

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sundy 17th August 2025
20th Sunday in Ordinary time.



Awakening us

Jesus asks his disciples a question: 'Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.' He then talks about households being divided and family members turning on each other. What is the message Jesus is trying to convey to the disciples and to us? Is he trying open our minds and hearts to the reality of our world and the reality of our human condition?

In today's world, every morning we see and hear multiple stories of division and violence: in families, cities and countries. Perhaps the most frightening stories are the acts of violence and destruction that take place in our own cities, our own neighbourhoods and perhaps within our own families.

What is the message Jesus is trying to convey to us? Is he trying to frighten us? Or is he simply hoping to awaken us? Is Jesus trying to motivate us to live peacefully, lovingly, cooperatively and respectfully with each person on earth, even individuals we may not like or agree with?

Thought for the Day

At every holy Eucharist we ask the Lord to send down his fire into our hearts, into our lives, so that we truly become ablaze with his love.

When St Teresa of Avila travelled about Spain founding monasteries, she took with her as uneducated lay sister called Anne of St Bartholomew. Sometime after Teresa's death, when she was a Prioress, she was subsequently asked not only to found new monasteries herself, but to do so in foreign countries. She complained to God in prayer: Lord, can you ask all this of me? I am nothing but straw! And he replied: Ah, but it is with straws like this that I light my fire.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God –*Grainne Alex O'Neill*, Gortnessy Meadows; *Reeva O'Hara*, Benwarden Avenue; *Caoimhin Joe Browne*, Prehen Park.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of *Helen Cairns*, Clareen Drive,

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Hanna McLaughlin, Mickey Feeney, James Quigley, Don Clarke, John Minihan, Alice Brown, Eithne McGrath, Sean Lynch, Samantha Willis, Frances Brown, Annie Ming, Jimmy McPhillips, Tommy McNaught, John McPhillips, Cathy McCauley.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,843.00

Strathfoyle: £580.00

Thank you for your generosity to all the collections.

The Iosas Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff, is a vibrant and welcoming place for all the family, with something special happening every day of the week. Enjoy the buzz of *Fish & Chip Friday*, treat yourselves to a hearty all-day breakfast on Saturdays, or gather around the table for a delicious Sunday lunch made with our own organic produce. Eircode F93F104 will bring you straight to our door in Co. Donegal. Tel 0(0353)74 91 848 66.

ACN Pilgrimage to Knock: Papal charity Aid to the Church in Need Ireland invites people to join their national pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on **Saturday 30th August**. Mass is in the basilica at 3pm – all welcome. For more info, see www.acnireland.org

Vocations - the people they will be called to serve. Anyone considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood is invited to an afternoon of prayer and discussion organised by the diocesan vocations team on **Sunday, 24th August**. Mass in St Columb's Church, Waterside, at 12.30pm, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Bishop McKeown hopes to attend, along with several priests and seminarians. The afternoon will end at 6.00pm. If you are attending, please let Fr Pat know – for catering purposes – on pgoh2111@gmail.com

“He who sings, prays twice.” (St Augustine) – St Columb's church choir is still on its summer break for the month of August and will resume in September. We **are** constantly looking for new singers, maybe you would consider joining, just come along and give it a try or talk to Markus or any of the choir members.

Rosary on Benone Beach at 3.00pm on **Sunday, 17th August.**

Supper Dance to be held in the Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly on **Saturday, 20th September** in aid of the Foyle Hospice. Tickets £25. Contact Pat 00353 863088451 or the Foyle Hospice. Doors open at 8.00pm.

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.

Jubilee Year Opportunities at Lough Derg this August & September:

- **One Day Retreats** – *Guided Days of Prayer and Reflection* - places available on August 19, 23, 24, 25, 30; September 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 20, 21.
- **National Sacred Heart Crusade** – a Sacred Heart Statue blessed by Pope Francis will be present for the Day Retreats on 23, 24 & 25 August.
- **Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis on Sunday 7 September** – special devotions and blessing with Carlo Acutis Relic. Admission €50. Group discounts available. Advance Booking Essential.
- **Thursday 21 August** to mark **National Heritage Week 2025** Lough Derg offers a day to *immerse yourself in the story and heritage of the ancient Sanctuary*. Guided Tour of Station Island and Boat Trip at 11am & 2:30pm. Admission €15. Concessions for students, children & families. Advance Booking Essential.
- **Pilgrim Path Lake Shore Pilgrimage** - *In the footsteps of pilgrims through the centuries*: Sunday 31 August. Guided 8km & 12km walk options available. Admission €25. Advance Booking Essential.
- **Quiet Day Retreat** – *Come apart by yourself, and rest for a while* – Friday 12 September. Admission €40 includes refreshments and lunch. Advance booking essential.

Contact by email: info@loughderg.org / **Tel. 00353) 719861518**

Reflection – The greatest way of all God has established to inflame us is at Mass. Whoever draws near Christ draws near the fire, Origen said in the third century. If that's true, then even more Christ says to us, "Whoever receives me, receives the fire.'

Whenever we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we ingest Fire. Christ has come to ignite that fire and how he wants each of us to become truly enkindled! St Catherine of Siena used to say in the 1300s, 'If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze!'

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	9.15 am
St Oliver Plunkett	11.00 am
(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.

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.