

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 1st February 2026

St Brigid

Brigid, Patrick and Columba were key pillars in the young Irish church. Brigid was about 10 when St Patrick died and, if historical dates are correct, then Columba was about 4 when Brigid died, apparently in 525. In about a century, the faith of Patrick has taken hold in so many parts of this island

Today we face a need for huge renewal of Church in our own sad world. What seems to have been key elements in this Irish form of Christianity that became a powerhouse of monasteries and missionaries over the following centuries?

St Brigid and her friends had no idea how their ministry would work out. But they knew that they were not alone, God was with them.

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The gifts of God

On the mountain Jesus speaks on behalf of God. He sat, for this was the ancient posture of teachers, a sign of their authority and dignity. God wants all of us to grow and become people of the beatitudes. As we journey through life he is forming us in the image of Jesus, so that we might live by his wisdom.

Jesus draws us to become poor as he was poor. His poverty meant that he did not seek more possessions, more power, more control of the future, more limelight. For him poverty was the freedom to be content and rejoice in what he had received as well as the freedom to share what he had without holding anything back.

Poverty is a way of looking at the gifts of God. To be poor is to rejoice in the gifts of God, it is to realise that all is gift, it is to be free of a covetous attitude to those gifts. The poor in spirit are people of joy; they are not possessive. They are aware that when God grants his gifts it is not to make them independent of him but to bring them closer to him in gratitude for his generosity.

Generosity is not envious; it rejoices in what others have been given. Unlike envy, it feels no need to compare gifts. It has the right attitude to the gifts of God and, like other virtues, it brings its own reward.

Our Churches are monitored by CCTV cameras and by live streaming cameras. Live streaming can be viewed online at the parish website. The Diocese of Derry Privacy Notice is displayed on the parish website and Church notice board, or you may obtain a copy from the Parish Office.

Births – We welcome into the family of God - ***Ena Therese Blackburn***, The Old Fort, ***Daire Sean McDermott***, Clonmeen Drive.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – *Pat Barrow, Eamon Flanagan, Nancy O'Donohue, Nuala McElholm, Phyllis Carlin, Pat McCallion, Paddy Sweeney, John Deehan, Owen McDaid, Mary Ellen McDaid, Gerry McDaid, Hugh Brady, Nellie Kelly.*

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,850.00 Strathfoyle: 550.00£
Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations Retreat Weekend for anyone (18+) interested in the diocesan priesthood, in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, ***Friday 6th – Sunday 8th March 2026.*** For further information, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

Lectio Divina – Praying with the Scriptures takes place on Thursdays in the side Chapel of St Columb's Church after the 7:30pm Mass.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend – Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd March 2026 at St Mary's Retreat Centre, Knock, Co Mayo. Marriage Enrichment has for many years supported married couples in their Sacrament of Matrimony by offering them a sacred space to deepen their relationship, renew their commitment, and grow together through reflection, prayer and dialogue.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. Gift Vouchers to any value are now available from the Diocesan Centre, 164 Bishop Street. We are also appealing to those who could volunteer to join our Medical Team as a Nurse or Carer to please contact the office, as soon as possible.

International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking – Next ***Sunday 8th February*** is set aside in the Church to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking. Each year, around 2.5 million people are victims of trafficking and slavery. Throughout the Day of Prayer, we are asked to reflect on those who have suffered, but also, we are called to reach out to victims and survivors.

Job Opportunity - The Iosas Centre, Derryvane, Muff, Co Donegal, is seeking to employ a Programme Coordinator to organise and facilitate groups. If you think this job is suited to you, you are asked to send your details to info@sanctuarydonegal.com

Matt Talbot Urban Mystic – A film about venerable Matt Talbot and his journey to freedom from addiction. Showing at 7.00pm on **23rd February** at Brunswick Movie Bowl. Pre-booking tickets at Brunswickmoviebowl.com

A Divine Mercy Day retreat will be led by Fr O'Driscoll in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on Saturday, 7th February from 10.00am – 4.30pm. Light lunch will be provided, and a donation will be welcome on the day. If you wish to attend, please call 028 71262512.

Lourdes Hospitalite Collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, will take place at weekend Masses on the **7th/8th February 2026**. A retiring collection will be taken up as people leave the church next weekend.

Day of Prayer and Reflection - You are warmly invited to a Day of Prayer and Reflection in St Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot, Co Donegal, on **Sunday 1st February**, Feast of St Brigid, starting at 11.00am. A light lunch will be provided, and the day will finish with the Celebration of the Eucharist. To book, telephone St Anthony's on 0035374 936 8074. Suggested donation €25.

Jack & Jill Childcare – applications are open for the playgroup waiting list for September 2026. For more information, please send an email to jandjchildcare@outlook.com. Thank you.

Rosary on the Beach – Sunday at 3.00pm on Lisfannon beach.

Feasts of the Week – Monday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – Candles will be blessed at all Masses on Monday. The lighted candle is a reminder of Christ as 'a light to reveal God to the nations'.

Tuesday is the feast of St Blaise – throats will be blessed on Tuesday.

Thursday is the feast of St Agatha – 3rd Century Martyr.

Friday is the feast of St Paul Miki and Companions – martyred at Nagasaki, Japan in 1597.

Parish Mass & Confession Times

Sunday

St Columb's Church	10:00am, 12:30pm & 6.00pm
Church of Immaculate Conception	10:15am & 12:15pm
St Oliver Plunkett's Church	11:15am
St Mary's Oratory	9:15am

Monday to Friday

St Columb's Church	10:00am & 7.30pm
Church of Immaculate Conception	9:15am (Monday – Friday)
St Oliver Plunkett's Church	11:00am
St Mary's Oratory (Wednesday only)	11:00am

Saturday

St Columb's Church	10:00am & 7.00pm (Vigil of Sunday)
Church of Immaculate Conception	6:00pm (Vigil of Sunday)
St Oliver Plunkett's Church	6:00pm (Vigil of Sunday)

Confessions

St Columb's Church	Monday to Friday 7:00pm-7:25pm Saturday after 10:00 Mass
Church of Immaculate Conception	Saturday 5:30pm-5:55pm
St Oliver Plunkett's Church	Saturday 5:30pm-5:55pm

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 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 07596500793 or marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org or PSNI 101.