

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

*Sunday 10th May 2026 -
6th Sunday of Easter*

‘I will not leave you orphans’

Jesus promises his disciples that he will not abandon them: ‘I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you’ (Jn 14:18). He is returning to the Father but only to be with them in a new way, through the gift of the Spirit: ‘I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (Counsellor) to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive’ (Jn 14:16-17). In identifying the Spirit of God as the ‘Spirit of Truth’, Jesus is highlighting an essential role of God’s Spirit in the lives of his disciples and in our lives too, namely, to be courageous truth-tellers, witnesses to the truth of Jesus Christ and his gospel of love

As disciples of Jesus we, too, are called and empowered by God’s Spirit, the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Jesus, to be witnesses to the truth – the truth that sets us free (cf. Jn 8:32), the truth that enables us to live as God’s children. This is surely a calling particularly relevant in our time.

We live in a world that has scant regard for truth. With the advent of digital technology, and its impact in the field of communication, the lines between fact and fiction, truth and fantasy, are becoming increasingly blurred in every sphere of life. Increasingly, we inhabit ‘virtual worlds’ constructed by our imaginations, worlds in which we become the sole arbiters of what is true, just, wise and loving

The vocation to be truth tellers has nothing in common with arrogant claims to be in possession of the full truth about God and his plans for us. Indeed, we are no more possessors of the truth, than we are possessors of God’s Spirit

In this Easter season, as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, we pray that the Spirit may be more fully present to us and within us, so that we become more committed truth-seeking witnesses of Christ. And so, may we be more effective instruments in the transformation of our world into ‘a new earth and a new heaven’, where all people feel at home and no one is an orphan.

By Michael McCabe, SMA

Baptisms: We welcome into God's family -Sloane Elma Finlay, Carn Mannor, Cillian Barr-Jooste, Harbour View, Roise Grace Lawrance, Foxhill and Finn Daithi Kelly, Riverview, Ballykelly.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Keith Tracey**, Bentley Terrace, **Ann Brown**, Beechwood Park, Strathfoyle, **Sally Boyle**, Gort Na Si Close, Steelstown

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Mary McNulty, John McCourt, Kathleen Leitch, Mary McGinley, Molly McGowan, Mary Ann Duddy, Anna Canning, Sue Crossan, Don Sharkey, Louise Casey, Kathleen Whoriskey, Harry Bryson, Attracta McChrystal, Mena O'Donnell, William James Coyle, John Dillon.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: 4,200.00 Strathfoyle: £485.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

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

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.

Holy Hour for vocations – There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in St Columb's Church on Saturday 16th May after the 7pm Vigil Mass. All welcome to join in this time of prayer.

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 in side Chapel of St Columb's Church.

DIOCESE OF DERRY LOUGH DERG PILGRIMAGE 2026: The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg will take place from Friday 24 July to Sunday 26 July 2026. Lough Derg continues to welcome people seeking prayer, peace, reflection and renewal in the midst of busy lives. A bus will travel from St Eugene's Cathedral, via Strabane and Lifford. Cost: £95 / €110 including bus transport. You are welcome, of course, to use your own means of transport. Booking form and full details available at: derrydiocese/lough-derg

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

Vocation -In our first reading this weekend we hear about the people of Samaria receiving the Holy Spirit. As we approach Pentecost, we pray for a fresh and powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, on the world, on our country, on our parish communities, and on each one of us. May the Spirit fill the hearts and minds of deacons, seminarians, and all those discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, and may many more hear and follow the call to serve the Church as priests.

Walk in the footsteps of our Patron Saint on Saint Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk in Downpatrick with guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on Sat 6 June and 8 August, and Mairead Sweeney on Sat 4 July. Price includes entrance fees, internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch at the famous Saul Barn, plus a stamped Camino passport and a 6-mile pilgrimage walk, finishing at Saint Patrick's grave. To book ring 02844 619000 or go to website www.saintpatrickcentre.com

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 contact 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. 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 followed by a short talk on Our Lady and the Eucharist, Adoration, and Benediction.

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.
