

Parishes of Camus, Clonleigh and Leckpatrick
First Sunday after Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) - Year A – 12th April 2026
Parish Clergy

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A Locked Room and an Open Heart

Imagine a group of friends huddled together in fear, doors locked, hearts heavy with grief and uncertainty. This is the scene in today's Gospel. The disciples, still reeling from the crucifixion, are hiding. And then, without warning, Jesus stands among them. His first words are not a rebuke, not a demand, but a gift: "Peace be with you." In that moment, the locked doors of the room and the locked doors of their hearts begin to open.

This Sunday, known as Divine Mercy Sunday, invites us to see that God's mercy is not an abstract idea but a living reality. In the Gospel, Jesus does three extraordinary things:

He brings peace – twice He says, "Peace be with you." This is not just a greeting; it is a deep healing of their fear and shame.

He gives the Holy Spirit – breathing on them, He empowers them to forgive sins. Mercy is not just received; it is meant to be shared.

He meets doubt with compassion – Thomas, absent at first, refuses to believe without proof. Jesus does not scold him; instead, He invites Thomas to touch His wounds. Mercy meets us where we are, even in our doubts.

Divine Mercy Sunday is not only about receiving God's forgiveness; it is about becoming instruments of that mercy in the world. In our families – choosing patience over irritation. In our own hearts – accepting that God's love is greater than our failures. The Risen Christ shows us His wounds not to shame us, but to remind us that love is stronger than sin, and mercy is stronger than death.

This week may we ask ourselves: Who in my life needs to experience God's mercy through me? It might be someone who has hurt you, someone you've avoided, or even yourself. This week, take a concrete step toward reconciliation or compassion.

Lord Jesus, You entered the locked rooms of the disciples' hearts and brought peace. Enter the locked places in our lives today. Fill us with Your mercy, heal our wounds, and help us to be channels of Your forgiveness to others. Amen.

Mass Schedule for Week Beginning Monday 13th April

Monday: 10.00 am: St Patrick's Church, Lifford

12.00 noon: Sacred Heart Church, Derry Road

Tuesday: 10.00 am: Immaculate Conception Church, Strabane

Wednesday: 10.00 am: St Patrick's Church, Lifford

12.00 noon: Sacred Heart Church, Derry Road

Thursday: 10.00 am: Immaculate Conception Church, Strabane

Friday: 7.45 am: Sacred Heart Church, Derry Road

10.00 am: Immaculate Conception Church, Strabane

This schedule will be reviewed at the end of April.

Anniversaries Pat Smyth, Tish Smyth, Frankie McCay, Gloria White, Paddy Casey, Ruby Casey, Dermot McCosker, Caroline Brown, Kathleen Coates, Eddie Devlin, John McSorley, Laurence McDermott, Edward McElhinney, Daniel Caldwell, Rosaleen McGranaghan, Ollie Gallagher-Hughes, John McLaughlin, Edward Crawford. May they rest in peace.

9.45am Mass on Sundays in Murlog Chapel is live on Finn Valley Community Radio.

Thank You for your generosity to last week's collections:

Leckpatrick: £2,040.12

Clonleigh: €3,028.48

Camus: £2,671.84.

Thanks to those who pay by standing order.

Readings for Sunday 19th April:

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 32-33

Psalm: 15: 1-2, 5, 7-11

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Saints this Week:

Monday: St Martin I, pope / martyr

Saturday: St Laserian of Leighlin, bishop

The Contemplative Prayer Group meets on Mondays at 8 pm in the Prayer Room in the Parochial House, Barrack St. All welcome.

Murlog Parish Pilgrimage To Knock Shrine *Saturday 25th July*, leaving Murlog Chapel at 7.15 am. Cost: €50 per person, (includes coach/refreshments/meal). Please contact: James: 0858767999, Mary: 0877625237 or Bernie: 078 53272541.

Parish Bingo & Lucky Four A warm welcome to all to St Patrick's Hall every Thursday at 8 pm. Come along for some fun and excitement and slight competition.

Pray for Vocations Please keep vocations in your prayers.

Divine Mercy Sunday is a significant feast day, celebrated today, the First Sunday after Easter. It commemorates the mercy of God and is based on the revelations received by St Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s. The feast emphasises God's infinite compassion and invites believers to seek forgiveness and mercy. *"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy."* (699). On this day, individuals who receive Holy Communion and go to Confession are granted total forgiveness of sins and punishments, making it a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and healing. St Faustina made her confession in preparation for Mercy Sunday on the day before (*Diary* 1072). In fact, all of Lent should be a preparation to make a good confession to receive Holy Communion worthily on Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday. The Church also made special, compassionate provisions for obtaining a plenary indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday by those who cannot go to Mass on that day, including those who are seriously ill or involved in non-postponable work by making a Spiritual Communion with great trust. God will give you all the graces that He sees that you need because of your great trust. *"The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive."*

Gamblers Anonymous Tel 71351329. **Alcoholics Anonymous** Tel 90351222.

Rosary At The Grotto, Porthall will take place on Friday 15th May at 7.00 pm, led by Fr McCaughey. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Strabane Diabetes Group will hold a meeting for people with diabetes and friends on Wednesday 15th April at 8 pm in The Fir Trees Hotel. Speaker: Caolin Murray, pharmacist, who will discuss how the community pharmacist can be helpful in the care of diabetes and in other ways. Followed by Q & A. All welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg - 24th - 26th July. Visit Diocese of Derry - News - Diocese of Derry Pilgrimage to Lough Derg – July 2026

Lough Derg One Day Retreats (a day of guided prayer and reflection) take place on
May 3rd, 4th, 9th, 12th, 17th, 23rd, 25th,

August 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 31st,

September 5th, 6th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 20th. Admission €50. Booking essential.

Three Day Pilgrimages in the tradition of prayer, fasting and vigil take place from May 29th - August 15th. Admission: €85 (concessions available for students, seniors and groups). Booking advisable. Contact +353 (0) 719861518, info@loughderg.org or visit www.loughderg.org

Catechism of the Catholic Church Learning & living our Catholic faith. Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Knock on Saturday 18th April. Contact Kate: catechismstudies.ie@gmail.com or Mairin: 00353 87 7950325. All welcome.

Trócaire Boxes can be returned to our churches during the week. We thank you in anticipation of your traditional generosity to this very worthy Lenten appeal. Every blessing.

Divine Mercy Sunday The Exultation of Divine Mercy will be celebrated today (Sunday) at 3 pm in St Mary's Church, Melmount. A newly commissioned image of the Divine Mercy will be blessed and enthroned in its Shrine during this Holy Hour concluding with Benediction. Confessions available before the Holy Hour from 1.30pm – 2.30pm and again afterwards as required. All welcome.

Annual Sister Clare Retreat: St Columba's Church, Long Tower, Derry: 13th – 19th April: "I prefer Paradise" - Remembering Sr Clare's 10th Anniversary. Pardon and Peace: Reflecting on the Gift of Reconciliation. 'Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord' (Psalm 84).

Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th, Friday 17th: 7 am & 10 am – Daily Mass;

7 pm: Evening Service with Benediction & Guest Speaker

Wednesday 15th: 7 pm: Eucharistic Healing

Thursday 16th: 7 pm: Solemn Concelebrated Mass to mark the 10th Anniversary of Sr Clare

Saturday 18th: 10 am: Mass with Anointing of the Sick

3 pm: Service with Benediction and Guest Speaker

Sunday 19th April: 3 pm: Closing Mass celebrated by Bishop McKeown. Everyone welcome.

Choirs Unite For A Musical Celebration World Premier in Strabane! A unique evening of music, celebrating the life and works of renowned hymn writer, Cecil Frances Alexander, will take place at Christ Church, Strabane on Friday 17th April from 7pm - 9.30pm, bringing together choirs from across the North West for this exceptional cross-community event. A newly commissioned, contemporary hymn celebrating the life of Cecil Frances Alexander will be presented. All welcome.

Bright & Beautiful: Cecil Frances Alexander Heritage Bus Tour from 9am-5.30pm on Sat 25th April, beginning and ending in Strabane, with an optional pick-up in Derry at 8.30am, weaving together faith, poetry, landscape, education, and social conscience, offering a richly layered exploration of Alexander's enduring legacy. The tour is designed to be accessible, informative, and reflective, appealing to heritage enthusiasts, faith communities, literary audiences, and those interested in women's history in Ireland. Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cecil-frances-alexander-heritage-bus-tour-tickets-1982672746557>

Anam Cara, bereaved parents' support group, **online event** on 14th April at 7 pm with speaker, Bryan Nolan (Certified Healthcare Chaplain with specialisations in end-of-life, grief, and loss care). Contact info@anamcara.ie or 00353 852888888.

Pray, Hope and Don't Worry St Padre Pio Mass for Healing and blessing with relics will take place at Ards Friary on Friday 24th April at 7.00 pm. All welcome.

Dovida Donegal are recruiting caregivers to provide essential support to ageing adults / people living with disability at home. Please contact 00353 74911 3050.

Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima Those aged 16+ are invited on pilgrimage to Fatima from 3rd - 8th August. A unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost: £820. Please contact bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org / 028 71264087.

In the Stillness: Faith in a Busy World A young adult retreat day takes place on 25th April from 10am-4.30pm in Lough Derg. A free event sponsored by Knights of St Columbanus. Guest speakers: Fr Peter O'Kane and Mark Harte. Registration required: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/lough-derg-60185780863 Visit loughderg.org Please contact info@knightsfstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk / +447759496677.

Catholic Mothers Ireland: Catholic Couples Date Night Inspiring talks, laughter, faith, and a gorgeous 4-course meal! Saturday 18th April at 7 pm in Armagh City Hotel. Fun prizes. Great atmosphere. A perfect night out together! For more information or to book contact: info@catholicmothers.ie

Priory Institute Dublin Are you ready to explore your faith and ask the big questions? As part of efforts to encourage people to join, you are invited to our Open Day on Saturday 18th April. The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Visit prioryinstitute.com for details of Open Day.

Services of Intercession for the Dead will take place in various cemeteries within our parish pastoral area as follows.

We take this opportunity to thank people for their ongoing commitment in remembering their loved ones by visiting and maintaining their graves.

St Patrick's Church, Murlog - Friday 8th May at 6.30 pm

St Joseph's Church, Glenmornan - Saturday 9th May at 6.00 pm

Strabane Cemetery & Camus - Sunday 10th May at 2.00 pm

Sacred Heart Church, Derry Road - Sunday 10th May at 4.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Cloughcor - Sunday 10th May at 6.30 pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

Immaculate Conception: Saturday Vigil: 4.30 pm; Sunday: 11.00 am

Sacred Heart, Derry Road: Sunday: 12.15 pm

St Patrick's, Clonleigh: Saturday Vigil: 6.30 pm; Sunday: 9.45 am

St Mary's, Cloughcor: Sunday: 8.30 am (12th April - alternate Sundays)

St Joseph's, Glenmornan: Sunday: 8.30 am (19th April - alternate Sundays)

The Parish Pastoral Area Office, 27 Butcher St, Strabane covers all 3 parishes. **Office hours:** Monday - Thursday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm; Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm. Please feel free to call in or phone on 028 7188 2215.

Reminder that the deadline for parish bulletin notices is 2 pm on Wednesdays.

A Small Collection of Candles is available for purchase at the Pastoral Office.
A gentle reminder that we can only accept cash or cheque payments. Thank you.

Weddings Please contact the parish office. At least 6 months' notice required.

Baptisms Parent(s) are asked to contact the parish office.

Safeguarding (Northern Ireland) If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of Children or Adult at risk of harm or Adult in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on 07596 500793 or at marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org To report a safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation directly to the statutory authorities please contact PSNI on 101, Western HSCT Children's Gateway Services on 028 71 314090, WHSCT Adult Gateway Services on 028 71 611366 or the Regional Emergency Social Work Service on 028 95 049999.

Safeguarding (Republic of Ireland) If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of Children or Vulnerable Adults within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +44 7596 500793 or at marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org To report a safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation directly to the statutory authorities please contact Garda Síochána Buncrana on 074 93 20540, Garda Síochána Letterkenny on 074 91 67100, TUSLA (ROI) Child and Family Agency on 074 91 02233 or HSC Adult Safeguarding, Donegal on 071 983 4660.