

# Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

*Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

## *An Easter Reflection*

Belief in the Resurrection of Jesus is a central tenet of our Faith as Christians. The Celebration of the Resurrection at Easter is the most important event in the Christian calendar. Too often however, it seems as if the celebration of Christmas is more important. This may be understandable because it is easier to imagine the reality of the birth of a baby than it is to imagine what is involved in the Resurrection.

There is no description of when precisely or how Jesus rose from the dead. What the Scriptures describe is what happened after the Resurrection.

The gospel writers are concerned with telling the truth, the truth of the situation, the truth that matters. In this case, they want us to know that Jesus was raised from the dead and is now actively present among us. They also want us to know that it is the same Jesus whom they knew in the flesh who is now present but in a transformed condition. They use profound stories to convey this message.

These encounters resemble what was going on in his public life. He formed community, he extended healing and forgiveness; he preached the message of the kingdom, showing how the Jewish scriptures were being fulfilled; he shared meals with them and his last encounters with his disciples was at supper and breakfast with them, and he had sent them out to proclaim his message in their territory.

Today, then, we can encounter the risen Christ present in our eucharistic assembly, in the friendship and reconciliation we offer one another, in his word addressed to us in the Scriptures and most intimately when we share in his Body and Blood in the eucharistic meal. We still need faith to recognise that Christ is truly risen and present among us. *Alleluia!*

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*The Priests of the parish wish everyone a Happy and Holy Easter. Thank you to all those who helped in any way in the parish over the past year.*

**Mass times for the coming week (Easter Week)  
St Columb's Church at 10am and 7.30pm  
No Masses in the other churches until the Vigil Masses on  
Saturday evening.**

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**TROCAIRE BOXES – PLEASE RETURN Trocaire Boxes as soon as possible.**

**Baptisms** – We welcome into the family of God – **Conan Robbie Palmer**, St Breacan's Park; **Ruby O'Kane-McIntyre**, Blackthorn Manor; **Aria Lily McGinley**, Knockdara Park; **Leo Che Grian Sweeney**, Hollymount Park.

**Deaths** – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Anthony O'Donnell**, Osprey Drive; **Christopher Doherty**, Somme Park, **Margaret Jackson**, Riverview Terrace, **Sheila Millar**, c/o Gelvin Grange.

**Anniversaries** – We are asked to remember in our prayers **Paddy Doherty**, **Anne Doherty**, **Mary Rose & James Hargan**, **Kathleen Arbuckle**, **Liam & Susan Arbuckle**, **Anne Monaghan**, **Patsy Ferry**, **Thomas Grimes**, **Harry McGurk**, **Noel Carlin**, **Ann Breen**.

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**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £4,612.00      Strathfoyle: £580.00**

**Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.**

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**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.

**Vocations** – Evening prayer for those discerning Priesthood: on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April in St Columb's Church. Evening Prayer will be celebrated at 7.05pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm where those who are currently in formation and discerning priesthood will be attending. For information on Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood, please contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at [pgoh2111@gmail.com](mailto:pgoh2111@gmail.com).

**Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: Mon 29th June to Friday 3rd July:** All places on the pilgrimage are now filled. However, if places become available through cancellation these will be offered to those on the waiting list. All pilgrims are asked to complete final payment as soon as possible. Please note that the Pilgrimage office will be closed during Easter week 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April inclusive.

**The Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday.**

**Gift Aid** – A 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** - Gift Aid Envelopes have been delivered over the past few days. If you have not received your Gift Aid Envelope by the middle of the week, please contact the office. Pink envelopes are available at church porches. **The new envelopes come into effect on weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

**St Columba's Church, Long Tower, Derry:** Annual St Clare Retreat – **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April.** “I Prefer Paradise” – Remembering Sr Clare’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Pardon and Peace: Reflection on the Gift of Reconciliation. ‘Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord’ (Psalm 84). Monday – Friday, daily Mass 7am & 10am. Monday – Friday – Evening Service at 7pm with Benediction and guest speaker. Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm closing Mass celebrated by Most Rev Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry.

**Encounter Weekend Donegal** - Radisson Blu Hotel, Letterkenny. 6.00pm - 10.30pm **Friday 5th June.** 9.00am - 10.30pm. **Saturday 6th June.** Expect to experience the presence of God through the celebration of the Sacraments, Spirit-led worship, inspiring talks, healing service, and fellowship. Come and be refreshed and empowered by the Holy Spirit and learn from the Saints how to live the lifestyle God intended you to live. Keynote Speakers: Patrick Reis: co-founder and Executive Director of Encounter Ministries USA & Fr. Patrick Gonyeau who serves with the U.S. Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in Ohio. Bookings at <https://encounterschoolofministrydonegal.regfox.com/encounter-conference-donegal> For more info, email [donegal@encounterschool.org](mailto:donegal@encounterschool.org).

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### *Easter Prayer*

Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of Life.

From the waters of death, you raise us with him and renew your gifts of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*