

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 28th June 2026

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Welcoming the People of God”

Throughout the Old Testament readings that we hear during the year, there are many instances of hospitality shown. In many ways this was seen as an essential part of the culture of the time. This is not just hospitality for immediate family and friends, but also in a more special way caring for the stranger. Without knowing who he was, we hear in this Sunday’s readings that the prophet Elisha was welcomed by the stranger as a Holy Man of God.

Significantly, on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul which we celebrate this Monday (29 June), in this parish we mark forty years since the late Bishop Edward Daly rededicated St. Columb’s Church following its renovation in the previous years. It is worth reflecting on this, the Church as our spiritual family home. We think of the tears of the funerals and maybe also at a wedding! The joys of celebrating the sacraments of First Holy Communion, baptisms, marriages, confirmations and ordinations that many of us attended in the years before and since and for many years to come.

But our parish churches, while a special and beautiful place of solitude, prayer, worship and many memories, are only the place where we receive our spiritual nourishment in Word and Sacrament of the Body of Christ. Yet the ‘Body of Christ’ is more than only receiving Holy Communion at Mass. By our baptism, we the people and those gone before us in faith of the Parish, the Diocese and the whole Church are the Body of Christ. We are sent out to live what we receive in our words and actions. In our time as we gather for Mass, as a parish community welcome all the people of God, familiar faces and the stranger alike who make up the Body of Christ around us. When we truly welcome any of the people of God, we trust that we welcome Christ and indeed we welcome the one who sent him.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Hallie Grace McCartney**, Whitethorn Drive and **Eva Sophie Crossan**, Birch Hill.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Tom Frawley**, Rosswater and **John Doran**, Violet Street.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Frank Henry, John McConomy, George Faulkner, Sheila Coyle, Bridie McKinney, Anne Deehan, William McGrath, Mary Mullan, John Carlin, Brian Owen, Damien Doherty, John & Sadie McConomy, Bernard Hannaway, Rose Walker, William Hegarty, Marie McGinn, Josephine O’Connor, Joe Mc Dermott.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott: £3,723.00 Strathfoyle: £520.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations – In this weekend’s gospel Jesus encourages the men He is calling to priesthood not to be afraid to” ...take up their cross and follow (Him)...” and promises them that they will find fulfilment and “life” in Him.

Vocations Society of St Joseph (Waterside Parish) We continue to pray for priests, vocations to priesthood and religious life and support seminarians. The Rosary on Thursday mornings at 9.30am offered for this intention and everyone welcome.

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

Are you interested in volunteering to help children and adults in our parish to prepare to receive the Sacraments? If you have a basic knowledge of Catholic teaching and some teaching experience (not essential), please contact the Parish Office Tel. 02871 342303. You will join a small parish team and be supported in preparing and delivering sessions. The time commitment would be around 2 hours per week from end of September to May. Safeguarding checks will be carried out.

Diocese of Derry – Lough Derg Pilgrimage 2026: The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg will take place from **Friday 24th July** to **Sunday 26th 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.

Concern Derry Group - the annual Scalp Challenge in aid of Concern's worldwide development work will take place today **Sunday 28th June** at Henry McLaughlin's farm (from Derry turn right at Burnfoot). First walkers should set off at 12noon and the last at 2.00pm. Check the weather forecast and wear suitable clothing. All support greatly appreciated.

Accord Derry - Marriage Preparation Workshops - September and November 2026. September 25th/26th 2026 – November 20th/21st 2026. These courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com

Please note that Accord Derry will **NOT** be facilitating courses during October or December 2026.

Man and Woman, He Created Them - The Priory Institute is running an online summer school in August again this year. The course will examine a selection of Pope John Paul's writings on the human body, man and woman, love and sexuality and marriage. The Summer School is reflective, informative and interactive and will run from **10th August 2026**. The course includes four recorded presentations and one online zoom discussion and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online prioryinstitute.com

Fr Mike Schmitz Parables Tour for Young People 20th July – Dublin: Derry Youth Ministry are inviting young people aged 16+ to join them for the Fr Mike Schmitz Parables Tour taking place on **20th July 2026** in the National Stadium Dublin. Fr Mike is an American priest and digital evangelist, who will present the message of the Gospel, in a novel, energetic and engaging style that speaks into young people's lives today. Cost £45 for ticket and transport. Bus departs Derry at 12noon, with pick-ups in Strabane and Omagh. To secure your place or for more information contact bethanydoherty@derrydiocese.org or call 02871264087.

Thought for the Day

We are rarely asked for a cup of water. But the rewards promised by Jesus extend beyond individual almsgiving to those who work for others in a thousand hidden ways, for instance maintaining a city water system, or caring for public hygiene, as civil servants, plumbers, engineers, scientists, streetcleaners or parents of families. We live in a more complex society, but the same care and generosity are found in all walks of life, wherever people devote themselves to the service of others.

Thank you, Lord, for the opportunities I have to serve others.

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 |

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

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Rev. Patrick Lagan CC 02871342303 secretary@watersidepaish.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.
