

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 4 January 2026 – Second Sunday of Christmas

A New Year

The early days of the month of January are for many a time of reflection on the year that has passed and a time for making plans for the year ahead. If we have come safely through another year, we are blessed. We should give thanks for it. If our health has been good and our family safe and well, then that is a great blessing. It is right to thank God for these things.

During the past year many in our parish community have suffered losses, making Christmas and the New Year a lonely time.

January despite its cold and wintry weather is a time of hope because there is always the promise that spring is around the corner. There will certainly be ups and downs during the coming year, shocks, surprises and joys.

We all have our hopes and dreams for the coming year, some will have made New Year resolutions and maybe already have broken them, some may be planning a wedding or a holiday. Whatever it is January, and another New Year offers us the opportunity of a fresh start.

As we begin this New Year, perhaps we should reflect on the words of the poem "The Gate of the Year" by Minnie Haskins; "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

May God bless our plans for 2026

Mass Times for the Solemnity of the Epiphany Vigil Mass, Monday 5th January

St Columb's Church

7:30pm

Tuesday 6th January

St Columb's Church

10:00am & 7:30pm

Church of Immaculate Conception

11:00am (funeral Mass)

St Oliver Plunkett's Church

11:00am

St Mary's Oratory

11:00am (note no Mass on Wednesday
of this week in St Mary's Oratory)

Baptisms - We welcome into the family of God – **Max Alexander McSorley**, Lisowen, **Gracie Evelyn Cassidy**, Windridge Drive, **Igor Theo Duncan Crossan** and **Maria Faith Mary Crossan**, Beaufort Drive.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Margaret Coyle**, Strabane Old Road; **Bridie Gallagher**, Eskaheen View; **Susan Foley**, Duncastle Road; **Jim Moran**, Culmore Point, **Mary Ellen Murphy** of Heron Way, **David Wood** of Trench Road
May they all rest in peace.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers Eugene Canning, Anna & James Patton, Elizabeth Muldoon, Leslie Moore, Jim Smith, Kitty Ayling, Kathleen Tracey, Maureen McGinn, Iris Storey, Brian Hegarty, George Flynn, Eleanor McBride, Dermot Boyle, Hugh Henry, Eddie Crossan, Sean Heary, Mary McCafferty, John Green, Charlie Kelly, John McFeely, Douglas Clarke, Ethna Barr, Sarah O'Hagan, Liam Bradley, Mary Jamison.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,465.00 Strathfoyle: £620.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Padre Pio Prayer Group - Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty will take place on Tuesday 6 January 2026. Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm before Mass, celebration of holy Mass at 7.15pm, then the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St. Pio, while closing prayers are recited.

Vocations –At the beginning of a new year our prayer for seminarians and those discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood is taken from St Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in our second reading:

"May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit."

Lectio Divina – Praying with the Scriptures takes place on Thursdays in the side Chapel of St Columb's Church after the 7:30pm Mass. It will resume on Thursday 15 January.

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.

Our Story too

The story of the Magi is the story of each of us. Like the Magi every human person is born with a call to be answered, a vision to be followed, a goal to be achieved. Everyone must journey and make their own way in life. Inevitably that journey will entail risk. There will be obstacles along the way, detours and even dead ends that will mean we have to start all over again.

On that journey there will be other people; some will turn out to be helpful, while others will delay progress. Like the Magi we all bring gifts, the gifts and talents that God has given to us. The great challenge is that we, each in our own way, use the gifts and talents given by God as God would want us to – for our own good and the good of others.

The Year Ahead

May God make our year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it may come;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardship from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most
And by making us anxious to be there to help
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

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

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