Parishes of
Glendermott & Strathfoyle

Sunday 8th November 2026

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

A frequent biblical image for God's homecoming is that of a wedding feast. This is an image that recurs in many of the parables of Jesus, and we come across it in today's gospel reading from Matthew, which recounts the parable of the wise and the foolish bridesmaids. According to Jewish custom, the role of bridesmaids was to accompany and help the bride to prepare for the wedding. Bridesmaids would often wait with the bride in her home until the groom arrived and then joyfully escort the bridal couple with lighted lamps to the bridegroom's home, where the marriage ceremony and subsequent feast would take place.

In the parable of Jesus, there are ten bridesmaids. Five of them are foolish and five are wise. Because of a lengthy delay in the bridegroom's arrival, the five foolish bridesmaids run out of oil and rush to town to purchase more. In their absence, the bridegroom arrives and the wise bridesmaids, who had brought extra oil with them, are ready to accompany the groom and his bride to the wedding feast. When the foolish bridesmaids eventually arrive at the wedding hall and beg to be admitted, they are turned away with the words, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you' (Mt 25:12).

What is this oil that we need to keep topped up? Our first reading today provides us with an answer. It highlights the importance of a commodity that seems in short supply these days, namely wisdom. In the reading, wisdom is personified as a bright, attractive lady who makes herself known to those who desire and seek her: ''She is readily perceived by those who love her and found by those who seek her' (Wis 6:12).

Unlike knowledge, which we may attain by our own efforts, and, in a sense, possess, wisdom cannot be possessed. It can only be received as a gift from God. It is this gift that keeps us open to the One 'for whom our hearts were made,' to quote St Augustine, the one who alone can fulfil our deepest longing, as we sing in the words of the responsorial psalm: 'For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.'

Baptisms – We welcome into God's family: **Clodagh Sharon McBain**, Birch Hill

Deaths - We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of **Ria McGinley,** Stradowen Drive, **Elaine Mallett**, Rosses Gate.

Anniversaries – For those whose anniversaries occur around this time Eleanor Slevin, Sheila Strawbridge, Anne Friel, Phil O'Kane, Margaret Doran, Sammy Donaghey, Patrick Murray, Margaret Kelly, Patsy Hamilton, Rosemary McGeady, Jack Finley, Brendan Gibbons, Stella Thomas, Clare Screton, Paddy Flanagan, John McLaughlin, Olive Parkhouse, Kitty McFadden, Patrick Quinn, Joseph Elliott

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Offertory Collections: **Glendermott: £4,345.00 Strathfoyle: £545.00**
Thank you for your generosity to the parish collections taken up recently.

MASSES FOR DECEASED PARISHIONERS

The annual Mass for those who have died in the past year will be offered as follows.

St. Oliver Plunkett's Church	**6pm Saturday 21st November**
St. Columb's Church	**7 pm Saturday 21st November**
Church of Immaculate Conception	**10:15am Sunday 22nd November**

Vocations- During this month of November let us pray for the deceased priests who served our diocese and our parishes as we pray for the men who will take up their mantle in the years to come.

***Annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help*:** Nine Sundays before Christmas in Long Tower Church, Derry at 6.00pm. *The theme of our Novena this year is 'Make me a Channel of your Peace – celebrating the 800th Jubilee Year of St Francis'*

***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)71262302 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.

Morning of Reflection for the readers and Eucharistic ministers. It will include directed prayer and a talk. Those wishing to become readers and special ministers are also welcome. This event will be held in St. Columb's Parish Hall, Saturday 28th November at 10:30am.

ABIDE Women's Conference 2026 | 20–22 November: Join hundreds of women at the Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal, in just a few weeks for our third Abide Women's Conference! Speakers include Sarah Swafford, Danielle Noonan, Kimberlee Woo Ling, Fr Oisín Martin CFR, Fr Barry Braum, the Nashville Dominican Sisters, Fr David Nugent and Fr Mark Wharton, with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Fintan Gavin. A beautiful weekend of faith, celebration, healing and joy! Register on Eventbrite: Abide in His Love.

The Churches Trust are running their One Step at A Time programme for Men in the local area, the programme is taking place in their offices on Limavady Road. The men's group takes place fortnightly and there are still places available. Meet new people, try new things, learn new skills, reduce isolation, and enjoy trips & workshops all designed by the group for the group. For more information contact Laura @ 028 7131 1322.

DERRY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2027, led by Bishop Michael Router:

- **Option 1**: 8 - 13 July, 5 nights, £980, from City of Derry Airport, with priority given to Assisted Pilgrims and family members, Care Team, Youth, Youth Leaders and Priests
- **Option 2**: 7 - 14 July, 7 nights, £1,095, from Belfast International Airport.

Single Supplement and Travel Insurance will be extra.
Expressions of Interest can be emailed to derrypilgrim@outlook.com. Bookings will begin in mid-January, with more details later. Pilgrimage Gift Vouchers of any value are available from the Pastoral Centre, Bishop Street, Derry, for anyone wishing to purchase them, particularly as a Christmas Gift. Please contact 028 7136 2475 for further information.

SR CLARE MUSICAL on the weekend of 13-14 of November at St Columb's Hall in Derry City! There will be a matinee on Friday the 13th for students at 12pm. Friday 13 Nov. there will be a showing at 7:30pm. Saturday, 14 Nov. there will be a showing at 7:30pm. If there is still room at the matinee performance, on 6 Nov. tickets will open to the public. The tickets can be purchased here: https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/a-famous-nun-clare-crockett-the-musical-tickets-2000005455155?dsrp_sid=1028a5f8-17ba-4503-99ae-4dedb3aae402&dsrp_item_id=2002996847490&aff=ebdssbdestsearch#tickets.

Volunteers Needed: St Columba's Museum/Aras Cholmcille, behind the Long Tower Church, has reopened following Phase 1 of its refurbishment and is seeking volunteers who could give a few hours of their time each week to help out with various duties including: tour guides (training provided), museum/shop attendants, assisting with event planning/management arrangements, gardening, grant-funding applications, maintenance. All are welcome! If interested, please contact 07775928928 for information.

TROCAIRE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help deliver school talks during our annual Lent Appeal during **February and March 2027.** We are particularly interested in hearing from people with public speaking experience, especially retired teachers or those who have worked with young people. Volunteers will visit local schools during school hours to share stories of hope, justice and solidarity from communities around the world. The role involves approximately **1-2 short talks per week** during the four-month campaign period. Full training, presentation materials and ongoing support will be provided. Please contact Fionnuala McGuinness on 028 9080 8033 or fionnuala.mcguinness@trocaire.org by the first week of December if you are interested!

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**

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Rev. Michael Canny PP	02871342303 secretary@watersideparish.net
Rev. Stephen Baxter 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.