

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 13:33-37

Today's Gospel has often been associated with death: a warning that we must stay awake because death may come for us when we least expect it. But a deeper, more immersive reading reveals a different meaning altogether. We should always be fully awake, fully alert, fully present, because it is incumbent on us to find God in what is right in front of us. God is always present; it is we who are not; it is we who are constantly sleeping and unconscious of the glorious presence of God. The French Jesuit and mystic, Jean Pierre de Causade, writes about 'the sacrament of the present moment' and it is the present moment to which we must be fully alert, fully awake. God was present in Gethsemane, but Jesus' friends missed Him. Instead, they slept. They hadn't yet learned to see.

'If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. (Luke 11:34)

Jesus, may we always be fully aware of your loving presence and openly, totally, embrace it.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – St Paul says, "I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers..." We pray for the future priests / preachers of our diocese, that the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide their words. A Mass and Vigil of Prayer for Vocations will take place in St Patrick's Church, Dungiven on Friday 8th December 8.00pm - 9.30pm. May be viewed on the parish webcam.

The season of Advent begins this weekend. Take some time out from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas to pray and meditate on the true meaning of Advent.

Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed in the Cathedral each morning at 7.45am, Monday to Friday beginning on Monday 4th December.

Late opening: In preparation for Christmas, the Cathedral will open late on the three Mondays during Advent (4th, 11th and 18th December) from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. During this time there will be an opportunity for Confession and prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

St Dymphna's Mass, Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm with Anointing of the Sick.

Eucharistic Adoration: every Sunday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and every Tuesday from 10.30am until 7.20pm.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Friday 8th December is a Holyday of obligation. Our Lady is the Immaculate Conception. As she was chosen to be the Mother of God, Mary was conceived without original sin in the womb of her mother, Anne.

Mass times for the Holyday are as follows:

Thursday: Vigil Masses 6.15pm and 7.30pm

Friday: 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm

Saint Eugene's Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00pm on Sunday 17th December. St Eugene's Cathedral Choir will lead the carols. We invite children to bring presents of new unwrapped toys and adults to donate sweets, biscuits, vouchers, or cash. St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute the gifts.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Damien McCloskey

Agnes Wasson

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Chris Francis

Alex (Lexie) Ross

Patsy McGeehan

Lorraine Moran

Pascal Keys

Martin Dunleavy

Donal Coyle

Bobby McAnaney

Bridget McAnaney

Paddy Carlin

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Sophie Cara Moore

Michael James Antonius Gill

Jonah Bobby Lees

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Chloe McConnellogue &

Nigel McConnellogue

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,857

Parish Development: £932

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Hungry Children: £20, £5

Mary's Meals: £100, £20

Smile Train: £25

Trócaire: £200, £20, £100

SVdP: £100

Concern: £20

Cathedral Funds: £70, £20

Missions: £10

Altar Flowers: £20, £20

Readers 7th / 8th December

(Holy Day)

06.15 pm Mary Feeney

07.30 pm Claire O'Kane

09.30 am Breeda Boyle

11.00 am Anna Begley

12.30 pm Eilish Friel

07.30 pm Barry McDaid

Readers 9th / 10th December

06.15 pm Roisin Rice-Cutter

07.30 pm Oran Gartland &

Caitlin Horner McLaughlin

09.30 am Kay McGinn

11.00 am St Eugene's PS

12.30 pm Michael Wilson

07.00 pm Marian Boyle

St Eugene's Conference of St Vincent de Paul will take up their annual collection at all Masses next weekend (9th & 10th December). During the past year the total dispensed by St Eugene's Conference was £53,336 as follows:

Financial assistance £29,200, beds £7,870, household goods £10,106 and fuel £6,160.

Your generosity throughout the year and to the Christmas Collection is very much appreciated. St Eugene's Conference of St Vincent de Paul sincerely thanks you for your continuing support.

Saint Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets are available for purchase from the Parochial House. Cost £2.

A **prayer booklet** has been created by the diocese in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network, for use during the season of Advent. The booklet contains a Gospel reading for each Sunday of Advent accompanied by a reflection, prayers and links to music. It can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/advent>

Children in Crossfire's 2023 Advent Appeal packs are now available at the entrance to the Cathedral. This year, they are raising funds to support a new programme in inner-city Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. If you would like to support their appeal online, please visit their website: www.childrenincrossfire.org/donate-advent

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 5th December at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. Starting with the Rosary at 6.45pm, Mass at 7.15pm, and novena to St. Pio directly afterwards. There will be an opportunity after Mass to be blessed with a first-class relic of St. Pio.

The next Rosary on the Coast will be at 3.00pm at Lisfannon Strand, Buncrana on Sunday 3rd December. Everyone welcome. **The First Five Saturdays** – the Rosary for this devotion continues Saturday 2nd December at 12 noon, Saint Mary's Church, Limavady. All welcome.

St Joseph's Boys' School will host their Annual Wheel of Fortune in the school on Thursday 7th December, doors open at 7.00pm with the 1st draw at 7.30pm. Admission £2.00. All welcome to attend.

Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 14th December at 7.15pm in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Letterkenny Co.Donegal. For more info call 00353 (01) 4045378.

The Souls of Our Shoes, an exhibition which raises awareness of domestic violence will be open in Christ Church (Infirmary Road) on Sunday 3rd December 12.00 – 4.00pm; Monday 4th December 10.30am – 4.00pm; Tuesday 5th December 10.30am – 4.00pm and Wednesday 6th December 10.30am – 1.00pm. It is an exhibition of physical shoes accompanied by comments from those who have walked away from abuse, and those who journey with them.

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, www.watchmcnmedia 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 regarding 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 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.

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Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty