

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 14th September 2025
24th Sunday in Ordinary time.

The Cross – a lesson in trust



The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is fixed on the 14th September, and we take a pause from the gospel according to Luke we have heard for most of this year. This year the 14th September falls on a Sunday, and as such we mark this long-standing observation of the importance of the Cross in our faith.

In the first reading this Sunday we listen to the Book of Numbers, a biblical text we hear infrequently. The image of the serpent here, in this the fourth book of the Old Testament is reminiscent of the same creature in the Book of Genesis: a creature which tempted Eve in the garden, becoming for God's chosen people a symbol for sin, temptation and disobedience. However, Genesis also tells us that the serpent – or whatever it symbolises in our lives – ultimately will never win out.

The book of Numbers says that when the people “lost patience” and turned away from Moses and God, they were effectively “bitten” and afflicted by the poison of sin. There is no mention whether the serpents were killed by a divine intervention or by burning up by fire. Yet, the simple remedy whether the poisonous serpents lived or not, one's life was saved by gazing upon Moses' bronze serpent. What a real lesson in trust in a time of Chaos for God's chosen people.

How fitting is it for us if we are bitten in our own lives by the poison of sin or bearing a heavy cross that we too in our own time have something to gaze upon? It is a lesson in faith and trust for us with our own troubles, troubles that God does not eliminate and we will continue to face. God has provided the remedy for our own troubles, the burden of our crosses eased, “as we lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” (Heb 12:2)

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – **Olivia Grace Dooher**, Kensington Road; **Mealla Frances McLeod**, Brookmount; **Conall James Costello**, Riversdale Road.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of – **Patrick Magee**, Durham Park; **Ann Christine Doherty**, Enagh Crescent; **Jackie Quigg**, Owenmore Care Home; **Emma Doherty**, Parkmore Drive.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers – Tommy Kerrigan, Stephanie Faulkenr, Fr Aidan Mullan, Lily Gillespie, Martin Diver, Mickey McLaughlin, Philomena Martin. Tootsie McCallion, Jackie Gourley, Margaret Mulligan, Billy Duddy,

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,781.00 Strathfoyle: £495.00

Stipend Collection will be taken up today at all Masses.

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 100 years 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. Every Monday we will 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 follow-up meeting on **Wednesday, 17th September** at 8.00pm. in Ardmore Hall.

Enagh Senior Group - The manager and Staff of Strathfoyle Library are having their Annual McMillan Cancer coffee morning on **Tuesday, 16th September** from 10.00am – 1.00pm in the library. Please come along and support this great cause.

Organ Donations Week – 22nd – 29th September: Organ Donation Week is a time dedicated to remembering and giving thanks to people who have enabled the “Gift of Life” to others by donating organs to those in need of life saving transplants. This week is an opportunity to have a conversation with your family, share your decision, register your decision. **You Could Be A Life Saver. Further information: www.organdonationni.info**

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.

Welcome Back to Chaplaincy – The catholic Chaplaincy at Queen’s University reopens on **Monday 15th September** at 42 University Road, with weekday Masses resuming and Sunday evening Mass back on **Sunday, 21st September** at 8.00pm in the Canada Room, Lanyon Building. For more information visit qubcatholic.org

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 that 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.

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

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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.