

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 24th August 2025
21st Sunday in Ordinary time.



‘The Narrow Door’

There is an increasing urgency to the message of Jesus, travelling through the towns and villages “making his way to Jerusalem.” (Lk 13:22) Jesus knows his fate will ultimately be the Cross and now he is attempting to gather any more followers he can before the inevitable events which we now commemorate each Good Friday.

The narrow door is an image we can all be quite familiar with. It implies something difficult and challenging, a door through which only a few will be admitted. That is reasonable to assume, but the truth is that entering through the narrow door to eternal life is something we are all invited to. We are not forced; we can accept or deny ourselves entry.

It is not a door that we as Catholics simply assume our entry is guaranteed. Are we taking our salvation for granted, presupposing that whichever way we live, we shall be saved regardless? Salvation is a little narrower than that, it calls for repentance of sins, faith in Jesus Christ and keeping the commandments – most especially the commandment of “love one another.” It is in our daily words and actions, our love of God and love of neighbour that will gain our entry through this narrow door.

The door, narrow and challenging as it may be, is open now for anyone and everyone to say “Yes.” It means leaving behind inward looking lives of selfishness in exchange for a life of love. The alternative is that we may be left knocking on the closed door when it is too late.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – **Fionnan Conor Danny Kane**, Magowan Park; **Blaithlin Angela O’Kane-Carton**, Strabane Old Road; **Dawson Bobby Barrett**, Ravenswood, Prehen.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers *Mary Colhoun, Olive Houston, Cathal Gallagher, Jim McGowan, Florrie McLaughlin, Denis Dillon, Terry McLaughlin, Bernard Doherty, Brian McMenemy, Dorothy Keogh, Edward & Margaret Houston, Dai Parkhouse, Mary McConnell, Sr Geraldine McChrystal.*

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4157.00 Strathfoyle: £475.00

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 (00353)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 3.00pm.

Vocations – We pray that the men and women who sense that the Lord is calling them to serve the Church as priests of the diocese will respond positively to the Response to our Psalm this weekend. “Go out to the whole world: proclaim the Good News!”

“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.

Caring for People Living with Dementia: On **Wednesday, 24th September** Ards Friary is holding a day of emotional support and sharing for those caring for people living with dementia. This day will be led by Caroline Brown, facilitator, trainer and ex-carer. Beginning at 10.30am and finishing at 4.00pm, it will include tea/coffee and a light lunch. Cost 50euro. For bookings contact Ards Friary, Tel. (00353) 74 913 8989 or E: info@ardsfriary.ie. For more information contact Caroline at carolinebrown268@gmail.com.

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.

Ardmore Cemetery to all those interested in the upkeep of the Cemetery at Ardmore. A meeting will be held in Ardmore Parish Hall on **Wednesday, 10th September** at 8.00pm. Hoping to see you there.

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.

SPARK: A weekend of fun, faith and friendship for 12–16-year-olds. Do you know a young person who would like to build their faith and make new friends? When? **September 12th – 14th 2025.** Where? Termonbacca Carmelite Retreat Centre, Derry. How to book or find out more?

Text or WhatsApp Brendan on 00 353 86 8067973 or Vivienne on 07935 007351. Cost £70 per person (to cover food and board)

Jubilee Year Opportunities at Lough Derg this August & September:

- **One Day Retreats** – *Guided Days of Prayer and Reflection* - places available on August 30; September 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 20, 21.
- **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**

Mass Schedule

Sunday

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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| Rev, Michael Canny PP | 02871342303 | 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.