

## A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

The parable which he tells the chief priests and elders of the people in today's Gospel witnesses Jesus cutting to the core: he is not impressed by the spinning of fine words; he looks into the human heart and sees the truth which may be hiding behind those fine words. In the parable, the first son refuses to work in the vineyard at the request of his father, but subsequently thinks better of it and does his father's bidding. He changes his mind and his heart. His actions speak louder than do his former words.

The second son's words in response to his father's request that he work in the vineyard, 'Certainly, sir,' are beautifully polite but mean nothing. He has no intention of doing his father's bidding. Truth is sacrificed without a second's thought.

The parable is comforting, as Jesus means it to be. We are fallen, flawed creatures, a fact we acknowledge in the truth of our hearts. We are flawed, yes, but we are also capable of repentance; we are capable of deep sorrow for our offences against love, and this deep sorrow opens the door to forgiveness for us. The parable reminds us that, as penitents, we are regularly washed clean by the ever-flowing grace and mercy of Love itself.

Jesus, we live in a world which sacrifices truth constantly. May we consciously revive our love and respect for truth and hold it as dear as you did. May we remind ourselves daily that our actions speak louder than our words, and that it is by our actions we are truly known.

**During National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** we pray that those the Lord is calling today to go and work in His vineyard will have the courage to say, "Yes" and the grace to work faithfully in building up God's kingdom on earth - a kingdom of justice, truth, holiness, equality, love, and peace.

**The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated here in St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30 pm.** The Matt Talbot Prayer Society was created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction, to pray for those recovering from addiction, and to pray for all those affected by addiction, especially family members. To join the Matt Talbot Prayer Society, you are invited to enrol the name of the person to be prayed for and the addiction we are praying that they will be freed from. Those enrolled will be prayed for specifically every day by members of the Matt Talbot Prayer Society. Mass will also be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30 pm. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email [vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com](mailto:vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com) or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712

**Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena commences after 7.30pm Mass on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Saint Eugene's Cathedral** and will continue for the following eight Thursdays finishing on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Do you have some "knots" in your life? Knots of discord in your family, the knots of deep hurts in relationships, the absence of peace and joy in the home? Sometimes our lives may seem one big knot due to circumstances beyond our control when we face health problems. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady; that Christ gave His Mother to be our Mother, the Untier of Knots. We pray and entrust our specific "knots" to Her loving hands, learning how to let go of that which binds us.

### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Eddie Nixon  
Margaret Floyd  
Joe Cuthbert**

May they rest in peace

### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**Mary Kane**

May she rest in peace

### Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

**Ennagh Moira Hargan**

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

### Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couple who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

**Nadine Ramsey & James O'Neill**

### Readers for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> October

06.15 pm	Oran Gartland
07.30 pm	Karen Harkin
09.30 am	Kay McGinn
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Helen Sweeney
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

### Collection

Last week's collection: £4,607  
Parish Development: £882

**Thank you for your generosity**

### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Hungry Children:** £5, £5, £5, £100  
**Trócaire:** £100, £40, £60  
**Cathedral Funds:** €20, £35, £30  
**Mary's Meals:** £40, £50  
**Smile Train:** £30, £25  
**Altar Flowers:** £30  
**Sight Savers:** £25

### Sick Visitation

**Fr Shaun Doherty** will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

**Tuesday:** Fairman Place, Academy Terrace, Tutor Close, Northland Parade, Northland Drive, Edenmore Street, Glenbank Road, Glenbank Gardens, Creggan Road, Helen Street, Oakfield Crescent

**Friday:** Glenowen Park, Cashelmore Park, Hatmore Park, Ardglenn, Nassau Crescent, Rosemount Gardens, Rosemount Avenue, Osborne Street, Montrose Gardens

**St Eugene's Cathedral Choir is welcoming new singers to its ranks in all voice parts.** The choir sings at 12.30pm Mass each Sunday. If you have some experience of singing and would like to get involved, please contact the director of music Maghnus Monaghan on [maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com](mailto:maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com) or by text on 0863728443.

**Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy** continues on Fridays at 11.00am in the Cathedral Hall. You are most welcome to join via the online platforms or in person.

**You are invited to St Columba's Vigil of Adoration in honour of the Holy Face of Jesus with Human Life International (H.L.I.) Ireland**, next Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, following 7.30pm Mass in Long Tower Church. There will be an introduction to the Holy Face devotion, prayers with relic and blessed oil from international shrine, (Tours, France) available, followed by silent adoration until midnight (guided holy hour from 9.30pm).

**The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry.** Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm, Mass at 7.15pm, and Novena to St. Pio directly afterwards. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic of St Pio after the Mass.

**Hail Holy Queen Conference 2023 is live on Radio Maria from 2.00pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October.** Speakers include Fr Seán Maguire, Fr Colum Power, Catherine McGowan, and Fr Freddy Warner. Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by downloading the Radio Maria Ireland App, Saorview Channel 210 or listen live at 00353 (01) 4373277.

**Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15pm in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Letterkenny Co.Donegal.** This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 00353 (01) 4045378.

**In Sunshine and in shadow** - A book of poetry written by the late Fr Paddy O'Kane has been reprinted. It is available to buy at the Holy Family parish office any morning Mon-Friday or at Veritas Bookshop, Shipquay Street. Cost £10. All proceeds will go the Foyle Hospice.

**Rosary on the Coast** - The next Rosaries on the Coast take place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 3.00pm on Lisfannon Strand, Buncrana, and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm on Benone Strand, Limavady.

**St Eugene's Cathedral** is monitored by CCTV cameras and by two live streaming cameras. Live streaming can be viewed online at [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmenmedia](http://www.watchmenmedia) or the parish website. The Diocese of Derry Privacy Notice is displayed on the parish website and Cathedral notice board, or you may obtain a copy from the Parish Office.

**Safeguarding Notice:** If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596500793 or at [mariegormley@derrydiocese.org](mailto:mariegormley@derrydiocese.org) or contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of Northern) 101 or **Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.**

*Vol 50 No 39  
Twenty-sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2023*

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty**