

Holy Week Reflections

Palm Sunday

Today, the liturgy invites us to contemplate the face of the suffering Lord. Jesus' mission, purpose, goal and glory are revealed in his Passion. We encounter today the pure and perfect witness of God's love. If you are tempted to doubt God's love, look at Christ crucified. Here the mystery of God's love is revealed. Jesus would have died on the cross if there was only one of us to die for. Only his death, his sacrifice, his laying down of his life for us, could reconcile us with the Father, open heaven to us and secure for us life eternal, which was lost through the fall of Adam.

Monday

All four Evangelists record an account of a woman anointing Jesus. The version found in Luke 7:36-50 stands on its own, offering us the same message but set against a slightly different backdrop (and including Simon the Pharisee's reaction). What all four accounts have in common is that they reveal an incident which captures so beautifully, so powerfully and so movingly a love for Jesus which is difficult to find words to describe. You see, what the Christian life is all about is actually very simple and straightforward. Mary witnessed to love. Her 'waste' of nard and her profound willingness to humble herself and wash the Lord's feet were an expression of her deep, unashamed and uncompromising love for her Saviour.

Tuesday

Judas was one of the twelve apostles. We can sometimes lose sight of this fact. Jesus chose him to be a member of the most dynamic group of men the world has ever known. We are not given the details of how Judas became a follower of Christ, as we are with some of the other apostles. We can be certain, however, that the Lord chose him because he saw in him the necessary qualities. What happened to change him can really only be the subject of conjecture. We just don't know what was going on in his heart to betray the Lord as he did.

Wednesday

The clear indication of scripture is that Judas was motivated by greed and avarice and completely misunderstood Jesus and his mission. What was really going on in his mind we cannot really know. What we do know is that Jesus would have forgiven him. Jesus taught forgiveness and love of one's enemy.

Holy Thursday

Jesus' disciples are offended, even scandalized, by the humility of this gesture of washing their feet. Peter protests strongly, keen to prevent his Lord and Master adopting such a humble and lowly position. Peter was not showing false humility: he was genuinely shocked, horrified even, that Jesus should adopt the position of a slave. Jesus washed his disciples' feet because he wanted to set them an example. In the same way that he had humbled himself and washed their feet, so they should humble themselves and wash one another's feet.

Good Friday

Today a special grace flows through the Church. Today the mystery of the cross shines out. Today, the cross, not the Eucharist, is the highpoint, the focus of our celebration. Our thoughts and prayers are focused on the cross. We adore, worship and venerate the cross by which the world was saved. We will go forward today to venerate the cross. In this gesture we show our love and our dependence on Christ. For Jesus, his glory was his cross. For him his death was not defeat but victory; death was not the end but the beginning.

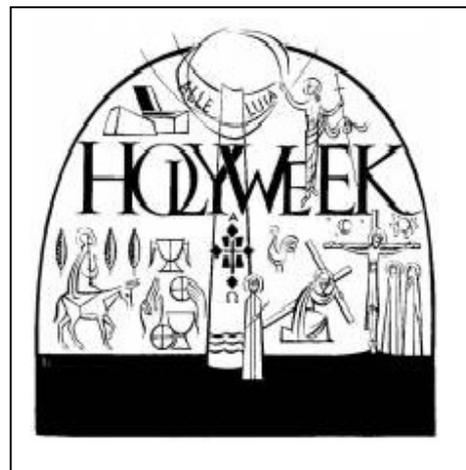
Holy Saturday

We invite you, today, on this most holy and sacred of days, to ponder the rich wisdom offered to us in this ancient homily for Holy Saturday. The early believers had a profound grasp of the drama of our salvation played out before them in the liturgy. 'O Christ, you slept a life-giving sleep in the grave, and didst awaken humankind from the heavy sleep of sin. All-powerful and ever-living God, your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory. In your goodness raise up your faithful people buried with him in baptism, to be one with him in the eternal life of heaven'.

Funeral Masses are not celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

Celebration of Holy Week and Easter

*Loving God,
we are the body of your Son in the world today.
As we begin our journey to Calvary give us
the courage to carry our crosses.
Help us to know that when we suffer
we share in the suffering of Christ.
Give us the faith to believe that with Christ our crosses
never end in death
but in the resurrection.
As we await Easter Day fill our hearts with joy.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ who is our
crucified and risen Saviour
for ever and ever.
Amen.*



The six weeks of Lent are a preparation for the last three days of this week, ***Holy Thursday, Good Friday*** and the ***Easter Vigil***. During them we celebrate the central event of our religion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, the Saviour of the World.

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (10th April)

Today the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal mystery. The death and resurrection of Christ cannot be separated and so we have the readings of the Passion to remind us of Christ's death.

Mass Times: Saturday: 6.15 pm and 7.30 pm.

Sunday: 7.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm.

Palms will be blessed at all Masses.

3.00 pm to 6.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

6.00 pm Benediction.

Bishop Donal McKeown –Video Podcast on Sunday at 8.00 pm:
available on our website, YouTube, and Facebook.



The Passion of Our Lord presented in Scripture, reflections and sacred music here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 8.15 pm this evening (Palm Sunday).

Monday (11th April)

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am

Mass at 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm and 7.30 pm

12.00 noon The Angelus & Rosary

3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

8.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary followed by Night Prayer

8.00 to 10.00 pm - Late Opening on Monday: To celebrate the sacrament of Confession and spend some quiet time in the presence of the Eucharist.

Tuesday (12th April)

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am

Mass at 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm and 7.30 pm

12.00 noon The Angelus & Rosary

3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

8.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary followed by Night Prayer

Why is my presence at Mass important? Fr Paul's series of talks continue from the Cathedral Hall on Tuesday, 12th April, from 7.00 pm to 7.25 pm.



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday
from 10.30 am to 7.30 pm.**

Wednesday (13th April)

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am

Mass at 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm and 7.30 pm

12.00 noon The Angelus & Rosary

1.30 pm Pray the Stations of the Cross

3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

HOLY THURSDAY (14th April)

10.00 am Mass of Chrism

Bishop McKeown will celebrate the Mass of Chrism with priests from all over the Diocese. During the Mass the Holy Oils (the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and the oil of Chrism) which will be used in Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination are blessed. Bishop McKeown and priests will renew their priestly vows to serve Christ and his Church.

7.30 pm Concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper

Celebrating the gift of the Eucharist and the ministry of service.

On Thursday evening we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We gather with Jesus and the apostles in the upper room. There it is revealed to us that to be the body of Christ we are called to serve. We are called to wash the feet of others - to be their humble servants.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose until 11.00 pm

Praying at the Garden of Gethsemane.

On Thursday night we wait as the Body of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. We share in the fear and loneliness of Jesus as he reaches the depths of despair.

GOOD FRIDAY (15th April)

We meditate on the Passion and the death of Jesus. We focus on the cross - the crude instrument that took the life of our Saviour - the key that opened eternal life for us all. We venerate the wood of the cross on which hung the Saviour of the world.

This is a day of Fast and Abstinence. There is an obligation to fast (one main meal, two light meals in the course of the day and to abstain from meat. The Law of Fasting obliges all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (except the sick). *The Law of Abstinence* obliges all Catholics over the age of 14 years.

10.00 am **Morning Prayer**

3.00 pm **Celebration of the Passion**
We walk with Jesus on the path to Calvary.

7.30 pm **Celebration of the Passion**

During the season of Easter, it is important that we take time to reflect on Jesus' Journey.

HOLY SATURDAY (16th April)

On this day we wait as the body of our Saviour lies dead in the tomb.

The Easter Vigil: In the words of St Augustine '*this is the mother of all vigils*'. The Easter Triduum reaches its high point on this most holy night. On this night we tell our story, it is our family story. It is not just a distant memory, it is not only historical fact - it is living reality. It is the story of salvation. We are a saved people. Through his cross and resurrection Christ has set us free. We symbolise our salvation and freedom through the use of the fire and the single flame of the paschal candle. We have been called out of darkness into the wonderful light of Christ. All the readings at the Vigil reveal to us that we are God's chosen people. The blessing of the Easter water and the renewal of our baptismal promises all express the fact that we belong to Christ and so are a resurrected people.

10.00 am **Morning Prayer**
We wait at the tomb.

Confessions from 11.30 am to 6.00 pm

10.00 pm **Easter Vigil**
Tonight is the high point of the Church's year as we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour.
Ceremony of Light.
The Story of Salvation.
Baptised in Christ.
Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

EASTER SUNDAY

We are a resurrected people and alleluia is our song.

Masses: 7.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm

No Devotions.

Face Coverings: To ensure the safety and wellbeing of the vulnerable or anxious members of the congregation, St Eugene's Cathedral ask all adults and children aged 14 and over to please wear a face covering at Masses and other liturgical celebrations.

Please continue to observe social distancing, to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the Cathedral.

To join us via webcam in St Eugene's Cathedral by watching our live streaming which can be viewed online at www.churchservices.tv, churchmedia.tv/camera/st-eugenes-cathedral or the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com.

Reflection on today's Gospel

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

22:14-23:56

Today's Gospel calls on us to journey with Jesus to Calvary: it calls on us to walk alongside him on his long, excruciating journey through rejection, betrayal, profound agony and death. Today's Gospel calls on us to witness the Son of God's acceptance of the full forces of evil for our salvation. We are called on to witness with humility and awe the most powerful act of love the world has ever known or ever will know. Jesus could have called on his divinity to save him if he so wished, but chose instead for our sake to suffer as a human being and in doing so entered into solidarity with every other human being who suffers, with every other human being who is afraid, or who feels abandoned, or who is lost. We are called on to witness Jesus living fully right up to his last breath as he offers forgiveness to those who have so cruelly used him.

Jesus, we are witnessing in today's world the evils of a bloodthirsty lust for power and control over others. We know that you hear the cries of all those who are in anguish and are afraid. Grant us the courage to stand in solidarity with all those who are suffering and fearful.

Jesus, you were enabled by your faith in your heavenly Father to triumph over the forces of evil and death. Grant that we will always know that with that same faith, life will always triumph over all forms of death.

Jesus, may we call out to you when we are afraid and know that you are walking beside us always, our hand in yours.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Daniel (Danny) Loughrey



May he rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Tommy Bonner, Eddie Doherty, Chris and Marie McGeehan.
May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family

Clara Greta Gill
Bryson Thomas Deehan



Monday (11th April) at 11.00 am: Mindfulness with Mary Murphy livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall. Join via the parish website at www.steugenesacathedral.com and choose the link **CATHEDRAL HALL WEBCAM**

Easter Mass Bouquets are now available from the Parish Office. Cost £2.00 each.

The Divine Mercy Novena, prayed for the nine days from Good Friday (15th April) until the first Saturday of Easter (23rd April), leading into Divine Mercy Sunday (24th April). Novena Prayer Cards can be accessed on: <https://divinemercy.life/the-divine-mercy-novena/> .



The St Dymphna Mass will be celebrated at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 19th April and a candle will be lit for everyone who has intentions for the St Dymphna Mass. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive mental health and to pray for those who are struggling with mental health issues and those who care for them

The Matt Talbot Prayer Society – Praying for those suffering from Addiction: This Prayer Society has been 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. As we know addiction takes many forms from alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, to other less acknowledged addictions.



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 be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene’s Cathedral at 7.30 pm. You will also receive an enrolment card to enable you to join in the prayer.

To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please phone St Eugene’s Cathedral at 028 71262894 or email steugenes@btconnect.com or private message St Eugene’s Cathedral Facebook page.

Blessed Carlos Acutis



Blessed Carlo Acutis, an Italian Catholic teenager, was beatified in Assisi, Italy on 10th October 2020. He documented Eucharistic miracles around the world and catalogued them all onto a website that he created himself in the months before his death from leukaemia. Carlo was known for his cheerfulness, his care for others, his computer skills and his deep devotion to the Eucharist, saying it was his “highway to heaven”. There is a display in the Cathedral dedicated to Blessed Carlo Acutis and prayer cards which you are welcome to take.

CEMETERY SUNDAY

The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on **Sunday, 26th June 2022 at 6.00 pm.**



Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks donations for: **St Vincent de Paul:** £25, £10. **Mary’s Meals:** £25. **Cathedral Funds:** £100. **Afghanistan:** £50. **Trócaire:** £100.

Last Week’s Collection amounted to £4,473.
Parish Development Collection amounted to £905.

Thank you for your generous donations for Ukraine which totalled £55,766 and €800. This money has been forwarded via the Diocesan Office to the Archbishop of Lviv in Ukraine. Any other donations received for Ukraine will be forwarded to Trócaire.

There is a box at the back of the Cathedral for weekly parish envelopes and contributions for the upkeep of the Cathedral. **Please note cheques should be made payable to St Eugene's Cathedral.**

If you would like to make your weekly envelope contributions by online banking or standing order, please find St Eugene's Cathedral's bank details below:

Account Name: St Eugene's Church No 1 A/C
Account Number: 55192935
Sorting Code Number: 90-49-74
IBAN: GB45 BOFI 9049 7455 1929 35
Branch: Bank of Ireland, 15 Strand Rd, Derry, BT48 7BT

Thank you for your continued support to the parish.



A recent survey reported that "80% of vocations come from the 20% of the parishes where there is active and ongoing prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life." With this in mind the Diocesan Vocations Council, with the blessing of Bishop Donal McKeown, are promoting a special Year of Prayer throughout the diocese of Derry. The Year of Prayer, which began on St Patrick's Day 2022, will run until 17 March 2023.

The first step for anyone interested is to speak with their local priest who will put them in touch with Fr Pat O'Hagan, the Diocesan Vocations Director. They may, of course, contact Fr Pat directly at the parochial house in Moville (Tel: **00353 (0)74-9382057**) or email pgoh2111@gmail.com.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father,

you call us by name, and ask us to follow you.

Help us to grow in the love and service of your Church today.

Grant us the courage to embrace Christ's mission of love and justice.

Bless the Church here in the diocese of Derry

**by raising up generous and dedicated leaders from among our families and friends,
who will serve your people as Priests, Sisters, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.**

Bless those who have already answered your call

and who are now preparing for service in your Church.

Inspire us to know you better,

and open our hearts and minds to the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will resume this year, from 3rd – 8th July 2022. Cost: £689 per person sharing, with single room supplement £150. Price includes flights, transfers and full board. The pilgrimage will be suitable for pilgrims who do not require medical, nursing or personal assistance as, unfortunately, this cannot be provided this year. The intentions of the sick of the diocese can be taken to Lourdes. The Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, will be open for enquires and application forms on Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. Tel: 028 71 260293 or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com.

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The Derry Centre to date has 42 graduates and 30 more students at different stages of the programme. **Applications for the Autumn intake close 30th September 2022.** If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

C.A.L.M.S. (Community Action for Locally Managing Stress) Mental Health Support Line is offering the following: providing support with anxiety, panic, insomnia, low mood, depression and stress; a listening ear; and relaxation/breathing techniques. The service is available via telephone or zoom free of charge. Tel 079 0704 0568 or 028 71268698 Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm or leave a message out of hours. Visit www.calmsstresscentre.org.

Can't Stop Drinking? Call Alcoholics Anonymous 90351222.

Gamblers Anonymous: Is gambling affecting your life? Gamblers Anonymous can help. Telephone 71351329

Sharing the Good News can be downloaded from the home page of www.catholicbishops.ie.

ACCORD DERRY Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (limited to 15 couples per course). Booking now online at www.accordni.com



**Give a child
a brighter future**

Call 0800 0720 137
adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net

#CouldYouFoster #FosterForYourCommunity

HSC
Northern Ireland
Foster Care

Radio Maria Ireland <https://www.radiomaria.ie/radio-maria-ireland/> is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies.

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 or www.watchmenmedia or the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com.

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.

If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596 500 793 or email marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org or contact Briege O'Neill, the Safeguarding Coordinator at the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ, tele (028) 71362475 or email safeguarding@derrydiocese.org or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.