

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 17th May 2026 -The Ascension of the Lord

“Until the end of Time”

When Luke tells us in our first reading today that Jesus ‘was lifted up, while they [the disciples] looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight’ (Acts 1:9), he is speaking metaphorically to convey the mystery of Jesus’ return to the Father.

What we are celebrating today is not some mind-boggling physical feat never done before. It is, rather, in the words of Scripture Scholar, Tom Wright, ***‘the fact that Jesus has gone ahead of us into God’s space, God’s new world, and is already ruling this present world as its Lord and also interceding for us at the Fathers’ right hand’.***

The significance of the Ascension for the disciples of Jesus is brought out in our Gospel reading from Matthew. On a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus had begun his ministry, he now addresses his disciples for the last time and launches a new phase of his Kingdom mission. He begins by stating that ‘all authority in heaven and on earth’ (Mt 28:18) has been given to him. Then, based on this authority, he commissions his disciples to ‘make disciples of all nations’ (Mt 28:19), and assures them that he will be with them always, ‘until the end of time’ (Mt 28:20).

Jesus commands his disciples to ‘make disciples of all nations’. Making disciples, of course, includes preaching and teaching [instructing], and confirming people in their identity as God’s children, ‘by baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ (Mt 28:19). But it involves much more than this.

Significantly, Jesus did not say “I will be with you” but rather “I am with you”, promising an always-current presence. And so, the disciples of Jesus will not be overwhelmed, but rather emboldened and empowered to carry out the commission they have received. And we, too, his disciples today, struggling to continue his mission in these uncertain and turbulent times will not be overwhelmed, for he who has sent us remains with us “until the end of time”.

by Tom Casey, SMA:

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Mellon**, Windridge Drive

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Elaine Murray, Jenny Murray, Tom Doherty, Tom & Teresa Nicholas, Jane Gillespie, Annie Quigley, Roseann Quigley, Tony Healy, John Carlin, Maureen Baxter, Jim Kelly, Frank Kelly, Mary Collins, Shaun Magee, Margaret Norris, Michael Murphy, Susie McNulty, Eithne Ivy, John McCormack, Michael Devine, Patrick Quinn.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3890.00 Strathfoyle: £515.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations – On Ascension Sunday we celebrate World Communications Day. We pray for those who will be called as priests to preach the Gospel, to communicate the Good News of God’s love as God reveals it to us in His Word and in the person of Jesus Christ.

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 – Join us on Thursday evenings at 8:00 in St Columb’s Church for our weekly praying of the Sacred Scriptures.

The Columban Young Adults is a new group for those aged 18-30 in the diocese, who are seeking a community of like-minded young adults who have Christ at the centre of their lives. The next event will be a talk and meditation on Marian Devotion on **Thursday, 21st May**. 7.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Steelstown, delivered by Fr Declan McGeehan. The meditation will be followed by Solemn Benediction and finish with light refreshments.

Rosary on the Beach 3.00pm Sunday at Benone beach.

Day of Friendship and Prayer - Lough Derg will host their Day of Friendship and Prayer on **Wednesday, 20th May**. This special annual event promotes Christian Unity. Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop John McDowell will join Fr La Flynn, Prior of Lough Derg, for a day of Spirituality, friendship, and reflection. Admission fee of £25 includes boat fare. Advance booking is essential. Tel 0(0353)719861518.

Parish Youth Ministry Evening – Derry Diocesan Youth will host an evening for Parish Youth Ministry leaders and volunteers on **Wednesday, 20th May** in Claudy Parish Centre at 7.00pm. The evening will provide an opportunity for parishes to reflect on their current ministers for young people and share practice. If you would like more information or would like to attend, please contact yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org or 02871264087.

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 during 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.

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 **Saturday 4th 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

'The Ascension of Christ means our own salvation as well; where the glorious Head has gone before, the body is called to follow in hope. Let us therefore exult, beloved, as is fitting, and let us rejoice in devout thanksgiving. For on this day not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have even entered heaven in the person of Christ; through his grace we have regained far more than we had lost through the devil's hatred, (St Leo the Great, Sermon 73:4)

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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YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

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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.
