



# Parish News

## Sunday 16th MAY

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### Feast of the Ascension

There is an air of finality about today's festival. Our focus is on the retelling of a story declaring that Christ has returned to the Father, and so we think of it as the 'end' of the Christ event or the 'end of Easter' – in times past there was a custom of extinguishing the Paschal Candle after the gospel to signify: 'he is gone'.

But the air of finality must be presented in a different way – it is not the final song to mark the sorry close of a party, but the joyous finality of a building job completed: Christ's presence is no longer limited to a small group in one place at a particular time, now his presence is diffused throughout creation through his body the church. It is this mystery of Christ's presence we celebrate today: we are not here to recall some 'event' that 'happened' on some fixed day in human historical time.

Ascension is not about Christ's absence, but about his presence in a different way to that which he had before his death. He now is present in our community, and as a group we must make him present by testifying to him before the world as the community of justice, peace and love.



### Reflection

It is a temptation for every generation of Christians to stand looking up to heaven and wringing their hands wishing that Jesus walked our streets as he did the streets of Palestine or that he would come back in some dramatic way to show the world the error of its ways. However, such an attitude entirely fails to appreciate the dignity of our calling. We have been entrusted with a task and today's feast is a reminder to us that Jesus only left this world so that he could be with us in a more effective way.

So, in the coming week let us pray with urgency for a renewed outpouring of the Spirit so that we can become more effective witnesses of his love.



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### WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

World Communications Day will be celebrated on Sunday 16 May – the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Pope Francis has chosen to reflect on the theme “Come and See” (Jn 1:46). Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are.” This theme recalls the Gospel account of the first disciples’ initial encounters with Jesus, who invited them to “Come and see,” to enter into relationship with Him. Later, one of those disciples, St Philip, speaking to his friend Nathaniel, invited him to “Come and see” the Messiah whom he had found.



In his message for World Communications Day, Pope Francis says Jesus’ invitation to “Come and see” is the way by which the Christian faith is communicated.

“This year,” says Pope Francis, “I would like to devote this Message to the invitation to ‘come and see’, which can serve as an inspiration for all communication that strives to be clear and honest, in the press, on the internet, in the Church’s daily preaching and in political or social communication.” [READ MORE](#)

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**The Little Way Novena** will conclude in St Eugene’s Cathedral today Sunday, 16th May. Theme: Holiness consists simply in doing God’s will, and being just what God wants us to be. Due to current restrictions tickets will be required.

### **Pray in May for an end to the pandemic.**

Pope Francis urges Catholics to Pray in May for an end to the Covid-19 Pandemic [The initiative](#) will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they might encourage the faithful, families, and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic.

**Holy Hour.** Join us in the Church of the Immaculate Conception each evening Monday to Friday @ 7:30pm and at 6:00pm on Sunday evening.

Second Envelope - Diocesan Purposes collection this weekend

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### CONFIRMATION PENTECOST WEEKEND 2021

*As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, boys and girls from the parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the coming week beginning on Friday 21st May. We would ask you to keep them in your prayers at this very important time on their journey of faith.*

*Fri 21st May 2021 5pm **St Columba's PS** Newbuildings  
in Immaculate Conception Church  
Fr Michael Canny to Administer the Sacrament*

*Fri 21st May 2021 5pm **Oakgrove PS**  
in St Oliver Plunkett's Church, Strathfoyle.  
Fr Malachy Gallagher to Administer the Sacrament*

*Sat 22nd May 2021 11.30am **Good Shepherd PS**  
in St Columb's Church  
Fr Malachy Gallagher to Administer the Sacrament*

*Sat 22nd May 2021 2pm **Good Shepherd PS**  
in St Columb's Church  
Fr Malachy Gallagher to Administer the Sacrament*

*Sat 22nd May 2021 1pm **Sacred Heart PS**  
in Immaculate Conception Church  
Fr Sean O'Donnell to Administer the Sacrament*

*Sat 22nd May 2021 3.30pm **Sacred Heart PS**  
in Immaculate Conception Church  
Fr Sean O'Donnell to Administer the Sacrament*

*Sun 23rd May 2021 2pm **St Oliver Plunkett PS**  
in St Oliver Plunkett's Church  
Fr Sean O'Donnell to Administer the Sacrament*

*Sun 23rd May 2021 3pm **Chapel Road Ps**  
in St Columb's Church  
Fr David O'Kane PP Claudy to Administer the Sacrament*

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### Our Parish Mass Schedule

#### Weekday schedule

09.15am Immaculate Conception  
10:00am St Columb's,  
11:00am St Oliver Plunkett  
11:00am St Mary's Oratory (**Wednesday only**)  
07:30pm St Columb's

#### Saturday Morning

10:00am St Columb's  
11:00am Immaculate Conception

#### Weekend schedule Vigils

06:00pm Immaculate Conception  
06:00pm St Oliver Plunkett  
07:00pm St Columb's  
08:00pm Immaculate Conception

#### Morning (Sunday)

09:30am Immaculate Conception  
10:00am St Columb's  
11:15am St Oliver Plunkett  
12 noon Immaculate Conception

#### Evening (Sunday)

06:00pm St Columb's

**NB!** Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Newbuildings on Wednesday at 11:00am

The [full schedule](#) is available on the parish website  
*All Liturgies are streamed on [www.youtube.com/watersideparish](http://www.youtube.com/watersideparish)*

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### **Rest in Peace**

#### **Deaths:**

Brendan McAllister, Dunhugh Park, Paula McGurk, late of Bayswater, Sadie Michels, nee McCloskey, formerly of Dervock Street who died in USA, Michael Devine, Knockdara Park.

#### **Anniversaries:**

Mary McNulty, Tony Healy, Dermot Francis, Kathleen Leitch, Mary McGinley, Mena O'Donnell, Jimmy Kerr, Pat McLoone, Mary Cassidy, Fr James Clerkin, Jane Gillespie, John Carlin, Maureen Baxter, Sue Crossan, Bridie Fahy, Charles Cauley.

### **A Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



### **Contact Details**

Parish Office	028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net
Rev. Michael Canny	028-7134 2303 secretary@watersideparish.net
Rev. Sean O'Donnell	028-7134 2303 sean.odonnell@derrydiocese.org
Rev. Malachy Gallagher	028-7134 2303 malachy.gallagher@derrydiocese.org
Rev. Roni Zacharias	028-7134 2303 Roni@watersideparish.net

Website: [www.watersideparish.net](http://www.watersideparish.net) Facebook: @watersidestrathfoyle

Twitter: @WatersideParish