

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 19th July 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'God's garden'

Today's readings highlight a virtue that is fast disappearing from our world: the virtue of patience. Our society values ambition and action above all else.... Waiting, even for a very short time, has become so unbearable for many.

Today's gospel reading from Matthew also underlines the patience of God. Extending the parable of the Sower in last Sunday's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that when the good seed begins to sprout, weeds (darnel) appear among the wheat, much to the consternation of the servants who would like to root them out immediately. However, the wise farm owner asks them to be patient, and to wait until harvest time. He points out that, if they try to remove the weeds now, they 'might pull up the wheat with it' (Mt 13: 29).

The parable depicts a world with which we are all familiar – a world where evil is mingled with good. While the world is still God's garden, it is not as God intended it to be. God planted only good seed. The Book of Genesis reminds us that, when God had finished the work of creation, he 'saw all that he had made and indeed it was very good' (Gen 1:31). The presence of weeds is evidence of an enemy who has sneaked into the garden while the labourers were sleeping and planted bad seed (Mt 13: 25). Thus, we have all kinds of evil in the world, from the most banal everyday variety, such as lies, jealousy, deceit, egotism and selfishness, to the most egregious – wars, human trafficking, mindless exploitation of earth's resources, labour camps and torture chambers.

The good news is that we have a master gardener (God) who assures us that all will be sorted out in the end. God's kingdom grows slowly but surely, as the parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast in the Cake illustrate. This assurance should free us from a dangerous preoccupation with getting rid of the weeds in God's garden and lead us to focus instead on sowing seeds of the kingdom. We can confidently leave the problem of the weeds to the master gardener and look forward to the day when he will gather the wheat into his barn.

Words of welcome - Our parish community warmly welcomes the announcement of the appointment of Bishop Michael Router as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Derry. We offer him our heartfelt congratulations and assure him of our prayers and support as he begins this important ministry of leadership, service, and pastoral care throughout the diocese. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen him in the years ahead as he serves the people of Derry with wisdom, compassion, and faith.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to Bishop Donal McKeown for his dedicated and faithful service as Bishop of Derry. His commitment to the life and mission of the Church, together with his pastoral leadership over the past years, has been greatly appreciated by clergy, religious, and laity alike. We thank him for the generous ministry and pray that God will continue to bless him with good health, peace, and every grace in the next chapter of his journey.

As a parish family, we look forward with hope to this new chapter in the life of our diocese and keep both Bishop Michael and Bishop Donal in our prayers.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God: **Orlaith Frances McGowan**, Bards Hill and **Riadh Angela Campbell**, Glenaden Mews.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Bridie Cross**, St Breacan's Park; **Hugh (Gus) Hastings**, Strathfoyle.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – **Colman Logue**, **Margaret Neely**, **Celine Boyle**, **Bridget Boyle**, **Agnes Webb**, **Noel O'Donnell**, **Jacqueline Doherty**, **Paddy McConomy**, **Christopher Webb**, **Johnny McChrystal**, **Helen Strawbridge**, **Ellen Lynch**, **Lexie Smith**, **Kathleen Murray**, **Mary Murray**, **Joan Nicholas**.

Vocations – That those called to priesthood will be the virtuous men of the first reading, kindly to their brothers and sisters, reflecting the lenient justice of God in their words and actions as they offer hope to God's people.

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.

Rosary the Beach – **Sunday 19th July** at 3.00pm at Benone beach.

Offertory Collections: Glendermott: £3537.00 Strathfoyle: £500.00

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.

"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.

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

Thought for the Day - Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God – an expression of spiritual religion which the prophets before Micah have also stressed. Jesus also teaches right conduct and love as the Way, and his is a greater wisdom than even Solomon's

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
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

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YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WatersideParish

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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.
