

Parishes of Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 25th October 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Commandment of Love

Love is the greatest of the commandments, the mother of all the virtues, and the pulsating heart of the Christian message. We are created in the image of a God who is Love; so, we cannot live without love

In today's gospel reading from Matthew, one of the Pharisees, a lawyer, asks Jesus to identify 'the greatest commandment of the Law' (Mt 22:36). In response, Jesus quotes the great 'shema' prayer recited daily by all devout Jews (cf. Deut 6:4-5). This prayer exhorts us to love God with our whole heart, mind and soul. Jesus immediately adds a second commandment, familiar to his audience namely, 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Mt 22:39).

Sadly, the word 'love' is so overused in our world today that it has lost much of its meaning. We speak of love of country, love of sport, love of food, love between friends, love of parents, romantic love, etc

As Pope Leo teaches, 'True love is not merely a fleeting, briefly inflamed emotion. It is more. It is a deep commitment to the other, a decision, a journey and a covenant for life

All genuine love is manifested in action; it is practical and outgoing. In the words of St Augustine: 'It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of people.'

Such love is demanding. It summons us to leave our comfort zones, to give our time, our energy, our talents, and, indeed, our very selves to others

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Mass Arrangements for the Feast of All Saints- Saturday 31st October

6:00pm	Church of Immaculate Conception
6:00pm	St. Oliver Plunkett
6:30pm	St. Columb's Church (note change of time)

Diocesan Appointments - *This weekend is Fr Lagan's last weekend in our parish as our priest, I take the opportunity to thank him sincerely for his work both in the parish and the hospitals over the past four years. His endearing personality enabled him to get to know many people in a short period of time. His good humour and generosity of time have brought many blessings to many people and our parish community.*

As he begins a new phase of his life as Parish Priest in the Sperrin parishes of Gortin and Greencastle, I on behalf of the parish, wish him every blessing. It will be a very big change for him so let's keep him and all the priests involved in the latest diocesan appointments in our prayers.

Words of thanks from Fr Lagan

On 18th August 2022, Bishop Donal McKeown appointed me to the parishes of Glendermott and Strathfoyle. On that occasion, even though it was a change, I very much knew that I was coming home. I was sent to a parish that I had previously served and for a short while after my Ordination in 2012 began ministering as a Priest. It is a place that I love very much and this last four years have been both a time of immense blessing. On 9th October, Bishop Router appointed me to the parishes of Greencastle and Gortin in Co Tyrone. Whilst I am deeply honoured for his trust in me, I leave here with the best preparation I could ask for in taking up this new challenge. I want to thank all the staff of our parish, those who work to support the running of Glendermott and Strathfoyle, but especially to Fr Joshi for his kindness, guidance, support and friendship and to Fr Michael Canny for his ever willing example, paternal guidance and endless patience not only during my time here but throughout my Priestly Ministry and also to each of you, for your prayers, your faith filled example and for the love and kindness that you have shown me, I will forever treasure. Please keep me in your prayers and be assured of my prayers for you, your loved ones and families in the months and years ahead. Thank you.

Baptisms – We welcome into God's family: **Noah Doherty** Birch Hill, **Cailean John Christopher Tracey** Deramore Drive.

Anniversaries – For those whose anniversaries occur around this time Molly Hegarty, Nora Brown, Margaret Flynn, Jim Mellon, Fonsy Doherty, Bob Kelly, Joseph Devine, William Barr, Willie Guthrie, Paul McFadden, John Monaghan, Charlie Mullan, William McConomy, Bill and Kathleen Monk, Mary Storey, Brian Simpson, Lawrence Boyle.

Offertory Collections: Glendermott: £3,800.00 Strathfoyle: £580.00

**Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections and Mission
Collection taken up last weekend**

Vocations- there will be a meeting for anyone considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, in Derry, on Sunday 8 November, beginning at 4pm. For further details, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com or by calling (028) 79386259.

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)

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible Many of us want to read the Bible but can find it difficult to understand. The Parish will be running 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible', an eight-part course that will help us to understand the main story of the Bible and how all the different parts fit together. It gives the 'big picture' and helps us see what the Bible is really about. We will meet on Monday evenings starting on 2nd November at 8pm (after 7.30pm Mass) in the Parish Hall, St Columb's Church. Sessions will begin with prayer, followed by a video presentation and small group discussion. By the end, you'll feel more confident reading the Bible and have a better understanding of how you fit into God's plan. To register for the course, please leave your name and contact details at the Parish Office (028 71 342303 or email secretary@watersideparish.net).

Annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Nine Sundays before Christmas in Long Tower Church, Derry at 6.00pm, beginning this Sunday 25 October. The theme of our Novena this year is 'Make me a Channel of your Peace – celebrating the 800th Jubilee Year of St Francis'. Each night will comprise of the Rosary, Novena prayer and petitions with a short talk given by various guest speakers and Eucharistic Healing Ceremony with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Choir Director: St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, 10 hours per week: St Eugene's Cathedral is recruiting for an experienced choir director to lead and manage all aspects of the cathedral choir. They will ensure that the music enhances worship services and aligns with the church's liturgical themes. For a job description and application pack, Tel. (028) 7126 2302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Submit completed applications to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, or email them to recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Applications must be received by noon on Thursday 12 November 2026. Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Omagh Charismatic Prayer Group: Day of Prayer, Praise and Healing, celebrating 50 years: Sunday 15th November 2026 in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh: Registration 9:30am, concluding in the afternoon with Mass. Theme: People of God's Delight (Ps 194.4). Speaker Fr. John Keane. Cost £40, including coffee and lunch. Book by 1st November, please, for catering purposes: Evelyn 07876 411435 or Kathleen 07596 609041.

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
St Oliver Plunkett's Church	11.00am Mon. Tues. Thurs.
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 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.