

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 5th October 2025
27th Sunday in Ordinary time.

The size of a mustard seed



The image of the mustard seed is used several times throughout the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and as we hear this week, the Gospel according to St Luke. There is some dispute about what the 'mustard plant might have looked like. Some say it was a shrub that got its name as it grew mustard-coloured flowers, others saying it was just a weed that served no great purpose for providing food but did provide shelter, the birds nested in it. What is agreed on though, is that the size of the mustard seed as it was known, was insignificant and no bigger than a small grain of dust. The mulberry tree on the other hand was the opposite – it was strong and had deep roots and difficult to move.

Once again, the Gospel according to St Luke makes the insignificant, significant. The weak become strong and the poor become rich. It is easy to compare ourselves to others in faith matters just as it is to compare with those with the new car or the nice house. Would I be like the apostles asking Jesus to increase my faith? Do I look at someone else and be envious of their devotion, their frequent attendance at Mass or their time spent in prayer?

We need to be careful; faith is such a difficult thing to measure using human standards large or small. Yet by our senses, faith can be seen in our actions, heard in our words and often can be touched by our presence.

Let us not be concerned whether our faith is the size of a mustard seed or a mulberry tree. What is more important is firstly we have faith – and then watch it grow in our life-long witness to Christ. Whatever way we witness to Christ through these gifts, we are doing no more than what the Gospel asks of us, that we have done the duty that is required of us as servants.

Baptisms - we welcome into the family of God **Rua Ashlene McMonagle**, Fountain Hill; **Freddie Robert McKittrick**, Seventree Road; **Alaidh Hope McLaughlin**, Beraghvale; **Rai Joseph Griffiths**, Bawnmore Place.

Deaths - we offer our sympathy to the family and friends of: **Paula McIlwee** late of Rossnagalliagh.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers Redmond Gallagher, Elsie & Willie McDaid, Jim Houston, Mary O'Donnell, Jonathan Gibbons, Irene Rainey, Mary O'Neill, Sean McGill, Robbie Herron, William Canning, Bridget Owen, Mickey Feeney, Teresa Feeney, Tom Leonard, Pam Doherty.

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

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,302.00 Strathfoyle: £530.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations – We pray for our seminarians and those discerning a vocation to the diocesan Priesthood will, in the words of St Paul to Timothy “...fan into a flame a gift” (of faith)” ... never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord...” as they rely on the power of God to keep them faithful to their calling.

Pope Leo urges Catholics to pray daily Rosary for Peace in October – Pope Leo XIV invites the faithful to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God’s gift of peace and announces a Rosary in St Peter’s Square on **October 11th** as part of the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality.

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.

Lectio Divina – Our weekly meditation on the Sacred Scriptures will continue in the side chapel of St Columb’s Church, Chapel Road on **Thursdays** after 7.30pm Mass.

Accord Derry Marriage Preparation Workshops – September to November 2025 **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.

Ulster Project Derry/Londonderry2026: Applications now open. Teens who are eligible must be: 15 on or before **1st July 2026** i.e.: born between **2nd July 2010 – 1st July 2011**. Regular attender of chapel/church. A written reference from priest/minister on attendance must be included with application form along with a reference from the form teacher. For an application form email ulsterprojectderry/londonderry@outlook.com before **Sunday, 14th October 2025**.

Parish Child Safeguarding – Training for all people in our parishes who may have contact with children during their parish activity are invited to a training evening in the Parish Hall, Chapel Road, on **Monday 13th October** after **7.30pm Mass**. It is important that all who may have contact with children attend this training.

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena - The Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots will begin after the 7:30pm Mass on **Thursday, 2nd October** in Saint Eugene's Cathedral. It will continue for the following eight Thursdays, concluding on **27th November**.

Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Face to Face Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on **Thursday 9th October** at 7.30pm in the Raddison Blu Hotel, Letterkenny F92 FK15. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age of their child, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was.

Rosary on the Beach – **Sunday 5th October** at 3.00pm on Lisfannon Beach.

October 2025, we join with Christian Churches throughout Ireland to mark and remember Nicaea and the Nicene Creed which came from it. We hold this creed in common with Christians for the last 1700 years, around the world and across the traditions. This Sunday is an opportunity for shared witness and reflection on the core beliefs that unite us in Christ.

Month of the Missions – October has been traditionally the month we focus on missions. Mission Sunday, which is celebrated on the 2nd last Sunday of October each year, is the one Sunday of the year when the entire global church comes together in support of mission. It is a moment of universal solidarity when each member of the Church family, regardless of location or background, plays their part in supporting each other.

All offerings and donations made on World Mission Sunday become part of the Holy Father's Universal Solidarity Fund. This fund is a lifeline for struggling communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America, where over 1,100 dioceses are found.

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.