

# Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 -  
Good Shepherd Sunday**

## *“I am the Good Shepherd”*

At the time in which Jesus lived, there were two kinds of shepherds. There was the hired hand for whom herding the sheep was just a job. He would move from one flock to another depending on the conditions of service but would never dream of risking his life for them. If he saw wolves or thieves approaching, he would flee for dear life and leave the flock to the mercy of the marauders.

Then there was the shepherd-owner of the flock who stayed with the same flock all his life. He knew every sheep in his flock individually and had a name for each one. The shepherd-owner was devoted to his sheep. He knew the one that was likely to lag behind the others on a long trek, and he would lift it up and carry it in his arms. He knew the ones that were likely to stray from the flock and kept his eye out for them when passing through dangerous terrain. When attacked by wolves or thieves, he would fight to protect his sheep and even lay down his life for them: ‘The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep’ (Jn 10:11)

This background gives us an insight into what Jesus had in mind when he stated, ‘I am the Good Shepherd’ (Jn 10:11). His concern and care for us is like that of the shepherd-owner for his sheep. Like the shepherd, he knows and understands us better than we know ourselves. Jesus cares for his flock, leads them, calls them by name. His sole concern is for our well-being. He has come among us so that we ‘may have life and have it abundantly’ (Jn 10:10).

What the Lord said to his chosen people through the prophet, Isaiah, Jesus says to each of us personally: ‘Do not be afraid... I have called you by name... You are precious to me... Do not be afraid, I am with you’ (Is 43:1,4-5). And he has laid down his life for love for us. In the words of John’s gospel ‘Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end’ (Jn 13:1).

**Baptisms** – We welcome into the Family of God **Enoch Maynard John McCrossan**, Bawnmore Place; **Luca Toland**, Woodside Heights; **Scarlett Nancy Clarke**, Birch Hill; **Coen Don Coyle**, Meehans Terrace; **Kairon McMonagle**. Violet Street.

**Deaths** – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **James Boyle**, Beechwood Park and **Brian Gillespie**, Barnwall Place, **Robert Devine**, Knockwellan Park.

**Anniversaries** – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Patrick Gillespie, Phyllis McCourt, Joe Carr, George O'Neill, Eamon O'Neill, John Carlin, Maisie Sharkey, Isabella Kerr, Ellen McLoone, Joe Arbuckle, Johnson Joseph, Rose Doherty, Kathleen Doherty, Sarah Given, Joe Brown.

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**Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £5,241.00 Strathfoyle: £805.00**

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

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

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**Silver Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop McKeown** - A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated today **Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April** at 3.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral to celebrate the occasion. Anyone wishing to attend would be most welcome.

**Evening Mass on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April** will be offered up for people who are preparing and doing examinations at this time.

**Vocations** –The Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, is a Day of Prayer for Vocations. We thank God for those He has called, and is calling, to diocesan priesthood, and we pray that many more will respond to that call to become spiritual guides and shepherds to the people of God in our time.

**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.

**Lectio Divina** – Praying with the Scriptures takes place on Thursday evenings after 7.30pm Mass inside Chapel of Columb's Church.

**Ardmore Cemetery** meeting on **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April** at 8.00pm in Ardmore Parish Hall. All welcome.

**Gamblers Anonymous:** Is gambling affecting your life? We would like to help. Pick up the phone and ring 028 71351329.

**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.

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**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.

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine** will take place on **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026**. In conjunction with the All Ireland Rosary Rally, we will join those gathered to celebrate at our National Eucharistic and Marian Shrine. For those for whom it is convenient, buses will leave St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry at 8.00am: cost £50, which includes dinner in Knock House Hotel following the conclusion of the Mass in the Basilica. For further information, please contact Karen in the parish office at St Eugene's on 028 71262894 or by email at cathedral@derry diocese.org

**The Columban Young Adults** is a new group for those aged 18-30 in the diocese seeking a community of like-minded young adults who have Christ at the centre of their lives. The first event will be a talk on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry, delivered by the Servant Sisters of Home of the Mother. It will be on the question, 'Why be a Young Catholic in 2026', in which they will also reflect on the life of St Clare Crockett. The talk will be followed by Solemn Benediction and light refreshments.

**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.

**Congratulations** – We extend congratulations and best wishes to Bishop Donal McKeown on the occasion of celebrating 25 years as bishop.

## 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 – Friday

St Columb's Church	10.00am & 7.30pm
Church of Immaculate Conception	9.15am (Monday – Friday)
St Oliver Plunkett's Church	11.00am (Mon, Tue and Thursday until Fr. Joshi returns)
St Mary's Oratory	11.00am (Wednesday 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 – Friday 7.00pm – 7.25pm Saturday after 10.00 Mass
Church of Immaculate Conception	Saturday 5.30pm – 5.55pm
St Oliver Plumkett's Church	Saturday 5.30pm – 5.55pm

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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.

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