

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 7th December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

A Prophet of Hope

All four Gospels agree to an important truth: that John the Baptist is the one who marks the end of the time of waiting and the beginning of the new age in Jesus. John the Baptist has an unusual address; c/o the wilderness. It was in the desert that the people of God first met God. In the desert the people were tested. So, it is appropriate that again the word of God should come to the people in the wilderness.

John appears as a somewhat eccentric figure when we look at his wardrobe and diet. In an extraordinary tribute to the power of John St Matthew tells us that people from Judea and Jerusalem make their way to him. The people come to listen to him because they believe he speaks the authentic word of God. Those who are moved by him confess their sins and are baptised. In being baptised the people make a public profession to begin to change their lives.

The tone of John the Baptist's preaching is strong because of his desire to move his hearers from complacency to action. Pride and self-satisfaction in the practice of their faith resulted in stiff resistance to change.

Conversion is a process. The first step is to identify accurately what is needed. Every generation needs conversion to God's way because complacency is a permanent temptation and comfort zones are always attractive.

John the Baptist urges his hearers to return to their roots, to a fresh look at their relationship with God. Let God be God he urges. In letting God be God we can put new energy into our commitment and renew our enthusiasm for service. Hope begins with facing reality, John is a prophet of hope.

Monday 8th December – Feast of The Immaculate Conception.

Masses Vigil	6.00pm	St Columb's Church
	9.15am	Immaculate Conception
	10.00am	St Columb's Church
	11.00am	St Oliver Plunkett
	11.00am	St Mary's Oratory
	7.30pm	St Columb's Church

In this feast we celebrate Mary, who, from the first instant of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was *“by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of sin”*.

Baptisms - We welcome into the family of God – **Cove Allayna McCole**, Strabane Old Road.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Tony McGonigle**, Iveagh Park and **Margaret Kildea** late Knockwellan Park.

Anniversaries: We are asked to remember in our prayers Margo Gallagher, James Tracey, Philip McCauley, Rita McLaughlin, Fra McLaughlin, John O’Kane, Peter Melarkey, Tom McDermott, Brian Mullan, Tommy & Maureen Morrison, Martie O’Connell, Sadie Conaghan, Hugh Duddy, Teresa & Joe Campbell, Bernard & Michael Tracy.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4516.00 Strathfoyle: £645.00
Thank you for your generosity to the parish collection.

St Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will be taken up in the parish this weekend **6th & 7th December**.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: *Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd 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.

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.

St Oliver Plunkett Primary School – Christmas Ricketey Wheel, **Thursday, 10th December** 6.00pm – 8.00pm. Everyone welcome, bring your festive cheer.

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, 10th 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 **21st January 2026** and continuing each month until **June 2026**. The monthly prizes are 1st £1,000; 2nd £400; 3rd £200; 4th £100. Cost £40 for six months. Contact Bert Glackin 07759586666

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

Rosary on the Beach - Sunday, 7th December at 3.00pm on Lisfannon Beach

Pilgrimages 2026: Poland: 16 - 23rd June 2026 £1275 Flights and Half Board
Salt Mines: (Optional) £55 Spiritual Director: Fr. James Devine.

Fatima: 23rd - 30th July £879: Flights, Full Board, Coach to Dublin Airport
Spiritual Director: Fr. James Devine

Medjugorje: 4th -11th September from Belfast: £849: Flights and Half Board
Contact Maria at 028 81648357 or 07768395038 for special offer.

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

*Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our
heart. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and
joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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.

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YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

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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 or PSNI101.