

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 21st December 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mary a special person

This weekend the Gospels introduce us to Mary. The news of a pregnancy brings with it a conflict of emotions. A mother knows that her life style for the best part of a year will be dictated by her unborn child. For all the morning nausea, the heavy steps and breathless days she is total responsible for the life of a new human being. Never again will she and her child be so totally one. After birth others can care for the child but during pregnancy there is no-one capable of life giving but herself.

And so it was in Nazareth. Mary had nothing to give but herself. From her humanity, she gave him his humanity. Every heart beat of hers gave Him, (Jesus), a heart beat to love with. **Mary was chosen to give Jesus flesh and blood.**

Christmas -A SPECIAL TIME

Most human beings are social beings, and Christmas is a wonderful time to meet with people and celebrate together. It is a time for family and friends, and this is how it should be. For those of us who can mix with others we should not forget about those for who Christmas can be a very lonely time. We should remember those who have been bereaved in the past year, those living alone, people who are in our care homes or who are sick in hospital.

The next few days can for many people be a busy time, with many things to be done but amid all the bits and pieces that we feel we must do we should take time to reflect on what Christmas really means. For Christians it is a special occasion. Christmas offers hope, which in today's world is a precious gift. A quiet time, time out is necessary for body, mind and soul.

We may spend money on gifts but often the real gift is spending time alone and in the company of others. Relaxing in the company of friends and Jesus is important.

Confessions for Christmas

Confessions On Sunday evening from 5.00pm until 5.55pm
Monday and Tuesday from 7.00pm – 7.25pm

Eucharistic Adoration on Sunday from 5.00pm until evening Mass

Parish Office - The parish office will be closed on Christmas Eve and will reopen Monday 29th at 10.30am – 1pm and 2pm – 4pm and Tuesday 30th from 10.30 – 1pm and 2pm -4pm. The Office will be closed on New Years Eve and New Years Day.

Next parish bulletin on Weekend of 3rd /4th January 2026

Baptisms - We welcome into the family of God – ***Riah Wylie***, Good Shepherds Glen.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Kathleen Duffy, Dereen Drive.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers William Quigley, Billy Kelly, James Stone, Peggy Curran, Rose Moran, Maureen Doherty, Winifred Murray, Sylvia Doherty, William Doherty, Peter Shiels, Mary Bradley, Patrick Jordan, Chris Canavan, Danny Kerrigan, Eilish Harley, Lily Callan, Moira Callan, Mary Jane Kerr, Frances McLoone, Cyril & Vera Henderson, Patsy Storey, Patrick Kelly, Hugh and Susan McMenamin.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,003.00 Strathfoyle: £510.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collection.

Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Vocations –In both the First reading and the Gospel this weekend we hear Jesus called “Emmanuel” – a name that means “God-is-with-us!”. We pray for the increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood, and that the future priests of our diocese will be modern-day Emmanuels – the loving, healing, forgiving, and merciful presence of God in the Church and in the world.

St Vincent de Paul Office will be closed from **Friday, 19th December** until **Monday, 12th January 2026.**

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 from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street,

Children in Crossfire Appeal – The focus of this year's appeal is on children living in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, whose days are split between going to school and scavenging on a huge rubbish dump nearby, searching for items to sell for food. Children in Crossfire's goal, with your support, is to give those children the better future they deserve.

Medjugorje: 4th -11th September from Belfast: £849: Flights and Half Board
Contact Maria at 028 81648357 or 07768395038 for special offer. Spiritual Director: Fr Pat O'Hagan.

As we gather in the warmth of this Christmas season, we the priests of the parish want to take a moment to wish each and every one of you a Happy Christmas.

May the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, fill your hearts with joy, peace, and love. May you be blessed with moments of stillness, connection, and celebration with loved ones.

To those who may be spending Christmas with a vacant chair or feeling lonely, know that you are not forgotten, and that God's love and our church community are with you, wrapping you in warmth and care this Christmas and beyond.

As we look ahead to the New Year, let's hold onto hope, promise, and renewal. May 2026 be a year of growth, health, and happiness for you all.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

Fr's Patrick, Joshi and Michael

Christmas Week Mass Schedule

Monday and Tuesday – Usual Mass schedule
Wednesday - 9.15am Church of Immaculate Conception
10.00am St Columb's Church

Christmas Eve – Vigil Masses

6.00pm Church of Immaculate Conception
6.00pm St Oliver Plunkett's Church
8.00pm St Columb's Church

Christmas morning

9.15am St Mary's Oratory
10.00am St Columb's Church
10.15am Church of Immaculate Conception
11.15am St Oliver Plunkett Church
12.15pm Church of Immaculate Conception
12.30pm St Columb's Church

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

St Stephen's Day (26th) 10.00am and 7.30pm St Columb's Church

Saturday (27th) 10.00am St Columb's Church

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday evening 27th

Vigils 6.00 Immaculate Conception
6.00 St Oliver Plunkett, Church
7pm St Columb's Church

Sunday 28th

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 29th & Tuesday 30th – 10.00am & 7.30pm St Columb's Church

Wednesday 31st - 10.00am & 4.30pm St Columb's Church
with Adoration afterwards concluding with Rosary and Benediction
towards midnight.

Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd January – 10.00am & 7.30pm St Columb's Church.

Saturday 3rd January - St Columb's 10.00am and usual weekend schedule.