

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 11th January 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

At our Baptism the Holy Spirit is given to us to help us to be a follower of Christ.

The word '**baptism**' comes from the Greek word **bapto**, meaning "**I dip**". When they wanted to change the colour of a garment the Greeks dipped it in a dye. The dipping was repeated until the garment had taken on the new colour fully. For us baptism is the beginning of a life-long process. We will be dipped repeatedly in the experience of Christ until we fully learn his values and attitudes.

As we move through the Church year, we are reminded of what this dipping involves. At Christmas we celebrate the birthday of Jesus and dip into the joy of the event. On the first Sunday of Lent, we recall the testing of Jesus in the wilderness and reflect on our own temptations and struggles. On Good Friday we ponder the mystery of his death. At Easter we rejoice over Jesus' rising from the dead and reflect on our own death and the promise of new life. Pentecost is a time to welcome the Holy Spirit and reflect on the gifts that the Spirit bring.

Baptism is a decisive moment because through it we participate in the baptism of Jesus. The waters of baptism wash away our sins and brings us new life. At his baptism Jesus was marked out and gave a clear direction to his life. A life at the service of the Father and revealing God's love for us.

Likewise, for us baptism consecrates us for the living of our vocation. It is the first step pointing us in the direction of following Christ. Many more steps are required for us to grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – The week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from **18th – 25th January** the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

For 2026 the theme is "There is one body and one spirit" (Eph 4:4) and the suggested prayer and texts were provided by the Armenian Apostolic Church along with the Armenian Catholic Church. In the Waterside area our Unity service will take place on **Wednesday, 21st January** beginning at Ebrington Presbyterian Church at 7.00pm and finishing at St Columb's church for prayer and cup of tea/coffee.

Baptisms - We welcome into the family of God – Shane **Michael McGroarty**, Oldbridge, The Bollies and **Sarah Rose-Kelly**, Winchester Park.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **David Wood**, Eskaeen View.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers *Doyle O'Neill, John Strawbridge, Letty McGinn, Lena McLaughlin, Gabrielle Porter, Peggy McClay, Elizabeth Bradley, Gary Skeffington, Kevin Shearing, Eileen Costello, Jeannie Curran, Celine Faulkner, Johnny Kelly, George O'Brien, John & Bella Callan, Paul Curran, Pat Leitch, Helena McDermott, Patrick McGowan, Sheila McLaughlin, Sr Mary Immaculata, A K Pauose, Fr Adrian Porter, Jim Doherty*

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,010.00 Strathfoyle: £380.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations – The Baptism of Jesus reminds us of our baptism and that each one of us is called to be holy and to fulfil our vocation in life. We pray that the men called to serve the diocese as priests will know that, like Jesus, they are beloved sons of the Father, and that they will find fulfilment in spreading the Good News of God's love for everyone.

The 7.30pm Mass at St Columb's Church, on **Tuesday, 13th January**, will be followed by a Holy Hour for Vocations, from 8-9pm. Anyone who cannot attend in person can join in the Prayers and devotions via the parish webcam.

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 – 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 11th January 2026 at 11.00am. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry.

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.

Derry Diocesan Trust - Ardmore Parish Sacristan – St Mary's Church, Ardmore,
PART TIME – 16 hours per week. The Sacristan will ensure effective security of the church and associated maintenance and cleaning whilst organising all associated liturgical requirements in line with diocesan guidelines.

For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, no later than 12 noon on Friday 16th January 2026

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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.

Lumen Christi College Open Evening – Tuesday, 13th January 2026. Prospective Pupils and their Parents/Carers are invited to visit Lumen Christi College for the Annual Open evening on Tuesday 13th January 2026 between 4.00pm and 6.30pm. Principal's Address 4.00pm in College Assembly Hall.

The Year Ahead

May God make our year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrow and pain,
But 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

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| 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

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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

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| 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

Rev Michael Canny PP 02871342303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev Patrick Lagan CC 02871342303 secretary@watersideparish.net

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.