is why Pope Francis wanted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated primarily through an effort to seek out elderly persons who are living alone. For this reason, those who are unable to come to Rome **on** pilgrimage during this Holy Year may "obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, the elderly who are alone... making, in a sense, a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. Mt 25:34-36)" Visiting an elderly person is a way of encountering Jesus, who frees us from indifference and loneliness.

From the Vatican, 26 June 2025

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – **Eadhla Jane Devine**, Thornlea Gardens.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Gwendoline Smith**, Gortmore Place and **Seamus O'Donnell**, Parkmore Drive.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Anne Stone, Michael Friel, Terry Doran, Cyril Ming, Mena O'Donnell, Patrick O'Donnell, Joan Nicholas, Michael Martin, Phonsie Curran, Barry McLaughlin, Kathleen Mullan, Jeannie McDaid, Bobby McCorkell, Eugene O'Neill, Helen Strawbridge, Maria Mullan, James Kelly.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3991.00 Strathfoyle: £510.00

Thank you for your generosity to all the collections.

Vocations – In this week's gospel Jesus teaches His disciples – and us – to pray, and encourages us to ask persistently for the things we need, especially the gift of the holy Spirit which we ask the Lord to pour down abundantly on our seminarians and those considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood.

Vocations - Society of St Joseph – The mission of the Society is to pray for Vocations, Priesthood and Religious Life. The Rosary in St Columb's Church at 9.30am on **Thursdays** will be offered for this intention. All welcome.

"Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer and only in prayer, can they persevere and bear fruit." (Pope Francis)

Grandparents and Elderly: Join us at Knock Shrine today **Sunday 27th July** at 2.30pm. Celebrate the National Grandparents and the Elderly. A day of grace, blessing and prayer, for families, our church, and our future. All are welcome bring your family – bring hope and joy. Anointing Mass. Rosary (weather permitting). Celebrant Archbishop Francis Duffy. Music: Una Nolan and Choirs guest soloist Dana. Visit our website for resources www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Culmore Parish – As part of the parish prayerful discernment three groups have been set up to work on Eucharistic Adoration in homes; the Mass and Pilgrimage. If you would be willing to offer your home for Eucharistic Adoration one evening, please email: mamh22yahoo.co.uk. To help with the planning and organising of the Mass please email john.mcdevitt@derrydiocese.org. To assist in organising the pilgrimage please email tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org.

Accord Derry Marriage Preparation Workshops – September to November 2025. **September 26th & 27th, October 17th and 18th, November 7th and 8th 2025.** All the above courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

Mary's Meals Walk: 'Two Bridges Walk' on **Sunday, 3rd August**, over the Foyle Bridge and Peace Bridge. We will meet in Sainsbury's car park at 11.45am to begin the walk at noon. The distance is approximately 5 miles. The walk is part of a series of walks taking place across Ireland in early August to raise awareness of Mary's Meals and the work they do. You can register for the walk at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/step>.

4-week Free Dementia Education Programme for Informal Carers, starting Wednesday, 3rd September at 7.00pm in the Old Library Trust, Creggan.

The course is for those looking after someone at home who has received a dementia diagnosis. It teaches what is dementia and helps carers to gain an understanding about different types of dementia, their signs and symptoms, about communication, different behaviours and coping strategies etc.

The course is taught weekly with time for carers to talk and make connections as well as learning together. We do encourage family members to come together and support each other, so places are open for several members of the same family to come on to the programme at the same time and share the learning.

Please note - this course is not suitable for individuals who either have dementia or are currently going through a process of diagnosis. Booking is essential via eilish@olt.ie or contact 02871 373870.

Thought for the Day

'Grandparents can be very special resources. Just being close to them reassures a child, without words, about change and continuity, about what went before and what will come after.'

An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly.

Grandparents hold our hands for just a little while, but our hearts forever.

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.

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

Email: secretary@watersideparish.net **Web:** www.watersideparish.net

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

Rev, Michael Canny PP	0271342303	secretary@watersideparish.net
Rev. Patrick Lagan CC	02871342303	secretary@watersideparish.net
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.