

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

**Sunday 3rd May 2026 -
5th Sunday of Easter**

“I am the Way”

The context of today's gospel reading is Jesus' lengthy conversation with his disciples at the Last Supper. While fully aware of his enemies' determination to destroy him, Jesus' concern is not for himself but for them. Sensing their sadness and apprehension, he prepares them for his imminent departure with words of comfort and encouragement. He urges them to trust in God and in him, assuring them that 'there are many rooms in my Father's house'; that he is going 'to prepare a place' for them, and that he will return to take them with him (Jn 14:1-3).

Jesus is preparing his disciples to continue his mission. His concern is not with life after death, but with life here and now on earth. He is opening a new way of relating to his disciples so that they will continue to abide in him and be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. He is calling on them to have faith in him as 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life' (Jn 14:6).

These words of Jesus clearly captured the imagination of the earliest followers of Jesus who referred to themselves as ***'followers or the way' or 'people of the way'***. Following the Way of Jesus involved more than obeying a set of instructions from their Master. It meant a deeply personal relationship with Jesus who identifies himself as the Way to the Father because of his oneness with the Father: 'No one can come to the Father, except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too' (Jn 14:4).

Initially, the disciples fail to understand the words of Jesus.

Today's gospel warns us against complacency. Simply because we are baptised members of the Church and practising Catholics does not necessarily mean that we know the God revealed in Jesus. Indeed, our very familiarity with Jesus may make us blind to the 'heart-breaking strangeness' of his person and message. No less than Philip and the apostles, we, too, need to have our eyes and ears opened to the 'the spirit-shocking' power of his life and message.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Brian McLoughlin**, Poplar Road

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Shiela Kelly, Annie Starrett, Margaret Frazer, John Monaghan, John Mullan, Margaret Muldoon, Samuel Strawbridge, Bronagh McMenamin, Shaun Quinn, Danny Morrin, Sean McHugh, Eileen Strain, Kathleen Sweeney.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: 4,100.00 Strathfoyle: £505.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Second Collection next weekend is the Diocesan Collection which helps the Administration of the Diocese

Sincere thanks from Sister Ann- to all who contributed in any way to our Easter Missions Appeal, in aid of the poor in Kenya, India, Nigeria and Haiti. The total amount raised was £11,006 and €935. Thank you so much. May God reward and bless you once again for all your generosity.

The Little Way Novena in St Eugene’s Cathedral – 9th May to 17th May: The theme is ***‘My peace consists in remaining little’***. The Novena will begin at the 7.30 pm Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick on Saturday, 9th May. Devotions and talk on Sunday, 10th May at 6.00 pm. Monday to Friday (11th to 15th May) Novena Masses at 6.30 am and 10.00 am each morning and an evening service with a guest speaker at 7.30 pm. Saturday, 16th May 10.00 am Mass for those who have died.

Vocations –Our first reading tells the story of the selection of the first seven deacons. We pray for those recently, or soon to be, ordained to the Diaconate. Here in the Diocese of Derry, we pray God's blessing on Deacon Stephen Baxter who will be ordained to the priesthood on 14 June, that the Lord will bless him in his future ministry.

DEEDS – Supporting the Carer Talk Series - The third talk in our Carers Information Sessions, funded by the Western Health and Social Care Trust, will focus on future planning / advanced care planning.

This information session will take place at the **Old Library Trust Healthy Living Centre**, Central Drive, Creggan, on **Thursday 7th May 2026 at 7pm.**

For further information or to register, please contact **Eilish** on **02871 373870** or email eilish@olt.ie.

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

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

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.

Talk on Peace – Fr Declan Boland is giving a talk on the theme of “Peace” in Parish Hall on Saturday 16th May after the 10am Mass with refreshments available.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine will take place on **Saturday, 6th 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@derrydiocese.org

Pilgrimage to Lourdes – 03 July 2026 for 5 nights. Spiritual director Fr Daniel McFaul. £899 per person sharing. direct flights from Derry to Lourdes, full board; breakfast, lunch and dinner each day. For information, please contact Maria Bradley – 07768395038 or (028) 81648357

A **Marian Evening of Prayer** will be held in **St Mary's Church, Creggan**, on **Wednesday, 13 May** (Feast of Our Lady of Fatima). The event is hosted by Derry Youth Ministry, who are preparing for their diocesan pilgrimage to Fatima in August of this year. The night will begin at **7:00pm** with a rosary procession (outdoors, weather permitting), followed by a short talk on Our Lady and the Eucharist, Adoration, and Benediction. Music will be provided by the Diocesan Youth music group, with refreshments following in the community room. All ages welcome! Contact Bethany at bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org for more details.

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)
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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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. 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.
