

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 15th March 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

“I only know that I was blind and now I can see”

“The greatest tragedy is not to have been born blind, but to have eyes and yet fail to see” (Helen Keller)

In today’s Gospel we have St John painting a pen picture of how a blind man comes to see the light in Jesus, both physically and spiritually. When Jesus’ disciples first see the blind man, they presume that his affliction is a result of sin. But Jesus sees in the blind man something else.

When Jesus heals the blind man, he returns home a new man. Some of his surprised neighbours refuse to believe.

The Pharisees have their seminar too and are doubtful that, given who Jesus is, he could produce such a sign, Unlike the healed man, the Pharisees are sure who Jesus is. But as they grow more blind, the former blind man grows in insight and now identifies Jesus as a prophet. This is not a welcome development, and the man’s parents are hauled in as prospective allies in the case against Jesus. They state that their son is old enough to speak for himself. And speak for himself he does! “I only know I was blind and now I can see.”

He soon realises that he will be listened to only when his testimony confirms the prejudice of his interrogators. But rather than frighten him, this knowledge frees him to develop his evaluation of Jesus as a man of God. He does this so well that he annoys his listeners who refuse to be enlightened by the likes of this simpleton. Now the rejected man is the only one in the community who sees Jesus as the Son of Man.

Prayer for Mother’s Day

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of mothers, through whom Your love is revealed in so many ways.

Bless all mothers: those who are joyful, and those who are burdened, and those who mourn a loss, those who nurture children now, and those who lovingly remember.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord, be their guide and consolation.

Let their sacrifices be honored, their love returned, and their hearts filled with peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Mass arrangements for St Patrick's Day

Monday Vigil:

Church of Immaculate Conception:	6.00pm
St Oliver Plunkett:	6.00pm
St Columb's Church:	7.30pm

Tuesday: Note no 7.15am Mass on St Patrick's Day

St Columb's Church:	10.00am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm
Church of Immaculate Conception	10.15am, 12.15pm
St Oliver Plunkett:	11.15am
St Mary's Oratory:	09.15am

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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 on Wednesday evening this week at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall, St Columb's Church, Chapel Road.** No need to register — just come along. **Note change of day.**

Vocations Society of St Joseph – Feast of St Joseph - Thursday, 19th March

is the Feast of St Joseph and the 10.00 am Mass in St Columb's Church will be offered for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. All welcome.

The Society wishes to acknowledge donations of £10 and £10 and greatly appreciate all donations which help to support seminary education. We also encourage prayer for priests, seminarians and those discerning a religious vocation. ***"Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer, and only in prayer, can they persevere and bear fruit". (Pope Francis)***

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – **Saorlaith Anne Matthewson**, Knockwellan Park, **Grace Ella Adams**, Rose Court.

Deaths – We extend our sympathy to the family and friends **Michael Gallagher**, Strabane Old Road, **Della Horkan**, Clooney Park West.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers Patrick O'Donnell, James Strain, Isabella Keddy, Phonsie McWilliams, Gerard Hegarty, Patrick & Anna Deehan, Philomena Carlin, Winnie & Claire Muldoon, Maurice McGinn, Pat Deery, Mary Walsh, Mary McCauley, Susan Coyle, John McChrystal, Eddie & Mollie Donaghy, Majella McDermott.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,285.00 Strathfoyle: £550.00
Clerical Education and Ongoing Formation collection will be taken up at all Masses on St Patrick's Day.

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.

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

Holy Hour for Vocations: There will be a Holy Hour for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Derry on **Monday, 16th March** at 8.00pm. All welcome to join us for this time of prayer.

'An Lasair Chríost' 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, 23rd 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.

Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: Mon 29th June to Friday 3rd July: Due to the great demand for places, we have secured 50 extra seats ex-Dublin direct to Lourdes and return, with complimentary bus to the Airport. The fare is £895 pps full board. If you wish to book, please contact the pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop St. Derry, Tel 02871 260293, email: derrypilgrim@outlook.com

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima - We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 5 nights from 3rd to 8th August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £820 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087

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.