

A short reflection on today's Gospel

Today's Gospel is harrowing, laying bare, as it does, the ingratitude, betrayals, violence and greed of which humanity is capable. It also delivers a clear message to those who either reject or ignore the will of God: they will be denied access to His kingdom, come to a wretched end, and their places will be taken by the faithful.

The parable told by Jesus to the chief priests and elders of the people begins with the imperative, 'Listen!' a word designed as a warning that what is to follow should not be taken lightly. The creator and master of the vineyard in the story is someone to be admired: caring, fashioning his creation with loving expertise and diligence, trusting and generous. All he asks in return is loyalty. What he receives from the tenants to whom he leases his vineyard is ingratitude and murderous betrayals. They abuse the servants he sends to collect his produce, and when he sends his beloved son, thinking that his wretched tenants will surely respect his son, they kill him. Retribution, Jesus informs the chief priests and elders of the people, will surely and swiftly follow when the master of the vineyard returns.

Lord, you have experienced ingratitude and betrayals. You have been humiliated, rejected and abused. But we know that as long as there lives in our hearts the desire to look upon your face, the way of salvation remains open to us.

Thanks be to God.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – thinking of those considering a vocation to the priesthood and hoping to serve the people of the diocese of Derry, we borrow the words of St Paul in this weekend's second reading, "...fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise."

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena continues after 7.30pm Mass each Thursday until 30th November. Do you have some "knots" in your life? We pray and entrust our specific "knots" to Her loving hands, learning how to let go of that which binds us.

Safeguarding Information Evening - Fr Paul Farren kindly invites all Sacristans, Assistant Sacristans, Secretaries, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors, Readers, Children's Liturgy Facilitators, Pope John Paul II Award Leaders, Parish Council members, SVDP members, Choir/music Leaders, Cleaners, Ground Workers and all those interested in Safeguarding in our Parish, to a Safeguarding Information Evening in the Cathedral Hall on Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 5.30pm–6.30pm. Please RSVP to Parochial House on 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org by Friday 13th October 2023. As Safeguarding is a high priority in both our Parish and Diocese, your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

Are you enrolled in the Pope John Paul II Award in St Eugene's this year? If so, you are invited to attend an Information Session on Wednesday 18th October at 4.30pm in the Upper Sacristy. There will be a short presentation and discussion on how we can help you find suitable tasks that you will enjoy taking part in. Any questions you can email lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Michael Gallagher
Terry Doherty
Dolores Gallagher**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Manus Doherty
Maureen Keys
Paddy & Brenda O'Flaherty
Robbie Herron
Christine Curran
Jane Toner
William & Kathleen Gallagher
James Doherty
John Bourke**

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a members of God's family:

**Rosea Danni Marie Blackwell
Alayah Marie McCarron**

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Please remember: Godparents (1 male and 1 female over the age of 16)

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Enya Clarke & Gavin Dunnion

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,358
Parish Development: £986

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Hungry Children: £5
Smile Train: £40
Mary's Meals: £100, £25, £50
Sight Savers: £200
Trócaire: £40
SVdP: £25
Cathedral Funds: £60**

Readers for 14th/15th October

06.15 pm	Roisin Rice-Cutter
07.30 pm	Oran Gartland
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	Rosemount PS
12.30 pm	Michael Wilson
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Children's Liturgy continues every Sunday at 11.00am Mass and is open to all children in Primaries 1 to 4. It involves proclaiming the Gospel in an accessible way to the Children, reflecting on its meaning and responding in prayer with an activity related to the Gospel story.

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.

Day Retreat in honour of St. Peregrine on Thursday 19th October in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca from 10.00am - 3.00pm. Cost is £15 (includes light lunch). Please bring along a bottle of olive oil to be blessed in honour of St. Peregrine. A first-class relic of St. Peregrine will be available on the day. For bookings contact 71 262512.

Catechesis with Fr. Cajetan in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on Thursday 19th October from 7.30 - 8.30pm. For more information contact 71 262512.

Rally for their Lives - Please join us for this most important Life Chain at Belfast City Hall on Saturday 21st October at 2.00pm to stand for the protection of babies in the womb. For more information contact Precious Life on 02890278484 /07592280522.

Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 12th 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.

Holy Family Parish Prize Draw - 50 Prizes for £50. 1st prize £10,000 2nd prize £7,500 3rd prize £5,000 and 4th prize £2,500. Also 46 other various cash prizes ranging from £1,000 to £50. The funds raised will help pay for the renovations of the church. Draw Tickets will be on sale after weekend Masses in Holy Family Church, or you can also pay up for the ticket by calling each Wednesday between 7pm - 8.30pm. You can also contact the parish office to purchase a ticket. If you would be willing to sell tickets after Masses, please contact Fr Gormley.

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 Monday-Friday or at Veritas Bookshop, Shipquay Street. Cost £10. All proceeds will go the Foyle Hospice.

Rosary on the Coast - The next Rosary on the Coast takes place on Sunday 15th 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, 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 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 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.**

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty