

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 8th March 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

The Woman at the Well

A man and a woman meet at a well beyond the edge of town. They are strangers – not because they have never met before but because they should never be meeting at all. He is a Jew who is travelling through foreign territory; she is a Samaritan who is on home ground. Their people have been estranged from each other for centuries, and ancient hostility has been kept alive by each generation. According to their traditions they should remain strangers.

Of course this is not just any man; the Samaritan is just not any woman. In writing the story St John is anxious to tell his readers who Jesus is; that he is the Messiah and Saviour of all peoples.

As the story progresses Jesus tells the woman who he is and in doing so gives himself away to her. He gives her the living water – so that without buckets and jars she can go home and face her own people.

When she goes home, she does not keep her experience a secret. She turns her experience of Jesus into a message for others. Because of her we are told that the whole town comes to meet Jesus. Many believe in Jesus because of her story; many more come to believe in him when they meet him themselves in person.

She is a summary of how people come to know Jesus; first as a Jew; then as a Prophet; then as the Messiah; then as the Saviour of the world. She is one of the first witnesses in St John's Gospel who leads others to Jesus. Her past does not hinder her from being a messenger of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Where thirst meets love - This woman comes to Jesus in her fragility, she brings to the encounter her wounds, her pain, her regrets and the fear of rejection. However Jesus sits with her and listens with a compassionate heart – without condemnation.

Frequently we, just like the Samaritan woman, try to fill our hearts with the waters of this world. The waters of this world cannot quench the profound thirst of the human heart. At the empty wells of our lives, Jesus waits – offering the life – giving water that satisfies forever.

***Lent* - A Time in Lent for Prayer and Reflection**

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.

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 – ***Tobias Leo Vigo***, Good Shepherds Glen; ***Aoibhe Madeleine Kelly***, Celandine Court; ***Cillian Dentith-Starzacher***, Good Shepherds Glen; ***Creidne Detta McDaid***, Clonmeen Drive.

Deaths – We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of ***Jean McColgan***, Corrody Road, ***May Campbell***, Rockport Park.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers Michael Coyle, Jonny McFeely, Brian & Bridget Foster, Pat McCourt, Pat McFadden, Jim Robb, Susan Maguire, Angela Finlay, Laurence Conaghan, Paddy O’Kane, Mary Boyle, Peter & Alice Melarkey, Isabel Dornan, Kieran Barr, Mary Russell, Shea Bradley, Kathleen Donaghy, Dermot Donaghy, Chrissie Lyons, Jim McGinn, Esther McClontock, Mary Gormley,

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,357.00 Strathfoyle: £640.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

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

Cemetery Sunday – The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on ***Sunday, 7th June 2026*** at 3.00pm.

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

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.

'An Lasair Chriost' Conference (Flame of Christ) Young Adults Conference will take place on Sunday, 22nd March in St Columb's College, Buncrana Road, Derry, beginning with Mass at 11.30am in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn. Fr Conor McGrath will be the keynote speaker at the conference, with Bishop McKeown celebrating the Mass. It will be a great opportunity to meet young people in a faith setting. All are welcome and no tickets required.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Public Information Meeting on Monday, 24th 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.

Catholic Men's Retreat – Standing in the Breach - A morning retreat for Catholic men will take place at Portgloone Monastery on Saturday 14th March from 9am to 1pm. The theme will focus on spiritual warfare and remaining steadfast in faith during Lent, with a talk by Fr Martin Graham, along with testimonies from Catholic laity. The morning includes the rosary, Holy Mass and refreshments. To register or learn more contact Thomas on 07967620435

Songs of Praise and Radio 2 are searching for the Junior and Senior BBC Young Choristers of the Year 2026!

Entries are now being accepted for this year's BBC Young Chorister of the Year event, which will be recorded in July at Hallé St Peter's in Manchester.

Eligible singers will be aged 10–17 and will enjoy singing sacred music of any genre, whether as part of a choir of any type, a worship group, or simply singing at home.

There are two categories: **Junior** – singers aged 10–13 **Senior** – singers aged 14–17 (as of 7th April 2026)

It's very easy to enter, and all the details, including entry rules, FAQs, tips on how to record your entry, and the online application form can be found here:

www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise

Thought – Jesus waits for us, just like he waited for the Samaritan woman, without any judgement, disrespect or condemnation. Bring your jar to him!

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	7.15am*, 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

***Lent only**

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

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.

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.