

# ***Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle***

***Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026***

***Second Sunday of Lent***

## ***Changing direction***

In the course of their lives many people change direction and explore unfamiliar paths. In today's first reading we hear how something happens to Abram that dramatically changes the course of his life. He is invited to leave his country and his father's house, and find his security in the promise of God.

He cannot see either the land or the family he has been promised, yet he begins this journey without maps. But he travels hopefully in the belief that one day his journey will lead to the fulfilment of God's promise.

Throughout his journeying Abram experiences setbacks and trials; but he travels on, rooted in the conviction that he was not alone God was with him.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus did not face the knowledge of the violent death alone. That kind of knowledge can paralyse someone. What the story of the Transfiguration tells us is that Jesus is enabled to make that journey to Jerusalem in the declared love of the Father.

The direction which Jesus has to follow will cost him his life. In the story of the Transfiguration Matthew shows us that Jesus is not just one who is to suffer but that he is the beloved son of God. These two go together. The suffering and the glory are evident in the one person of Jesus. In the Transfiguration the name of Jesus is called in love: he is named and owned by the Father, and we are all directed to listen to him.

In our own journeys we can face difficult decisions more surely in the knowledge that we are loved and supported. When we hear our name called in love we can face our road to Jerusalem. The power of that love funds us to face the future, just as its absence makes the future a loveless landscape. In the death of Christ God demonstrated the extremes of his love. It is that love that we celebrate here. It helps us to travel hopefully. It enables us to keep on striving until we can rest at last in the love that knows our name best.

# *Lent*

Have you thought about what you might do for Lent this year?

A Time in Lent for Prayer and Reflection – All Are Welcome

During Lent, the parish is offering a simple weekly gathering for anyone who would like space to pause, reflect, and share faith in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Each evening will include a short reflection on the coming Sunday's Gospel, a brief video, time for prayer and conversation, and the chance to enjoy a cup of tea together.

The gatherings will continue at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall, St Columb's Church, Chapel Road. No need to register — just come along.

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***Violence against Women and Girls*** - The Churches Trust is running a workshop on Violence against women and girls. For our Violence against Women and project our aim is to run at least two workshops in each parish with clergy and lay people alike. The aim of the workshop is to share thoughts on how the Churches can support change in our communities with a view to bringing an end to violence against women and girls. **If you would be interested in attending and learning more, please leave your name at the the parish office during the coming week.**

***Baptisms*** – We welcome into the family of God – ***Wren Rachel Whitehouse***, Thornlea Gardens; ***Isaac Martin Philson***, Sevenoaks; ***Mia Ann Louise McConomy***, Jasmine Court; ***Flynn Andrew Lucas***, Cornhill Park, Campsie.

***Deaths*** – We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of ***Frank McCarroll***, Figary, Fahan; ***Phyllis McLaughlin***, Prehen Park; ***John Collins***, Gelvin Grange.

***Anniversaries*** – We are asked to remember in our prayers – ***Philomena McWilliams***, ***John Duddy***, ***Marie Devlin***, ***Michael & Margaret O'Connell***, ***Margaret Harkin***, ***Vincent Magee***, ***John McMenamin***, ***George Doherty***, ***Frances Gibbons***, ***Cathleen Walker***, ***Jim McLaughlin***, ***Jane Kelly***, ***Roseleen Kelly***, ***Elizabeth Diamond***.

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £ 4571.00      Strathfoyle: £760.00**  
**Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.**

***Cemetery Sunday*** – Outdoor Blessing of the graves will take place on ***Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026***. 3.00pm in Ballyoan and Altnagelvin Cemeteries and 6.00pm in Ardmore cemetery.

**World Day of Prayer 2026:** You are warmly invited to gather in First Derry Presbyterian Church on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**, at **7.00 pm** to join in a great wave of prayer for global peace and justice. WWDP is a women-led movement and this year's service has been prepared by women from Nigeria. Some 146 countries, from the rising of the sun to its setting, will encircle the globe in prayer on this day. We hope to see a strong representation of men and women gather in First Derry in solidarity with those who face injustice, persecution and poverty.

**Lectio Divinia** – Praying with the Scriptures takes place on **Thursdays** in the side Chapel of St Columb's Church after 7.30pm Mass.

**Vocations** – At the Transfiguration Peter says to Jesus, "It is wonderful for us to be here." We pray for all those taking part in the Vocations Retreat in Drumalis, Larne, this coming weekend, 6-8 March, and for those who will participate in the Come & See events over the next few months. For further information, contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan at [pgoh2111@gmail.com](mailto:pgoh2111@gmail.com)

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend** – **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026** at St Mary's Retreat Centre, Knock, Co Mayo. Marriage Enrichment supports married couples in their Sacrament of Matrimony by offering them a sacred space to deepen their relationship and grow together through prayer and dialogue.

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. For availability, please ring 02871 260293 and leave a message or email; [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com) or contact JWT Dublin on 353 1 685 2244.

**Vocations Society of St Joseph (Waterside Parish)** - We continue to pray for priests, vocations to priesthood and religious life and support seminarians. The Rosary on Thursday mornings at 9.30 am, is offered for this intention and everyone welcome.

**Alcoholics Anonymous, Public Information Meeting** on **Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March** at 3.00pm in Rosemount Resource Centre, 1A Westway, Derry BT48 9NT. The meeting is open to anyone who may be personally affected, have a family member or friend affected, or simply wish to learn more about recovery, community supports, and how people can access help.

**Rosary on the Beach** – *Lisfannon Beach* on **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March** at 3.00pm.

*During Lent* our eyes are fixed on the Cross of Christ from which comes our salvation, and the grace to accept it.

# *Parish Mass & Confession Times*

## **Sunday**

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

## **Monday to Friday**

<b>St Columb's Church</b>	<b>7.15am*, 10:00am &amp; 7.30pm</b>
<b>Church of Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>9:15am (Monday – Friday)</b>
<b>St Oliver Plunkett's Church</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>St Mary's Oratory (Wednesday only)</b>	<b>11:00am</b>

**\*Lent only**

## **Saturday**

<b>St Columb's Church</b>	<b>10:00am &amp; 7.00pm (Vigil of Sunday)</b>
<b>Church of Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>6:00pm (Vigil of Sunday)</b>
<b>St Oliver Plunkett's Church</b>	<b>6:00pm (Vigil of Sunday)</b>

## **Confessions**

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

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Rev Joshy Parokkaran CC 02871342303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto: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](mailto:marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org) or PSNI 101.

**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.