

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 9th August 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Being still for the presence of the Lord

The readings speak powerfully to anyone who has ever felt overwhelmed, afraid, or uncertain. Elijah, we hear stands on the mountain in search of God. He can hear wind, earthquake, and fire, but God is not found in the noise and drama. Instead, God comes in the sound of a gentle breeze. This is a reminder of the lonely place of last week's Gospel in that the Lord often speaks most clearly not when life is loud, but when we become still enough to listen.

In the Gospel, the disciples are caught in a storm on the lake. Jesus comes to them walking on the water, but fear prevents them from recognising him. Peter has enough faith to step out of the boat, yet when he notices the strength of the wind, he begins to sink. His cry, "Lord, save me," is short, honest, and full of need. Jesus immediately reaches out his hand. He does not wait for Peter to deserve help; he saves him in the very moment of weakness.

We are invited to trust that Christ is present even in the storms of life, the challenges and upsets we cannot control. Faith does not mean we never feel afraid. It means turning towards Jesus when fear rises. Like Elijah, we at times may need silence to hear God's gentle voice. Like Peter, at times we may need humility to admit we are sinking. The good news is that Jesus is never far away either in the lonely place or within the noise of everyday life. He comes across the troubled waters of our lives and telling us not to be afraid. May we learn to keep our eyes fixed on him, to listen in the quiet, and to reach for his hand whenever the storm feels stronger than our faith.

*Mass times for the Feast of the Assumption,
Saturday 15 August*

Friday Evening Vigil Masses:

St Oliver Plunkett, Strathfoyle – 6.00pm

St Columb's Church – 7.30pm

Saturday morning Masses:

St Columb's Church – 10.00am

St Mary's Oratory – 11.00am

Church of the Immaculate Conception – 11.00am

Baptisms – We welcome into the family of God **Matilda Jo Burder**, Glenbank Park, **Posy Bloom Chambers**, Beech Hill View, **Grayson Hannaway**, Dervock Street and **Oisín Gregory Casey**, Oak Country Manor.

We pray for **Marena Browne** of Seventree Road who was buried in Cranagh on Tuesday

Anniversaries – We are asked to remember in prayer: William McGonagle, Josephine McGrath, James and Marjorie Coyle, Rose McDonald, Alice Brown, Michael Gallagher, James and Kathleen Mullan, Liam and Bridie Gormley, Teresa Guthrie, Jim Elliott, Jim Ferry, Shiela Kerrigan, Jim McDaid, Annie Caldwell, Mary Cooke, Pat Aquino, Mary Downs.

Vocations – We pray for the men called to priesthood. For our seminarians and the men considering priesthood that, in moments of doubt, they'll hear Jesus say what He says to the disciples in today's gospel, "Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid!" For those interested or even wish to enquire about a call to diocesan priesthood, please contact Fr. Pat O'Hagan, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Derry at pgoh2111@gmail.com

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: £3,775.00

Strathfoyle: £470.00

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.

Administrative & Financial Officer (18 hours pw), Waterside Parish, Parochial House, 32 Chapel Road, Derry. Rate of pay: £12.88 per hr - £13.50 per hr. For application

packs please email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org or tel 028 7126 2302. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to recruitment@derrydiocese.org no later than 12 noon Monday 24th August 2026. Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

Hillcrest House Events this week: Monday 10th August 11am - 1pm: Join us for a Big Family Breakfast Brunch at An Croí. Enjoy a bacon (or sausage) bap while the kids have fun on the inflatables. Proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Friday 14th August 10.30am An Croí: Join our men's walking group for a trip to Inishowen and walk to Fr Hegarty's Rock. Transport provided. All ages welcome.

Friday 14th August 7-10pm. An evening of Music & Dancing with a Buffet Supper provided. Music by Philip Wilson. Bookings: 02871347515

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.

Marriage Encounter Ireland invites married couples to a residential Weekend from Friday 2 to Sunday 4 October 2026 at the Focolare Centre, Curryhills, Prosperous, Co. Kildare. Step away from daily distractions to deepen your communication, renew your love, and rediscover the joy of your marriage. Visit www.marriageencounter.ie

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 Plunkett'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@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.
