

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 26th July 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Grandparents enduring truths

Many of us have wonderful memories of our grandparents. Maybe we recall a celebration or family tradition, or perhaps simply their presence in our lives. We might have a keepsake that reminds us of them, of the times we shared with them one-on-one, and of their love for us. We treasure their stories and advice. These things remind us of what we have received – and continue to receive – from them.

One thing we receive from them is perspective in the here and now. We live in turbulent times. We can focus so much on our current circumstances that we give them an outsized importance and perhaps think that we are alone in facing challenges.

Our grandparents and the elderly put things in perspective and teach us that we are not alone. They remind us that there have been difficulties in the past – often greater than our current difficulties – and that many have gone before us and have faced similar struggles. They themselves struggled, suffered setbacks and sorrows, but still found much joy in their lives. By looking back and reflecting, we can see that they are able to offer us unparalleled advice and perspective.

The elderly also pass on to us the church's faith and traditions. This inheritance gives us strength in present trials and hope for the future. Many current ideas and ideologies compete for our attention. But they are passing. Our grandparents and the elderly give us the enduring truths that have built up our families and our Church. They teach us the importance of our faith for strengthening us in our difficulties and preparing us for the future.

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God: **Brodi-Lee John Carty**, Milltown View, Drumahoe.

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Kathleen McLaughlin**, Woodburn Park; **Annie Courtney**, Riversdale Road.

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in our prayers – Gwendoline Smyth, Catherine Caldwell, Terry Doran, Charlie Hillen, Bobby McCorkell, Anne Stone, Michael Friel, Barry McLaughlin, Pat Mullan, Sheila McCully, Patsy McNulty,

Vocations – For the men called to priesthood, that they will have the wisdom of Solomon (First Reading) as they guide God's people to find and value the treasure which is belonging to the Kingdom of God (Gospel) and building it up as a Kingdom of Justice, Love, and Peace.

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: £ 4975.00 Strathfoyle: £825.00

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.

The Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage – Celebrating the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. **Sunday, 26th July 2026**. Knock Shrine – Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin commencing at 2.30pm with the anointing of the Sick. A day of grace and blessing for the whole family as we honour Grandparents and the elderly. Please join us. All are welcome.

***"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.

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

Prayer for Grandparents

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over.

Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and society.

Support them! As they grow older may they continue to be for their families' strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, loving treasures of sound religious traditions.

Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experiences.

Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and roles of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded but always encounter respect and love.

Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be united in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. ***Amen.***

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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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.
