

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 20th September 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Message from Bishop Michael Router On my Installation as Bishop of Derry

Just over two months ago Pope Leo XIV appointed me as Bishop of Derry and today, as I begin this new chapter of my ministry, I do so with a deep awareness of the great responsibility that has been entrusted to me. On my visits to the diocese since July, I have been greatly encouraged by the warm welcome I have received from the laity, clergy and religious. I look forward to getting to know the people of the diocese better in the months and years ahead.

I grew up in Virginia, Co. Cavan, in a home where faith was simply part of everyday life. That experience taught me something I have carried throughout my thirty-seven years of priesthood – that faith is passed on not primarily through programmes or strategies, but through relationships, through families who pray, communities who care for each other and people who quietly witness to Christ in their ordinary everyday lives.

The Diocese of Derry has a remarkable heritage of faith stretching back to Saint Eugene and Saint Columba. That commitment has endured through hardship, change and challenge. It is both an honour and a privilege for me to now become part of such a strong faith community.

We know that the Church today faces significant challenges. Much has changed since I was ordained in 1989. My episcopal motto, *In Manus Tuas Domine* – “Into Your Hands, O Lord” – expresses how I hope to approach the years ahead. We do not know exactly where God will lead us, but we can trust that the Church is in his hands and that the Holy Spirit continues to guide us.

Our task now is not simply to maintain what we have inherited but to become missionary disciples for our own time. That will require parishes to work more closely together, greater participation by lay people, investment in faith formation, new ways of reaching young people and a willingness to use modern means of communication to proclaim the Gospel.

Jesus began his mission by meeting people, listening to them, walking with them and inviting them to follow him. We must do the same because each of us, through our Baptism, shares responsibility for the mission of Christ.

Today I ask for your prayers. Pray that I may have the health, strength and wisdom to serve you well.

So, with confidence in the Holy Spirit and with hope for the future, let us place ourselves and our diocese into the hands of the Lord.

+ Michael Router
Bishop of Derry

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Please note that there will be a Eucharistic Service in the Church of Immaculate Conception on Monday to Friday during the coming week. (ie Not Mass) No weekday Masses in St Oliver Plunkett or St Mary's Oratory until further notice.

The usual Mass schedule of 10am and 7.30pm at St Columb's.

Baptisms – We welcome into God's family: Rosemary Daphne Joy Saunders, Kingsmere Gardens: Selene Isabel Servan Arnoco, Woodburn Park: Jacob Jose Da Salva, Butlers Wharf; Lily Molly Carr, Ashthorpe

Deaths – We offer our sympathy to the family and friend of Joe Cunningham, Deramore Park, Yvonne Hargan, Carn Manor, Charlie McElwee late of Rosnagalliagh and Strathfoyle, Mary O'Doherty, Hollywood Avenue.

Anniversaries – Patsy Harkin, Victoria Campbell, Martin Francis, Bert Del Pinto, Minnie Boyle, Dan Doran, Roisin Doran, Josie Nash, Annie Quigley, Tony Devine, Pat and Jean Mullan, Bridget Herron, Redmond Gallagher, Tommy Nicholas, Phonsie Henry, Thomas Mullan, Sadie Conaghan, Anne Aquino, Maureen Sinclair, Yvonne Ha.

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.

Lectio Divina – Join us on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm in St Columb's Church for our weekly praying of the Sacred Scriptures.

Centring Prayer Group – Join us on Wednesday at 8:00pm in the St Columb's Church (Parish Hall)

Offertory Collections: Glendermott: 5,250.00 Strathfoyle: £720.00
Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections.

Organ Donation Week: 21-27 September 2026 - Organ Donation Week is nearly here! Support us and help us share the message of the Gift of Life. Running from Monday 21 – Sunday 27 September. One person can save up to nine lives as an organ donor, and even more if they also donate tissue. Support Organ Donation Week by confirming your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register at www.organdonationni.info/register-now or call 0300 123 23 23.

Readings; Sunday Cycle A Weekday Cycle 2 Psalter Week 1

RISE & SHINE TRUST – DERRY GROUP 110 (formerly The Irish Pilgrimage Trust) –

Do you know a young person who would benefit from a week of friendship, fun, faith and unforgettable memories in Lourdes? Rise & Shine brings children (11+) and young adults with additional needs on a week-long pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes each Easter. The trip is free for our guests as our volunteers fundraise for it. For more information, and to apply, please see www.riseandshine.ie. Applications for the 2027 Easter Pilgrimage are currently open and close on 15th October 2026.

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena - The Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots will begin after the 7.30pm Mass on Thursday, 1st October in Saint Eugene's Cathedral. It will continue for the following eight Thursdays, concluding on 26th November. Do you have "knots" in your life? Knots of discord in your family, unresolved pain in relationships, or a lack of peace and joy in your home? Through this devotion, we entrust our personal "knots" to her loving care—learning to let go and allowing her to gently untie what binds us. All are welcome to join in prayer and reflection during this special time of grace.

"He who sings, prays twice." (St Augustine) – St Columb's Church resumed last weekend. We are constantly looking for new singers, maybe you would consider joining, just come along and give it a try or talk to Markus or any choir members.

'Trench Rd Folk Group have returned for practises on Wednesday evenings in Malvern Terrace Parish Hall at 7pm. New and returning singers are welcome. Ages P7 up to and including adults.'

Vocations - For the future priests of our diocese that, in everything they say and do, they will reflect the ways, thoughts, and generous mercy of God in their ministry.

Are you 18 years or older and thinking or wondering about serving the Church as a priest of the diocese of Derry? There will be an afternoon Talk with time for Prayer, Discussion, Questions & Answers in Derry on Sunday 11 October. For further details please contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

Queen's University Chaplaincy reopened for the new academic year on **Monday 14 September**, with weekday Masses and our semester programme resuming. The first Sunday Mass was celebrated on **20th September at the new, earlier time of 7.00pm. Please note the new time!** New or returning

student? Find out about what's on, ways to connect and get involved, and student accommodation at Ryan Hall at qubcatholic.org

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)

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

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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.