

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

***Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026  
First Sunday of Lent***

## ***Pruning time***

Temptation for Jesus meant the same as it meant for Adam and Eve and as it also means for us. It meant choosing between good and evil, between doing God's will or one's own will. Jesus was tempted right through his whole life. His victory in the desert was not the winning of the war, but merely the winning of a battle.

We can't hope to escape temptation; temptation is the struggle between the passions of the flesh and the longings of the spirit. It is not something to be ashamed of – our destiny isn't simply never to fall, but having fallen, to rise again.

Temptation is not necessarily a bad thing, but by forcing us to choose good over evil it makes us strong. Virtue would become meaningless if there was no evil, no struggle. The battle against evil is never over as long as we are alive.

However, each right choice makes the next right choice that much easier. Jesus victory wasn't easy. It was achieved through prayer, fasting and reflection on the will of the heavenly Father with the help of the Holy Spirit. He is with us also in our struggles. It is a great consolation this Lent to consider in our hearts that God is not outside our struggles but is with us during them.

Pruning time is a painful time for a fruit tree. The pruner rids it of all those suckers which use up a lot of energy but produce no fruit. However the aim of this surgery is not to inflict pain, but to help the tree to produce more and better fruit. Lent is a kind of spiritual pruning time.

There is much that is useless and perhaps harmful in our lives which saps our energy and diminishes our spiritual fruitfulness. We ask the question 'of what shall we do ourselves this Lent so that we may become more fruitful branches of Christ, the true Vine?'

# *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 run for four weeks of Lent, beginning on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February** 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.**

**Deaths** – We extend our sympathy to the family of **Beatrice Olphert**, Maydown Road.

**Anniversaries** – We are asked to remember in our prayers – *Patricia McNally, Kathleen Deeney, Jack Logue, Magdalene Campbell, Helen McDermott, Patrick Lynch, Lil McLaughlin, Grace Morrison, Peter Doherty, Joseph McClean, Paddy Conway.*

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,850.00      Strathfoyle: £495.00**  
**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.

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

***Matt Talbot Urban Mystic*** – A film about venerable Matt Talbot and his journey to freedom from addiction. Showing at 7.00pm on **23<sup>rd</sup> February** at Brunswick Movie Bowl. Pre-booking tickets at [Brunswickmoviebowl.com](http://Brunswickmoviebowl.com)

***Vocations Retreat Weekend*** for anyone (18+) interested in the diocesan priesthood, in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. For further information, please 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, renew their commitment, and grow together through reflection, 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.

***Road Victim Support Northern Ireland – Donegal*** – Donegal Monthly Support Meeting: Road Victim Support NI- Donegal provides support and information to those bereaved through fatal road traffic collisions. Their monthly meeting for the Northwest area will take place on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Shantallow Community Centre, Drumleck Drive. All who have lost a loved one on the roads, and those who support them, are warmly welcome. For more information contact 07522997079 or visit [www.rysnid.com](http://www.rysnid.com)

***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.

***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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Parish Office 32 Chapel Road, Derry. BT47 2BB. Tel 028 71342303

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YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/WatersideParish](http://www.youtube.com/WatersideParish)

Rev Michael Canny PP 02871342303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

Rev Patrick Lagan CC 02871342303 [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net)

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.