

# Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

***Divine Mercy Sunday***

## *Faith does not always come easy*

The words “doubting Thomas” have crept into our everyday language outside of any religious meaning for a person that expresses misgivings or some lack of belief in someone or something that the rest of us might see clearly. We live in suspicious times; we often insist on knowing for certain that something happened or to be certain of future events.

The Gospel today shows that seeking certainty is not new and how much harder it would be to believe at that time that such an extraordinary event had happened. It is easy to be critical of Thomas, but as we know it is a natural and expected human reaction to express doubts or concerns when all we want is certainty.

Thomas, like most of us in our faith journey, stands apart from the others: doubting, questioning, unable to believe without seeing for himself. The struggle of Thomas is an important reminder to us that faith does not always come easily. Thomas’ journey is far from one of rejection, but of seeking the truth.

Christ’s response to Thomas is gentle and compassionate. He invites him to touch His wounds, assuring Thomas that his doubts are not barriers but bridges to deeper faith. Faith is not the absence of doubt, but the willingness to seek, to ask, and to trust in and be certain of God’s mercy. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are called to let Christ’s peace fill our hearts, to move beyond our locked doors, that is whatever is preventing us to become witnesses of Christ’s resurrection.

Like Thomas, we are invited to proclaim, “My Lord and my God.” In doing so we are embracing the gift of faith and sharing it with a world longing for hope and healing where we will doubt no longer but believe.

**Deaths** – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Eileen Bradley**, Clondermott Park and **Kathleen McElhinney**, Stradowen Drive.

**Anniversaries** – We are asked to remember in our prayers - Lena Quinn, Phyllis Quinn, Fr Tony Quinn, Patrick Quigley, Kathleen Gallagher, Brian Gibbons, John Boyle, Noel Bradley, William Brennan, Patrick Bradley, Sharon Murphy, Thomas Doherty, Roseleen Elliott, Noel Bradley, Jim Ward, Terry Neely.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £5,757.00                      Strathfoyle: £790.00**

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

**Holy Land collection £1,285.00**

**Trocaire Boxes to be returned as soon as possible**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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** – On this Divine Mercy Sunday we pray for our seminarians and the future priests of the diocese as we hear Jesus sending the disciples out in the power of His Holy Spirit to preach a message of forgiveness of sins and the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

**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.

**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.

**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

**Prostrate Ourselves before the Lord** Hosted by Patrick McCrystal, Executive Director of Human Life International (Ireland), **Saturday 25th April 7.00pm** at the Drummond Hotel, Limavady, Co Derry BT49 9HP, **an** evening of encouragement, proclamation, repentance, seeking God's mercy for our nation and prayer for healing. ALL WELCOME!

**Irish dance classes** re-opening in An Chroí on **Wednesday 15th April 2026** at 6.00pm with Guthrie-Wilson School. Classes also each Saturday at 11.30 am. Beginners welcome from age 3+.

**Please Note - Mass in St Oliver Plunkett Church on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday only for the next 4 weeks. Fr Joshy is on holiday with his family in India.**

**Notice – St Columb's Church grounds will be closed to vehicles on Thursday 16th April to facilitate necessary repairs to the ground surface. Those attending the 10.00am Mass will have to find parking outside the grounds.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Prayer to the Virgin Mary at Easter*

*Blessed are you, O Mary, silent witness of Easter!  
Mother of the Crucified One now risen, who at the hour of  
pain and death kept the flame of hope burning, teach us also  
to be, among the incongruities of passing time, convinced and  
joyful witnesses of the eternal message of life and love  
brought to the world by the Risen Redeemer,  
Pope St John Paul II, 2004*

## *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 – Friday**

<b>St Columb's Church</b>	<b>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 (Mon, Tue and Thursday until Fr. Joshi returns)</b>
<b>St Mary's Oratory</b>	<b>11.00am (Wednesday only)</b>

### **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 – Friday 7.00pm – 7.25pm Saturday after 10.00 Mass</b>
<b>Church of Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>Saturday 5.30pm – 5.55pm</b>
<b>St Oliver Plumkett's Church</b>	<b>Saturday 5.30pm – 5.55pm</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Parish Office** 32 Chaapel Road, Derry BT47 2BB. Tel. 02871 342303

**Email:** [secretary@watersideparish.net](mailto:secretary@watersideparish.net) **Web:** [www.watersideparish.net](http://www.watersideparish.net)

**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. 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.

---