

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Like all of Jesus' parables, the parable in today's end of time Gospel merits close attention. A superficial reading may lead us into believing that the wise virgins are less than generous to their foolish sisters: we may feel they should have shared their oil with them even if it meant that they themselves would end up in the dark. But that is not what Jesus is saying. Jesus is warning us against being unready, unprepared. The bridegroom may come at midnight, in the darkness, when least expected. Be careful. Be warned.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, is also saying that no-one else can save us from the result of our unpreparedness. We alone are responsible if we end up in the dark. But we must also remember that while light in Scripture is synonymous with awareness and enlightenment, darkness is often the most potent teacher. Which of us would disagree with the truth that we have learned most when we were in the middle of suffering!

Jesus, may we never lose our focus on you. May our hearts, minds and souls always be trained on you alone, living as you taught us to live, and forever ready to be reunited with you.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – Lord, bless all those who are currently discerning a vocation to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry. Fill them with the wisdom that comes from You.

Deceased Children & Young People's Mass. The Annual Mass for deceased children and young people will take place in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on Sunday 12th November at 7:00pm. There will be an opportunity to write the name of your deceased loved one before Mass. All are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend the Mass but would like your loved one's name included in our prayers, please email lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org.

The deceased members of our families and friends will be remembered at each Mass throughout November in Saint Eugene's Cathedral. Please take a Remembrance Card from the back of the Cathedral, write down the names of your loved ones and place it in the basket on the Sanctuary.

A Holy Hour for Peace will be led by Bishop McKeown on Monday 20th November in Saint Eugene's Cathedral from 8.00pm to 9.00pm. All are welcome.

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.

Christmas Afternoon Tea - Saturday 2nd December at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for an Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Entry £25 - Pre booking only. Call into Parish Office or Tel: 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

If you have family away from home this Christmas and would like them to receive a Christmas Card from the parish, please write their names and full postal addresses on a card available at the back of the Cathedral and place it in the box before 26th November.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Margaret McConomy
Majella Martin
Chrissie Philson
Breege O'Donnell*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Neil McMahon
Mary Coghlan
Eddie McKinney
Séan Mellon
Lily McCafferty
Elma Harkin
Brendan McGrellis
Tom Canning*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Danny Leo Feeney-Duddy
Córa Róis Kelly
Faoladh Anna Cassidy*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,232

Parish Development: £956

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £750

SdVP: £25, £100

Hungry Children: £20, £5

Mary's Meals: £25

Trócaire: £20

Readers 18th / 19th November

06.15 pm	Helen Sweeney
07.30 pm	Marian Boyle
09.30 am	Kay McGinn
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Marie Canning
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Monday (pm): Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Chamberlain Street, Westland Street. Cable Street, Lower Road.

Tuesday (pm): Mulvey Park, Beechwood Street, Elmwood Terrace, Elmwood Road, Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor.

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

Parish Advent Pilgrimage on Tuesday 12th December. Bus leaves Cathedral at 9.30am and returning at approx 4.00pm. Price £40 - includes Transport, Morning Tea & Lunch. For more information or to book call into the Parish Office or call 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

Christmas Floral Workshops – 14th December – 11am or 7pm. Join our experienced Church florists in the Cathedral Hall for a workshop to create your own floral arrangement. Watch the florists demonstrate the design and then make your own to take home. Spaces are limited so book early. A great opportunity to come together as a community to chat, have a cuppa and learn a new skill. Pre-Booking only - £25 – please contact the Parish Office on 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org or call into the Parish Office.

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Thirty- second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
12th November 2023*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

A Day Retreat of Prayer for the relief of the Souls in Purgatory will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on Friday 17th November, beginning at 10.00am and ending 3.00pm. Cost for the day, including light lunch is £15. To book a place telephone 71 262512.

St Mary's College Christmas Craft Fair - Saturday 18th November from 11.00am – 4.00pm. £1 Entry. Café, Santa, Stalls – Something to suit all budgets. All are welcome.

Totus Tuus Scripture Conference 2023 is live on Radio Maria on Saturday 18th November from 2.00pm. Speakers include Fr. John Ryan (Cloyne Diocese), Fr Luke Demasi (Home of the Mother), Fr John McEneaney (Waterford & Lismore Diocese) and Frances Hogan (Scripture Scholar). Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by downloading the Radio Maria Ireland App, Saorview Channel 210 or listen live at 00353 (01) 4373277.

The next Rosary on the Coast will be on Sunday 19th November at 3.00pm on Benone Strand, Magilligan. Everyone welcome. For details contact 07730330028.

Pioneer Pledge for the month of the Holy Souls. A short-term pledge gives spiritual support and encouragement to people and their families who are living under a shadow of addiction. Further information from the Pioneers on 00353 (01) 8054226 or via www.pioneers.ie/pray

Courage It is I - In partnership with An Chroi Community Hub in Top of the Hill, the parish of Glendermott is offering a four-week programme on knowing and understanding our mental health for adults beginning on Tuesday 14th November at 7:00pm in An Chroi Community Hub, Trench Road, Derry. For further information please telephone 028 7134 2303.

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.**