

Parishes of Camus, Clonleigh and Leckpatrick
The Ascension of the Lord – Year A – 17th May 2026
Parish Clergy

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Thoughts on the Gospel (Matthew 28:16–20)

Before ascending to heaven, the risen Jesus gathered His disciples on a mountain in Galilee. These were ordinary people, some once afraid, doubtful, and uncertain about the future. Yet, they were entrusted with an extraordinary mission: to bring the light of God's love to every nation and every generation.

From a small group of believers, the message of Christ spread across continents, cultures, and centuries. The apostles travelled through dangerous roads and unfamiliar lands. Many endured persecution, imprisonment, and even death so that others might know hope, forgiveness, and salvation. Across history, countless saints, missionaries, parents, teachers, priests, religious sisters, and ordinary faithful people became living witnesses of God's love.

But the mission did not end in the past. The command of Christ continues today.

Today, evangelisation is not only done from pulpits or missionary journeys abroad. It begins in everyday life. Sometimes the most powerful preaching happens through compassion, humility, integrity, and love. The world does not only need more information about God; it needs living examples of faith. Just as the first disciples travelled to unfamiliar places, modern believers are called to reach people who feel forgotten, rejected, or distant from faith. Social media, education, art, music, community service, and daily conversations can become modern pathways for sharing the message of Christ. The Gospel must not remain inside church walls; it must enter homes, schools, streets, workplaces, and online spaces where people seek meaning and direction.

Today's Gospel reading reminds us that Christ's mission is rooted in His abiding presence. The disciples were not sent alone, and neither are we. Every act of goodness, every effort to spread peace, and every sacrifice made for others becomes part of God's continuing work in the world. The story of evangelisation is still being written today. The next chapter depends on people willing to live their faith with courage and sincerity. The world may change with time, but humanity will always need hope, truth, and love. And every believer, no matter how ordinary, has the power to carry that light forward for future generations.

***Jesus, help me live out Your Great Commission with faith and boldness.
Guide my steps, open my mouth to speak Your truth, and steady my heart
with Your promise that You are always with me. Amen.***

Strabane / Lifford Half Marathon takes place today (Sunday), starting at 9.30 am at the Alley Theatre and ending at Melvin Sports Complex. It is great to see this fine event taking place in our town and parish community. We wish all the competitors well. Mass times today (Sunday) remain the same. Please allow extra time for traffic disruption. Every good wish to all.

Congratulations to the children of our parishes who received their First Holy Communion last week. May God continue to bless them and reward their families and teachers for helping them prepare for this special day in their lives.

Requiescant in Pace We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Ann Darragh (nee McAleer), Townsend St, Strabane
Margaret (Peg) Doherty, Castleview, Raphoe (formerly Clonleigh)

Anniversaries Patrick Stewart, Manus O'Doherty, John Kenny, Peter Quigley, Paul McLaughlin, Leila Crawford, Lila McFeely, Patsy Farrell, Donal Smyth, Rose McGowan, Margaret Flanagan, Maureen McGonagle, Frances Diver, Brendan Kelly, Mary Quinn, Letisha Crotty, Annie Doherty, Fr James Clerkin, Fr John Farren, Mgr TJ Agnew, Willie Kennedy, Sarah Evans-Porter, Peter Doherty, Pat Lafferty, Sean Moore, Geraldine McMackin, Jo Brennan, Teresa Coyle, Packie Lynsay, Michael Devine Jacinta Kelly. 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: £1,100.92

Clonleigh: €1,529.34

Camus: £1,895.87.

Thanks to those who pay by standing order.

Readings for Sunday 24th May (Pentecost Sunday):

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Psalm: 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Saints of The Coming Week:

Monday: St John 1, pope and martyr

Wednesday: St Bernardine of Siena, priest

Thursday: St Christopher Magallanes, priest and companions, martyrs

Friday: St Rita of Cassia, religious

Little Way Novena in St Eugene's Cathedral closes today (Sun) at 3pm with blessing of roses. All welcome. Follow via <https://www.steugenes.com/webcam.html>

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage To Knock Shrine takes place on Saturday 6th June, in conjunction with All Ireland Rosary Rally. Buses will leave St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry at 8 am. Cost £50 (includes dinner in Knock House Hotel following Mass in the Basilica). Please contact Karen: 028 71262894 / cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Derry Diocesan 3-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg takes place from 24th July - 26th July. Lough Derg continues to welcome people seeking prayer, peace, reflection and renewal in the midst of busy lives. A bus leaves St Eugene's Cathedral, via Strabane and Lifford. Cost: £95 / €110 (includes bus). You are welcome to use your own transport. Booking form and full details available at: derrydiocese/lough-derg

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.

Walk in the Footsteps of our Patron Saint St Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk in Downpatrick with guides Martina Purdy & Elaine Kelly on **6th June** and **8th August**, and Mairead Sweeney on **4th July**. Begin at St Patrick's Centre with the fabulous 180° IMAX film of St Patrick. Price (£55) includes entrance fee, bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch at the famous Saul Barn, a stamped Camino passport and 6-mile pilgrimage walk, finishing at St Patrick's grave. Come and be amazed! (Duration 9am-approx 3pm). To book tel 028 44619000 or visit www.saintpatrickcentre.com

Tulacorr Allotment & Community Garden - Open Day We are pleased to announce our annual Open Day at Tulacorr Community Garden & Allotment Project will be held on Saturday 6th June from 11 am - 3 pm. An opportunity to showcase vegetables, flowers and herb produce which have been grown over the last few months. A variety of produce will be available for sale along with hanging baskets and plants. Join us for a friendly day out, everyone is very welcome. If you would like further information, please contact the Koram Centre on 02871 866181.

Gamblers Anonymous Tel: 028 7135 1329. **Alcoholics Anonymous** Tel: 90351222.

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.

Medjugorje Pilgrimages 2026 (45th anniversary): 24th June - 1st July. Depart Dublin - Mostar. Return Split - Dublin. €855 pps. Single room supplement: €170. For more information please contact Ursula O Faodhagain, Castlefin 0872960562.

Derry Youth Fundraising Concert for Upcoming Fatima Pilgrimage takes place on Saturday 6th June at 7.30 pm in St Anne's Parish Hall, Brisland Rd, Eglinton. Come and enjoy a great night of entertainment, raffle prizes and light refreshments, all while supporting our young people on their pilgrimage. For tickets (£10) or information please contact 028 71264087 or ddcc@derrydiocese.org

Ladies' Weekend Retreat, entitled 'In the Upper Room with Mary', led by Sisters from the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Waterford) takes place in Termonbacca, Derry from Fri 22nd-Sun 24th May. Cost: including accommodation is £90. Please contact Aoife: 02871262512 or termonbaccaderry@ocd.ie

Marriage Preparation June 19/20th in Everglades Hotel. Visit www.accordni.com

Lough Derg Day of Friendship and Prayer takes place on Wednesday 20th May. This special annual event promotes Christian unity. Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop John McDowell will join Fr La Flynn, Prior of Lough Derg, for a day of spirituality, friendship and reflection. The day begins at 10am, finishing at 3pm on Station Island, an oasis of calm & peace with over 15,000 years of history. Admission: €25 includes boat fare, refreshments and lunch. Booking is essential. Visit www.loughderg.org or contact info@loughderg.org / 0(0353) 71 9861518.

Job Opportunities: Derry Diocesan Trust

Administrative & Financial Officer, Parish of Urney & Castlefin, (15 hours pw for 6 months) based in the Parochial House, Doneyloop. Working days/times to be negotiated. Closing date: 27/5/26.

Careaker, St Joseph's Hall, Omagh: 20 hours pw. One-year fixed term contract (with possibility of extension). Days and times in agreement with PP. May include evening and weekend work. Closing date 12 noon on 29/5/26.

Grounds & Maintenance Person, Parish of Coleraine. Full Time - 37½ hours pw. To provide an effective grounds/maintenance service to parish grounds and cemetery areas as designated by the PP. Closing date 12 noon on 1/6/26. For application pack for any of these jobs, please contact 028 71262302 / recruitment@derrydiocese.org

May Online Bereavement Information Evening with Anam Cara will take place on Tuesday 19th May at 7pm. Professional speaker this month is Niamh Finucane, Principal Social Worker with St Francis Hospice, working as the Bereavement Co-ordinator. Contact details for registration: T: 01 4045378 | N. Irl T: 028 95213120. E: i.wiessner@anamcara.ie | W: www.anamcara.ie

Rosary on the Coast takes place today (Sunday) at 3 pm at Benone Strand, praying for peace, Ireland and our unborn children. Everyone welcome.

Blessing of Graves Thank you to those who were present to remember their loved ones in the various cemeteries of our parishes last week. It was an incredible turnout, so encouraging to see so many people. A special word of thanks to those who managed the car parking at Strabane cemetery. We are also most grateful for the presence of Strabane Community Rescue Service and for our stewards. Thank you for your generosity to the collection for maintenance of the cemeteries and for your ongoing commitment in remembering your loved ones by visiting and maintaining their graves. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Lough Derg One Day Retreats (guided prayer & reflection) **May** 23,25, **August** 18,22,23,29,31, **Sept** 5,6,9,12,15,19,20. Adm: €50. Booking essential. **Three Day Pilgrimages** in tradition of prayer, fasting & vigil: May 29th-August 15th. Adm: €85. Booking advised. Contact +353 (0) 719861518 or info@loughderg.org

Strabane Chorale, with guest German choir, Chor Levantate, will perform a concert to suit all tastes in St Mary's Church, Melmount on Sunday 31st May at 5 pm. Retiring collection for choir and church funds. Everyone welcome.

Parish Bingo and 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.

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 Joseph's, Glenmornan: Sunday: 8.30 am (17th May - alternate Sundays)

St Mary's, Cloughcor: Sunday: 8.30 am (24th May - alternate Sundays)

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday: 7.45 am: Sacred Heart Church, Derry Road
10.00 am: St Patrick's Church, Lifford

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

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

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

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.

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.