

# ***Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle***

***Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025***

**First Sunday of Advent**

## **Advent Pastoral Letter from Bishop McKeown**

This weekend Bishop Donal McKeown shares his Advent Pastoral Letter, ***Moving Forward Together in Changing Times***, inviting all of us to a renewed focus on prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, and working together in mission.

He reflects on the challenges faced by families and communities today and reminds us that Advent assures us of God's closeness and hope. The bishop highlights the importance of parish collaboration — supporting one another in sacramental life, outreach, and faith formation — while recognising the vital role of our priests, parish leaders, coordinators, and volunteers whose dedication sustains parish life. Bishop McKeown goes on to state his intention that ongoing discussions about forming pastoral areas – bringing parishes together in shared mission – will be completed before Easter 2026.

He also points to the existing encouraging signs of renewed prayer and growing youth involvement across the diocese. We are encouraged to walk forward in faith: Christ is with us and continues to lead His Church.

**You are encouraged to read the full letter *at [derrydiocese.org/pastoral-letter](http://derrydiocese.org/pastoral-letter)*.**

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***St Columb's Liturgy Team*** welcomes you to a series of talks on the theme of Hope. These talks will be held in St Columb's Church during the 7.30pm Mass on the following dates:

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December** - guest speaker Bishop Donal McKeown.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** – guest speaker Fr Declan Boland

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** – guest speaker Fr Peter Burns CSSR

All are welcome to attend.

**Baptisms** - We welcome into the family of God – **Caleb McCausland**, Rossdale, Kilfennan.

**Deaths** – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Oonagh Devine**, Strabane Old Road; **Patricia Hennessy**, Molenan Road; **Nuala Kelly**, Woodfield, Prehen; **Scott McGauley**, Tamworth Crescent.

**Anniversaries:** We are asked to remember in our prayers – Isaac Duddy, Bill & Kathleen McHugh, Joe Curran, Christine McLaughlin, Liam McGuinness, Marie Devine, John Coyle, Margaret, May & Lal Nash, Margaret Curran, Gerald Toland, Bridget O'Donnell, Fiona & Michelle Webb, Mary Parke, Reggie McClay, Aidan McLaughlin, Goretti Mc Menamin, Margaret Monaghan, Catherine Muldoon, William Gormely, Mary Gibbons, Rosemary Doherty, Sarah Deeney, Annie Bryson

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,902.00      Strathfoyle: £545.00**  
**Thank you for your generosity to the parish collection.**

**Vocations** – As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent we pray for our seminarians and the men discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, that they will prepare their hearts and minds to welcome the Lord Jesus into their lives.

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. Cost £895 inclusive of local taxes but exclusive of single supplements and insurance. The Pilgrimage office will open for bookings on Saturday 17 January 2026 at 11am. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available (Monday to Thursday) from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.

**Holy Hour for Vocations:** The December Holy Hour for Vocations has been brought forward to **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at 8:00pm at St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Waterside. All are welcome to come and pray for this special intention.

**The Padre Pio Prayer Group** will take place on **Tuesday 2 December** at the Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty. After the 7.15pm mass and the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St. Pio.

**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.

***Advent*** – The word Advent means coming or arrival. It's about keeping watch. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ all those years ago and looking forward to his return.

Despite all the predictions, allegedly from the sayings of the saints among others, no one knows the time of the second coming. For the Christian the watching and waiting for the second coming of Christ is not to be a time of fear or terror rather to be a time of expectation for the coming of glory and joy.

***Hillcrest Trust Christmas Appeal*** – This year Hillcrest Trust will be running our annual Christmas Appeal to support individuals and families within our community who are in need. If you can help us this year, please leave your donations of non-perishable food items/ new toys/toiletries at the rear St Columb's Church, Church of Immaculate Conception or An Chroi Community Hub, 10 Trench Road by ***Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December***. Your help is greatly appreciated.

***Pioneer Annual Draw 2026*** – The Supporters' Draw is one of our main fundraising initiatives to help us to develop the Association. The Draw runs for six months and takes place on the third Wednesday of every month, beginning on ***21<sup>st</sup> January 2026*** and continuing each month until ***June 2026***. The monthly prizes are 1<sup>st</sup> £1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> £400; 3<sup>rd</sup> £200; 4<sup>th</sup> £100. Cost £40 for six months. Contact Bert Glackin 07759586666

***Accord Derry – Marriage Preparation Workshops January – June 2026*** - January 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> 2026. These courses are now online for booking at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com) Please note that Accord Derry will not be facilitating courses during July or August.

***Altnagelvin Hospital Choir Carol Services*** – 1<sup>st</sup> Derry, Presbyterian Church, Magazine Street on ***Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December*** at 7.30pm and St Mary's Church, Ardmore on ***Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December*** at 7.30pm. All welcome.

***Thought for the Day*** - It might seem odd that Advent begins, not with preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, but his coming for us at the end of life's journey. Life is a journey from God our creator back to God our final destiny. When this large circle of life is forgotten, life becomes a directionless succession of unconnected moments. Without roots in the past or vision for the future, one lives only for the present moment. If this collapses everything falls apart.

# 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](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net) **Web:** [www.watersideparish.net](http://www.watersideparish.net)

**YouTube Channel:** [www.youtube.com/WatersideParish](http://www.youtube.com/WatersideParish)

**Rev, Michael Canny PP** 02871342303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

**Rev. Patrick Lagan CC** 02871342303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

**Rev. Joshy Parokkaran CC** 02871342303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

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**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](mailto:marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org) or **PSNI101**.