

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother listens to you, you have won back your brother

What is at the heart of Jesus' words in today's Gospel is love, love which is informed by respect for the dignity of God's creation and the genuine will to rehabilitate the offender rather than dish out immediate judgement and punishment. The way to resolve conflict recommended by Jesus, is the honourable way. It is the way of truth and love, with its readiness to forgive and forget. It is the way which seeks to rehabilitate the errant brother back into the fold. It is not the way which descends into an avoidance of direct confrontation and indulges instead in the kind of cruel gossip which is murderous to human dignity.

If the wrongdoer refuses to listen to one or more of his brothers or sisters and persists in his wrongdoing, then he will have effectively excluded himself from his community. But even then, he may not be lost, because there is still the overflowing magnitude of God's mercy, God's super abundant wealth of forgiveness and love at the sinner's disposal.

Jesus, may we be open to your teaching in today's Gospel and always take the honourable way to resolve conflict: the way of openness, truth, and respect for the dignity of God's creation.

Jesus, instead of taking the way of Jesus to resolve conflict, may we never resort to the cowardly way of cruel gossip about those with whom we are in disagreement. It may be the easy, immediate way towards satisfaction, but it is always the soul-destroying way – for both victim and perpetrator.

Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - This weekend we pray as a diocesan family for Stephen Ward who will be ordained priest for the diocese in Christ the King Church, Omagh, at 3.00pm today (Sunday). We pray also for our two seminarians who have completed their introductory year and will begin their formal studies in Rome and Maynooth this month, and for the four men who are applying to study for the diocese this year.

The relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will visit St Eugene's Cathedral on Thursday 14th September 2023. The programme for the day is as follows:

- 9.30am Arrival of Relic to St. Eugene's Cathedral
- 10.00am Mass with Bishop Mc Keown, Archbishop Sorrentino and Monsignor Figueiredo
- 12 noon Rosary in the Cathedral
- 3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 4.00pm Benediction followed by closing ceremony and farewell.

There will be an opportunity to be blessed with the relic. An exhibition of Blessed Carlo's life will also be on display in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Liam Ferguson
Detta Brown
Marie Hamilton
Ann Quinn
Kathleen Browne*

May they rest in peace

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,914
Parish Development: £926

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Missions: £300
Hungry Children: £5
Cathedral Funds: £40
Sight Savers: £30
Foyle Food Bank: £40
SVdP: £40, £25
Mary's Meals: £25, £30
Trócaire: £140, £50

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Caiden Patrick Kennedy
Harry James Anthony Loughran*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Patricia McDermott & Declan Cregan

Readers for 16th/17th September

06.15 pm	Sean Hickey
07.30 pm	Helen Sweeney
09.30 am	Kay McGinn
11.00 am	Piaras O Meallain
12.30 pm	Oran Gartland
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

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 or by text on 0863728443.

St Eugene's Cathedral Choral Scholars have vacancies in male voice parts (tenor and bass). People aged over 16 in full-time education are invited to apply. Scholars are paid a stipend for their participation in choral music at the cathedral. For further information and application forms please contact Maghnus Monaghan, Director of Music at maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com. The deadline for applications is Tuesday September 19th at 6pm.

The annual Safeguarding Mass will be celebrated on Friday 15th September at 7.30 pm in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry. This Mass is a chance to shine a light on what our Diocese is doing to make our parish communities and our places of worship safe environments. Protecting children and adults at risk is at the heart of the Church's message. We want to thank everyone who is doing this vital ongoing work and taking part in this year's Safeguarding Mass to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding in their church and community. We also want to take this opportunity to thank and pray for those who have stepped up to coordinate safeguarding in our church so we can protect children and adults at risk together.

The Totus Tuus Men for Christ Conference 2023 - a Catholic Conference for Men will be live and exclusive on Radio Maria Ireland on Saturday 16th September from 2.00pm. Speakers for this year's Conference are Fr Billy Swan, Fr Chris Hayden, Anthony Crossey & Fr John Harris OP.

The Eucharistic Revival Conference 2023 will be held on Saturday, 16th September at St Anne's Parish, Cranmore Road, Sligo. Guest Speakers include Bishop Kevin Doran, Elphin, Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, Assisi, Mother Adela Galindo, SCTJM & Mission team, Miami, Florida and Fr Barry Braum, Tyburn, London. The day begins at 10.30am & will include inspiring talks, prayer, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Healing Service, Confessions, Music, and opportunities to meet new friends to share our faith with. All are welcome to attend.

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.

'Host for Hospice' - October is Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning Month: Can you 'Host for Hospice' and organise a Coffee Morning? For more information or to sign up to become a host, please call Ailbhe, Community Fundraising Officer, Foyle Hospice, on 028 71359888 or email: ailbhe@foylehospice.com

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.