

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 2nd August 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“A Quiet Place”

John the Baptist has just been beheaded and when Jesus hears the news of this great spiritual leader he withdraws to a lonely place. He tries to escape to the one place that is uninhabited by people, the same kind of place that John the Baptist himself lived. We can all identify with Jesus, when we hear difficult news, we like to get a bit of time and space to come to terms with it.

Despite his best efforts the people, who sought out John the Baptist now seek out Jesus. When Jesus sees the people coming rather than play hide and seek, he takes pity on them and heals their sick. Jesus's desire for peace and quiet has been overtaken by his compassion for them.

Meanwhile the disciples see a problem with having so many people in such an isolated place. They offer Jesus' advice to send them away to buy food in the local villages.

Instead of sending them away Jesus challenges his disciples; “Give them something to eat yourselves.” After pointing to the little they have, Jesus raises his eyes to heaven, blesses it, and gives it to the disciples to give to the crowd.

Matthew is clear that; although Jesus and the disciples are deprived of their quiet place and have very little food, still – with the blessing of God – they have sufficient to match the needs of the people. Indeed, they have food left over.

We do not know how the death of John the Baptist affected Jesus. His violent death must have saddened him and must have left him wondering about his own future. We learn that Jesus is not a robot. He feels the need to withdraw, to gather his thoughts, and to pray.

This time of year, is an opportunity for all of us to find time for peace and quiet. The challenge is to use the time wisely so that we can be renewed both physically and spiritually.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Blossom Oisnachi Ugwu**, Moore Street.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Bernard Sherrard, Patsy McNulty, Maria Mullan, Michael Martin, Mena & Patrick O'Donnell, Jack Sweeney, Aggie McNaught, Eileen Mullan, Laurence Deeney, Steven Smith, Des Kerr, Susan McAuley, Kieran Begley, Brigid McKinney.

Vocations – We pray for the men called to priesthood. Like Jesus in today's gospel, may they never turn away from the poor, the hungry, the most vulnerable, or those in need, but always reflect the love of Christ for them as they nourish and strengthen them with the Word of God.

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.

Offertory Collections: Glendermott: £4,143.00 Strathfoyle: £550.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

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.

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

***"He who sings, prays twice."* (St Augustine)** – St Columb's church choir is on its summer break for the months of **July & August** and will resume in September. We are constantly looking for new singers, maybe you would consider joining, just come along and give it a try or talk to Marcus or any choir members.

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.

'Embrace the Grace' Young Adult Catholic Conference - 29 August 2026 - Legion of Mary: 'Embrace the Grace' is a conference on faith and culture for young adults (18-40) with talks, prayer, Mass, confession, workshops, food and social in the historic Legion of Mary headquarters at De Montfort House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7. It will be a chance to build faith in friendship with young adults from across the country. This event takes place on Saturday 30 August from 9.30am to 6.00pm with a social afterwards. Tickets cost €20 and can be booked on the eventbrite website by looking up 'Embrace the Grace'. Any queries can be directed towards deusetpatria@gmail.com.

Mary's Meals – Step by Step Walk – Mary's Meals is currently feeding over 3 million children a daily school meal across 16 countries. Our Annual Step by Step to Feed the Next Child 2 Bridges Walk (Foyle and Peace Bridges Derry) takes place on **Sunday 9th August**. Starting Point is at Sainsbury's Car Park, Strand Road at 12noon. All welcome to participate even for a mile or two. For further details and to register online visit www.marysmeals.org.uk/step or contact Caoimhe on 07394564065. Please do keep all our walkers in your prayers.

Rosary on the Beach – Sunday, 2nd August at 3.00pm on Lisfannon Beach.

Thought for the Day

No one in the crowd would have thought that this boy mattered. This was one little bit of seafood and bread, but he had been chosen by God to be a significant piece of the Messiah's redemptive plan not only for that day, but for the rest of human history.

Here's what I'm trying to say: *we will never know which little person God will use, and how*. That means that we're never just lost in the crowd. We're never without anything to offer. We never know who the Lord will claim and use in ways that we can't predict or haven't intended.

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 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)
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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 Chapel 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@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.
