

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 12th July 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'Charged with the grandeur of God'

Once upon a time, Truth walked down a village street as naked as the day he was born. Horrified, the villagers ran back to their houses and locked their doors. Taken aback, Truth continued walking until he met Story coming down the road facing him, smiling and dressed to the nineties. Noticing his dejection, she asked him why he was so sad. 'Nobody wants me, he said. As soon as they see me coming, they all run away'. 'That's because you're naked', responded Story. 'People are afraid of naked truth. Look, I'll make you some nice clothes, and we'll see how people respond'. Reluctantly, Truth agreed, and two weeks later he dressed himself in the suit Story had made for him. At first, he felt rather uncomfortable to be all covered up. But when people began to accept him and welcome him into their homes, he relaxed. Soon Truth and Story became best friends, eventually married, and had three children: a boy and two girls. Their names were: Myth, Fable and Parable.

Today's gospel reading from Matthew narrates the familiar parable of the Sower and the different kinds of soil on which the seed falls. This story encourages us to reflect on our lives and our response to the good news of God's loving reign. It invites each of us to ask: What kind of soil am I? Am I receptive to God's word? Do I nurture it regularly and carefully? Do I let it penetrate my heart, so that I become God's co-worker in the birth of a new creation?

The Sower, as depicted by Jesus, sows seeds with prodigious liberality, seemingly unconcerned that some may be lost or fail to bear fruit. When we open our eyes, we cannot miss the presence to this unbelievably generous God 'who gives everything away'. Today's gospel calls on us to open our hearts to the gracious seeds of God's presence scattered so abundantly in our world – a world that, in the striking words of the poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, is 'charged with the grandeur of God'

Please note: No Mass in St Mary's Oratory on Wednesday of this week

No Mass in St Oliver Plunkett Church on Thursday of this week

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God – **Cahir Samuel Ramsey**, Seventree Road; **Marlowe Rosie McLaughlin**, Sevenoaks.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Veronica Gillen**, Dereen Drive, Strathfoyle; **Teresa Harkin**, Owenmore; **Aidan McChrystal**, late of Shearwater Way.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Anne & Mary Boyle, Liam Clarke, Frank McLaughlin, Ciaran Feeney, Brian Carlin, Dolores McGuinness, Paul Deehan, Paddy O’Kane, Margaret, Joseph & Kathleen Murray, Cahir & Mamie Fitzpatrick, David Mullan.

Offertory Collection: Glendermott:£4,911.00 Strathfoyle: £605.00

Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Vocations – We pray for the men called to serve the Church as priests of our diocese, that their hearts will be the fertile soil Jesus need to receive the seed which is His Word, and that they will spread his Word, His Good news, by their preaching and by the example of their lives.

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.

“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.

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.

The Annual Pioneer Pilgrimage Mass at Knock Shrine will be celebrated in the Basilica at 3.00pm next Sunday, 19th July. Pioneers extend a welcome to families and relatives of people who are undergoing treatment for addictions currently. Further information from Fr Robert: prayer@pioneers.ie

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.

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.

God's word - We must have faith in the power of God's word. It is the instrument by which God effects his purpose. It does not work automatically but grows in a soil of faith and prayer. We must be concerned about teaching, preaching and praying the word, and to work ensure a receptive soil.

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 Plunkett'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.
