

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 31st May 2026

The Most Holy Trinity

This weekend's gospel passage from John presents us with a conversation between a Pharisee, and leading member of the Jewish Ruling Council, named Nicodemus, and Jesus. Impressed by the reports he has heard about Jesus, but fearful of reaction of his fellow-Pharisees, Nicodemus approaches Jesus under cover of darkness. In response to Nicodemus' questions, Jesus makes the astounding declaration: 'God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son ... not to condemn the world but so that through him the world might be saved' (Jn 3:16-17).

This is the heart of the Gospel – the good news of God's unconditional love for the world. We as people of faith not creatures of a cruel and capricious deity, but children of a God of unimaginable love and tenderness. The same truth is also affirmed in today's first reading from the book of Exodus. Speaking with God, Moses, is assured, that however unfaithful and headstrong the chosen people have shown themselves to be, God remains the God of faithful love, 'a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness' (Ex 34:6).

Today, Trinity Sunday, we are celebrating a mystery not a mathematical puzzle – the mystery of God's unfathomable love. The God revealed in the Bible is not some remote and distant deity, but a God who is close to us, and involved with us.

The Trinity is not just a dogma to be accepted in faith, or a formula to be recited. It is the heartbeat of our Christian way of life. It is ultimately about what it means to be human persons created in the image of the God of Love. To be human means to be like the God who created us, the God in whom all creatures live and move and have their being, and who are intimately connected with one another.

Our liturgy today invites each of us to acknowledge and deepen our participation in the Trinitarian communion of Father, Son and Spirit through our loving communion with one another and with all creation

Michael McCabe SMA

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Ada Monroe Schwartz** and **Atlas James Schwartz**, USA and **Maggie Hannah Connolly**, Woodside Heights.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Eamon McLaughlin**, Virginia Court.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – *Mary Josephine Kelly, Rosemary & Daniel Kelly, Mary Irwin, George McLaughlin, Stephen Jackson, Billy & Kathleen Stevenson, Alfie & Madge Shotter, Annie McLaughlin, Laurence McGilloway, Mary McGee, Patrick McGee, Lynne McCallion, May Mc Laughlin, Pam Leitch, Maureen Armstrong, Thomas Tracey, Mary & James Cassidy. Jim Healy.*

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3581.00 Strathfoyle: £510.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations – We Pray for the men who will be charged with the task of preaching, by word and by the example of their lives, the message of John 3:16 – that “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.”

Vocations Society of St Joseph (Waterside Parish) - The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 3rd June** after 10.00 am Mass. We continue to pray for priests, vocations to priesthood and religious life and support seminarians. The Rosary on Thursday mornings at 9.30 am offered for this intention and everyone welcome. Please remember in prayer Deacon Stephen Baxter who will be ordained to the priesthood in St Columb’s Church on Sunday 14 June. The Society also wishes to acknowledge with thanks anonymous donations of £70, £40, £40, £20, £10 and £5.

Cemetery Sunday – Outdoor Blessing of the graves will take place today **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.

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.

Ordination to priesthood – Reverend Stephen Baxter, a native of our parish will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop McKeown on **Sunday, 14th June** at 3.00pm. All welcome and keep him in your prayers.

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. The service will also be live streamed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?V=zvtk3PsOheU>

St Columba's Day 2026 – This year's we're celebrating 80th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Long Tower in 1946. 7.30pm Mass of St Columba on **Tuesday, 9th June** to mark the 80th Anniversary of the of the Consecration of Long Tower church celebrated by Fr John Joe Duffy, PP Creeslough followed by procession to St Columba's Well and Parish Party in Lower School Hall.

Ministers and priests from the city's Christian churches will gather on Sunday June 7th this year, to honour our city's patron saint. The interdenominational service begins at 4.15 pm in St Augustine's Church of Ireland, on the Walls. The main address will be delivered by the Catholic Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown. The event is scheduled ahead of the June 9th Feast Day of St Columba

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**. 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**. 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

Mass & Confession Times

Sunday

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| 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

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| 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

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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

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| 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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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.
