

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 7th September 2025
23rd Sunday in Ordinary time.



‘Why go to Mass’

Most of us have a favourite place, or more than one, where we feel at peace with ourselves and with the world. It might be on the side of a mountain, or on a particular stretch of river. It might just be your own back garden. Quite often, amid the beauty of creation, our hearts are lifted to God our Creator.

In every religious tradition, there are Sacred Spaces where people gather. For the Hebrew people down through the ages, it was the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was the visible sign of God’s presence among his they came to offer Sacrifice.

People often comment these days that we do not gather as much as we used to. We send texts and emails; we chat on WhatsApp and other platforms; we shop online, and we live-stream our sports. It is all very convenient, but it doesn’t build relationships. We are created for relationship, and gathering is an essential part of that.

Last weekend, the Irish Bishops published a pastoral message in which they renewed the invitation of Jesus for all Catholics to come regularly to the Sunday Eucharist. When we gather for the Eucharist we bring to God the gift of our worship, acknowledging Him as our Creator; the source of all our Hope and of everything in us that is good and wise and true.

There may be a variety of reasons why people don’t come for the Eucharist, or at least why they think they don’t come. Life is busy. People are time-poor and have many responsibilities. There are also many other ways to pass the time. When we come to Mass we come as we are, with our anxieties, our vulnerabilities and our sinfulness, but then we are healed and renewed as we listen together to God’s Word, as we pray and sing together and as we come, together, to the table of the Eucharist to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – *Lily Margaret McMonagle*, Birch Hill; *Edward Malo McMahon*, Clooney Park Gardens; *Saorlaith Erin Smith-Keany*, Good Shepherd Glen.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers Kathleen Crumley, Michael North, Phyllis O'Neill, Liam Gormley, John McLaughlin, Isobel Higgins, David Murray, William O'Donnell, Mark O'Donnell, Kathleen Green, Mickey McNaught, Nellie Ward, John Paul McConomy, Patrick & Isobel Moore,

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3817.00 Strathfoyle: £605.00

Stipend Collection next Sunday 14th September.

Vocations – We pray for the men called to serve as priests of the diocese. That they'll have what Jesus asks in the gospel this weekend – detachment from worldly possessions and courage to take up whatever cross or crosses come with priestly ministry.

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.

St Therese of Lisieux - This year it is 100years since St Therese of Lisieux was declared a Saint. To mark this wonderful occasion, Termonbacca Carmelites have built a new chapel which holds a first-class relic of St Therese. From Monday 1st September we will also hold a weekly prayer hour, praying for her intercession, particularly praying for world peace. Prayer will be from 7:30-8:30pm and everyone is welcome to come and join.

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.

Rosary on the Beach Sunday, 7th September at 3.00pm Lisfannon Beach.

St Oliver Plunkett PS – 50th Anniversary Celebration – We are thrilled to invite you to celebrate 50 years of fun and learning on **Thursday, 18th September**. Mass at 11.00am in St Oliver Plunkett Church. Reception 6.00pm – 8.00pm in St Oliver Plunkett Primary School.

Join us in the morning for a special Mass to mark this milestone and return in the evening for an evening filled with memories, stories and friendly faces. It's a wonderful opportunity to reminisce and reconnect with the school community. We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you!

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

Adult Faith Formation: Are you interested in volunteering to help children and adults in our parish to prepare for the Sacraments? If you have a basic knowledge of Catholic teachings and some teaching experience (not essential), please contact the Parish Office. We hope to put together a small parish team who will be supported in preparing and delivering sessions. The time commitment would be about 3 hours per week from October to May. Safeguarding checks will be carried out as part of the process.

Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis

On **Sunday 7th September**, the Holy Father Pope Leo XVI will formally canonise Carlo Acutis in a ceremony deferred from 27th April following the death of Pope Francis. Carlo was born in England in 1991 and died of leukaemia in 2006. According to his mother, Carlo lived a very ordinary life like other young teenagers, but the extraordinary aspect of his life is how he opened his heart to Jesus, putting Jesus first in his life and subsequently to impart love with those whose lives he touched. It is fitting that on a Sunday where the Gospel urges a reflection on our own priorities, we may ask to what degree we impart love on the lives that we touch in our own family, school, workplace and community. A relic of Carlo was gifted to the Cathedral and will be venerated in a time of prayer on Sunday 7th from 3.00pm-6.30pm, followed by a Mass of thanksgiving of the canonisation by Bishop Donal McKeown at 7.00pm.

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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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.