

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 24th May 2026 – Pentecost Sunday

“Missionary by its very nature”

Today, Pentecost Sunday, we come to the climax of our Easter celebrations. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church as a Spirit-filled community sent out, in the name of the Risen Christ, to continue his mission on earth. Our readings today remind us of important truths about the Church and its mission: first, that the Church is essentially missionary; second, that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of Mission.

First, the Church is, in the words of the Second Vatican Council, “missionary by its very nature” (AG, no. 9). Witnessing to the Gospel is the reason for its existence. This means all its members, all who are baptised in the Spirit, are ‘missionary disciples of Christ’ (Pope Francis). A Church that turns in on itself and stops being missionary is no longer the Church of Christ but simply a group of like-minded people content to enjoy each other’s company.

In his great Encyclical Letter, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis reminded us that that the true Church ‘is a Church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security’ (EG, n. 49). The Church exists by mission just as fire exists by burning.

Second, the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of this mission. We, the members of the Church, are simply her servants. We forget this truth at our peril, at the risk of becoming agents of an enterprise that has little or nothing to do with the message of the Gospel or God’s reign in the world.

The story of the first Pentecost prompts us to ask ourselves what gift of the Spirit, what language do we need today so that everybody can understand us. Love is the language of the Spirit, the only language capable of creating a unity that respects diversity, the language that, in the words of Pope Leo, ‘breaks down barriers between peoples and tears down the walls of indifference and hatred’.

By Michael McCabe, SMA.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Fiadh Aoibh Doherty**, Sydney ,Australia and **Rylie Kane Campbell**, Gelvin Gardens.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Marian Carlin**, Stradowen Drive; **Hugh Quinn**, Hillview Avenue; **Teresa Doran**, Osprey Drive; **Tommy McCormick**, Knightsbridge.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – *Rev James Clerkin, Kathleen McGrath, Frances McGowan, Jim Hamilton, Gary Walker, Carol McLaughlin, Fr Paul McChrystal, Leo Gormley, Andrew & Kathleen Allen.*

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,944.00 Strathfoyle: £720.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations – On Pentecost Sunday we pray for a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on deacons, seminarians, and on the men discerning a vocation to serve the Church as priests of our diocese. May the Spirit of Jesus fill the hearts of many more with the courage to answer God’s call to them and keep them faithful in their ministry.

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.

Centering Prayer Group - Further to the gathering last Saturday a Centering Prayer Group will meet in the Parish Hall at 8.15 on **Wednesday 27th May**. All are welcome to join.

Joy! Sacred Music Concert – **Saturday, 6th June 2026** at 7.30pm in First Derry Presbyterian Church. With performances by Campana, Joyful Together (Carlisle Road Methodist Church), St Eugene’s Cathedral Choir and Voices of the Foyle.

Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead takes place in the City Cemetery on **Sunday, 7th June** at 3.00pm. Please be in position by 2.30pm. Families are asked to bring their own holy water to the Cemetery for the blessing of Graves. The service will also be live streamed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvtnk3PsOheU>

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

Prayer for the Church in China (Day of Prayer 24th May)

Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China, who amid their daily trials,
continue to believe, to hope, to love.

May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world, and of the world of
Jesus.

In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high, offering him to the
world with open arms in a gesture of love.

Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love, ever clinging to the
rock of Peter on which the Church is built.

Mother of Christ and all Asia, pray for us, now and for ever.

Amen!

**Ordinary Time resumes this year with Week 8
Readings Sunday Cycle A Weekday Cycle 2**

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

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

Email: secretary@watersideparish.net **Web:** www.watersideparish.net

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

Rev. Michael Canny PP 02871342303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 02871342303 secretary@watersideparish.net

Rev Joshy Parokkaran CC 02871342303 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 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.
