

Sunday (12th December)

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

6.00 pm Benediction

Monday to Friday (13th and 17th December)

Mass at 8.00 am, 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

12.00 noon The Angelus & Rosary

3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

5.15 pm Mass for Advent

8.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary followed by Night Prayer

Saturday (18th December)

Mass at 10.00 am, Vigil Masses at 6.15 pm and 7.30 pm.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Sundays from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm and
Tuesdays from 10.30 am to 7.30 pm.**



Face Coverings: 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 ie Funerals, Baptisms, First Communion, Weddings (unless they are exempt from wearing mandatory face coverings). Medical advice is that wearing face coverings is first and foremost about protecting others.

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.

Season of Advent: 28th November to 24th December

St Eugene's Cathedral - Advent Programme:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed at 7.45 am.

Monday to Friday: Mass will be celebrated at 5.15 pm.

The 5.15 pm Mass each Thursday during Advent will be a Rorate Mass. The Rorate Mass has a long tradition in the Church. The name comes from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon, *Rorate cæli desuper*, Latin for “Drop down dew, ye heavens”. This is a Votive Mass in honour of Our Lady for the season of Advent, celebrated by candlelight early in the morning or in the evening. Our Lady shows herself in a special way as our leader through Advent to Christmas. The Mass begins in darkness – candles will be provided. The Cathedral lights will be switched on when the Glory in sung.

Late Opening on Mondays continues on 13th and 20th December: To celebrate the sacrament of Confession and spend some quiet time in the presence of the Eucharist from 8.30 pm to 10.00 pm.

Lectio Divina every Tuesday during Advent: – Fr Ignacy invites you to join him for reflections of scripture readings from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm on Tuesday in the Cathedral Hall.

Conversations on Wednesdays with Bishop McKeown during Advent at 7.00 pm livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall. Bishop McKeown will be in conversation with Clare McReynolds, Iconographer at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 15th December.

On Thursdays during Advent the Rosary will be prayed for all families.

Friday at 11.00 am: Exploring a selection of poems with Mary Murphy livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall. Join via the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com and choose the link **CATHEDRAL HALL WEBCAM**.

"How Fit Is Your Soul?" Programme: The 'How Fit Is Your Soul' Programme is an online programme from St Eugene's Cathedral taking place during Advent. This is for anyone who is interested in reflecting on and developing their prayer life, whether you would like to start praying, pray more or experience new ways to pray. For more information, please email emmett.mullan@derrydiocese.org or phone St Eugene's Parish office on 028 71262894/71365712.

Family Prayer Service for your home during Advent has been created by the Diocese, in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network, for family prayer at home during the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.



The word 'Advent' means 'coming' or 'arrival'. The season of Advent marks the time we prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Family Prayer Service for your home during Advent

In this booklet you will find a Family Prayer Service and activity suggestions for the Sundays of Advent as we journey towards Christmas and the arrival of the Son of God to a stable in Bethlehem.

The booklet can be viewed on a computer, tablet or mobile. It can also be printed at home.

It is our sincere hope that this resource will be a spiritual support to everyone during the season of Advent.

<https://www.derrydiocese.org/publications/advent/advent-prayer-family-book-2021.pdf>

Based on the Advent theme, 'Blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God.' the Diocesan Catechetical Centre has created a variety of creative resources to help home, school

Christmas Mass Bouquets are now available from the Parish Office. Cost £2.00 each.
You and your loved ones will be remembered at a Triduum of Masses offered over the Christmas season at St Eugene's Cathedral.



A short reflection on today's Gospel: *Luke 3:10-18*

Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Today's Gospel witnesses an encounter between John the Baptist and a group of people clearly drawn to him by his powerful presence and equally powerful eloquence. Here was a man on fire with faith in God, unrelenting in his denunciation of evil, and passionate in his urgings towards repentance. Here was a man who sheltered no discrepancy between what he preached and what he practised. He has chosen to preach, not in the cities, not in the centres of worldly power, but in the desert wilderness. He wore shambolic clothes and dined on what he could forage from nature. When he was asked by various individuals what they ought to do to in order to gain eternal life, his answers could be interpreted as an early example of practical Christianity: share what you have with those who have nothing; work with honesty and integrity; be content with your lot. The whole emphasis of John's teaching is to move from outer observance to inner sanctity, always motivated by love of others, by compassion and truth. Perhaps it is no wonder that the crowds asked him if he were the Messiah, and it is no wonder, given John's powerful and humble allegiance to God, that his denial is instant. He knows exactly who he is and what he needs to do in order to fulfil God's plan for him. His task is to prepare the way for the One who is to come, the one who will baptise, not with water, but with the Holy Spirit and with fire, the one who will bring salvation.

We live in a culture based on greed for power, for wealth, for titles, for the very things which will never satisfy the heart.

What should we do to gain eternal life?

Someone once wrote that Advent is not for the arrogant and powerful. We and our egos have to stoop low if we wish to enter the stall which contains the Christ Child. Perhaps we should start stooping in humility now!

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of

Charles (Junior) McDaid
Edward (Eddie) McAteer



May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Peggy Caldwell. May she rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family

Ellen Teresa Quigley
Ethan Tommy Francis Rudd



Baptismal Tree: During Advent the name-tags of the children who were baptised during the past year will be available in the Parish Office for their parents or guardians to collect for a keepsake or to hang on their Christmas Tree. As God's family tree evolves, we, as a community offer the children our support and commitment through daily prayer.

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Carina Doherty and Sean Campbell

who recently celebrated the Sacrament of
Marriage here in St Eugene's Cathedral.



Readers for next weekend – 18th/19th December

06.15 pm	Carmel McConelogue
07.30 pm	Roisin McGarrigle
09.30 am	Oran Gartland
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00 pm next Sunday, 19th December. St Vincent de Paul are asking, that instead of buying a physical toy or items of food, please give a voucher or make a donation.

Cathedral Voices is for people living with dementia and their families, friends and carers. This is a pilot programme which we are delivering here in St Eugene's Cathedral led by Margarette McNamee. It is a time to come and listen to music, have a cup of tea and a chat.

Date: Thursday, 16th December @1.30 pm-2.30 pm

Booking is essential as places are limited. Call 02871262894 or email: emmet.thompson@derrydiocese.org



The St Dymphna Mass will be celebrated at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 21st December 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 71262894/71365712 or email steugenes@btconnect.com or private message St Eugene's Cathedral.



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.



The Prayer Garden, which is located behind the Grotto, has now been completed. The Prayer Garden names all the parishes of the Derry Diocese and includes prayers for those who died during the pandemic. Fifty-one rose plants have been planted to remember those who died from each parish in the diocese since March 2020 when there were restrictions on wakes and funerals. The Garden will not be officially dedicated until a later date, however, everyone is welcome to come and pray or reflect.

St Eugene's Cathedral Choir is looking for new members to join. The Choir practices at 8.00 pm on Wednesdays and sings at the 12.30 pm Mass each Sunday. There are many ways which you can serve the church. Singing is one of them. If you would be interested in singing with the Choir please get in touch with the Choir Director, Magnus Monaghan, through the parish office or speak to him after Mass at 12.30 pm.

Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal packs are now available as you leave the Cathedral. Children in Crossfire thank you in advance for your support again this year, your donations really do go a long way in Ethiopia to prevent and treat malnutrition in Children. This work is even more crucial now as conflict spreads throughout the country. Please return your donations to the St Eugene's Cathedral after Christmas.

Derry Hearing Aid User Support Service on 16th December from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm in the Carnhill Resource Centre, 42 Racecourse Road, Derry, BT48 8DA. RNID can provide new batteries, cleaning and retubing of earmoulds for NHS hearing aids. This is a socially distanced drop off and pick up service. Please follow the instructions below to help keep everyone safe. Hearing aids must be placed in a labelled envelope with name and contact details. They will be collected at the entrance and brought inside for maintenance. Users can wait in their car or return later to collect hearing aids. Hearing aids can be dropped off by friends or family members. For further information email Mary.cruickshank@rnid.org.uk or phone 07918 767640 or visit their website at rnid.org.uk.

Mary's Meals- Double the Love campaign runs until 31st January 2022, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a generous group of private donors. Every little act of love will go that little bit further during this period to help us reach the next child waiting, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to get involved including choosing one of their Mary's Meals gift cards or setting a place at our Big Family Christmas table- find out more at www.marysmeals.org.uk.

Starting conversations in our parishes



"We have to look at where the Lord is leading us in order for us to be effective in making new disciples for the Lord"

Pope Francis is inviting the faithful all over the world to come with him "on a journey" as a "Synodal Church". The word 'synod' means "walking together" and "indicates a way of being together as Church and 'discerning' how best to spread the Gospel amidst the challenges of life in the 21st century."

This Synodal Process entitled, *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission* coincides with the start of the two-year Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland which will lead, in time, to a National Synodal Assembly in Ireland.

We pray that the next two years will be a time of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a consultative conversation. This will allow all people - both within the Church and in society at large, to share their insights into the Catholic Church in Ireland – past, present and future – so that we can prepare for a National Synodal Assembly in the coming years.

Bishop Donal explains this is the start of our Synodal Journey: "*We have set ourselves in Ireland a five year period, to look together in a prayerful context where God is leading His Church*"

In this video, <https://youtu.be/Lhky65OFfEQ>, Bishop Donal McKeown reminds us of the purpose of the Church and outlines the prayerful consultation process of Synodality, of walking together, of listening, of being led by the Holy Spirit to understand where the Lord is leading us.



Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks donations for **Matt Talbot Prayer Society**: £20. **Trócaire**: £100. **St Vincent de Paul**: £200, £25. **Upkeep of the Cathedral**: £20. **Salvation Army**: £20. **Mary's Meals**: £25. **Afghanistan**: £30. **Sight Savers**: £20. **Smile Train**: £20. **Charity of Adm's Choice**: £100. **Medical Missionaries of Mary**: £5.

Last week's Collection amounted to £4,477.

Parish Development Collection amounted to £842.

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.



Derry Diocesan Trust

Position	Location	Closing Date
Caretaker & Cleaner 20 hours per week (1 year fixed term contract with possibility of extension)	Parish of Drumragh Omagh Co. Tyrone	22.12.2021

For a job description and application form please:

Write: Personnel, Derry Diocesan Office,
 St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP

Email: payroll@derrydiocese.org

Telephone: 028 7126 2302

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.



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

Gamblers Anonymous: Is gambling affecting your life? Perhaps Gamblers Anonymous can help: call them on 028 7135 1329.

Lough Derg online shop offers unique Christmas Cards, featuring scenes of the Island from across the centuries and bespoke Gifts including a limited edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle. Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are also available – Fr La, Prior, will offer a triduum of Masses beginning on Christmas Eve for all those who are enrolled. Visit www.loughderg.live/shop Telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518 Delivery nationwide and Click & Collect Service available.

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre Confirmation Preparation Programme will take place from the 10th -14th January 2022, to support parents, schools and parishes as they prepare the children in this very important stage of their faith journey. Linking with ***Filled With Joy***, pupil workbook and ***Disciples of Jesus***, parent booklet (available from the Diocesan Catechetical Centre) the programme will consist of,

- Four sessions, 10.00 am -12.00 am on the catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/. Each day the sessions will include catechesis on different aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation, prayer, creative activities and music.
- A support pack for the four sessions which will be emailed to schools and available on the Catechetical Centre Website
- Short Video reflections on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the impact Confirmation has made on different people

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.watchmcnmedia 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 Brige 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.