

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Son of God will be Glorified

Having friends is God's way of saying that he does not want us to go through life on our own.

When someone we love dies, we become acutely aware of a large absence in our life. The death of those we love brings into sharp focus the unique qualities of the deceased person.

In today's gospel we hear how the death of Lazarus leaves a large absence in the lives of those who loved him. By the time Jesus arrives Lazarus is already dead for several days and Martha voices her regret at Jesus not having been there. She thinks that if Jesus had been with them earlier things would have turned out different.

We can image ourselves in the shoes of Martha and Mary, they were disappointed that the Lord did not act in time. What's the point of having Jesus as a friend, if he does not come to our aid when we need him? Why does the Lord delay our pleas for help? The Lord does not work signs and wonders for our benefit.

For St John the absence of Jesus is essential to the story. St John tells us at the beginning of his account that through the death of Lazarus the Son of God will be glorified. Just as the blindness of the man in last week's Gospel served as the occasion to show Jesus as the light, so the death of Lazarus will show Jesus as the life.

The friendship of Jesus with Martha, Mary and Lazarus was life-giving. In Martha it inspired faith in his power to give eternal life. In Mary it prompted generosity who anointed his feet with oil. As for Lazarus he says nothing and does nothing. For him friendship with Jesus is about receiving.

Lazarus was dead for four days; in this seemingly hopeless situation Jesus offered a prayer of thanks and called Lazarus forth. Where there is death Jesus can bring life, where there is no hope, he is the bearer of hope.

“We Speak Up” – Churches Trust invites clergy and key stakeholders to an awareness raising workshop on the prevalence of Violence against Women and Girls in Northern Ireland. Workshop **23rd March 2026** – Monday Afternoon 2.00pm – 5.00pm with refreshments at the Church Trust, Limavady Road, BT47 6JU. A Shared learning event on how we can make a change for women and girls in our communities.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – **Ollie Gary Holmes**, Bann Drive; **April Holmes**, Bann Drive; **Brogan Rian Colhoun**, Beech Hill; **Tara Eva McCay**, Ivy Mead; **Lorcan Philip Gerard, Johnston-Simpson**, Nicholson Gardens.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers Ita Patton, Marian Finnegan, Matt Morrison, Noreen McConomy, Martin McConomy, Peg Kelly, Mary Feeney, Edmund McIntyre, Mickey Finnis, Lil McLaughlin, Dylan Harkin, Benny O’Donnell.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4.022.00 Strathfoyle: £530.00

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.

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

Vocations – We pray for our seminarians and men who are considering service to the Church as diocesan priests, that their interests will be in the things of the Holy Spirit who will have made His home in them (cf St Paul to the Romans).

‘An Lasair Chriost’ Conference (Flame of Christ) Young Adults Conference will take place this weekend **Sunday, 22nd March** in St Columb’s College, Bunrana 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.

The Columban Community warmly invites you to its Palm Sunday Retreat on **Sunday, 29th March** at 11.00am in St Anthony’s Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Co Donegal. The special time of retreat offers the opportunity to pause, reflect on

the Passion of the Lord, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. The programme will include teaching, guided meditation, adoration and Eucharist. Please book by telephoning: 0035374 9284866.

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

One Day Retreat – “In the Stillness: Faith in a Busy World” - Lough Derg, Co. Donegal ***Saturday, 25 April 2026***, Boat departs at 9.30am. In a world that often feels busy and distracted, this retreat offers young adults the opportunity to pause, reflect and reconnect with faith in the peaceful setting of Lough Derg. The day will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist at 5.00pm, which is open to the public. This retreat is open to young adults aged 18–35 and free to attend, thanks to the support of the Knights of St Columbanus.

Gift Aid – A very significant amount of our income comes from Gift Aid. This comes at no extra cost to those who are contributing. If you are paying tax on your income all that is required is that you complete the Gift Aid Form and use a Gift Aid envelope when making your offertory contribution at Mass.

New offertory envelopes will be available shortly. We need volunteers to distribute Gift Aid envelopes to the different areas of our parish. Help would be greatly appreciated – if you can help, please let the office know.

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.