

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walks on the water

Today's Gospel is richly layered in meanings. We are variously led, guided, and challenged by Jesus to prepare for the storms of existence and then to step out fearlessly into the deep and choppy waters. He invites us to move beyond our ordinary levels of understanding in order to reach new extraordinary levels of faith and spiritual consciousness. Jesus wills us to walk on water, our eyes always firmly fixed on his, our total focus always on him, at one with his power and his love.

After Jesus has sent his disciples on ahead of him in the boat, and after he has dismissed the crowds who have followed him, he goes up into the hills to a place apart to pray alone. More than once Jesus teaches by his example the need at times to draw apart from the world's distractions and offer ourselves totally to God in prayer. It is through this drawing apart from the world and offering ourselves to God in prayer that we are gifted with the courage to step out into the deep in faith and trust.

Peter's failure of faith is one with which most of us can identify: it is the terror all too familiar which can grip us when we succumb to external circumstances. Our faith sinks into the deep, taking us with it. It happens to Peter even in the presence of his beloved Jesus. He stops focusing on his Master and consequently begins to sink.

Jesus, may we always remember that you are the absolute source, and may we always stay focused on you. Then our faith and trust will not falter even in the midst of the most violent of storms. You are the calm centre; yours is the power to quell the wind and wild waters; yours is the helping hand and gentle forgiveness offered to Peter in his fear and doubt. You are my focus and I shall not be afraid.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tuesday 15th August 2023 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass times are as follows:

Monday 14th August – 6.15pm and 7.30pm

Tuesday 15th August – 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm

The Collection on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be for Parish Youth Ministry.

“The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

Pope Pius XII, Munificentissimus Deus, 1950

Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – To those being called to serve as priests in the diocese of Derry Jesus says, “Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.”

Bishop Daly - A Man for all seasons. An exhibition, celebrating the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly will be on display until Saturday 26th August 2023. The exhibition is in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. Opening times Monday to Saturday from 10.30am to 4.00pm Everyone is very welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Kathleen Harrigan
John Madden
Tony McKeown***

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

***Seamus Mullan
Kathleen Beirwas
Sibeal Sharkey***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

***Ally Rose Doherty
Billie Quinn Garnon
Aodhán James Holland***

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 couples who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

***Mary Bradley & Cahir O'Connor
Joanne Bonner & Karthar Kandola***

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,157
Parish Development: £862

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Cathedral Funds: £40, £15
Hungry Children: £5, £20
Smile Train: £25**

Readers for 19th/20th August

06.15 pm	Helen Breslin
07.30 pm	Oran Gartland
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	Sophia Mason
12.30 pm	Michael Wilson
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Congratulations to Joe Horner and Gareth Coyle, St Eugene's Cathedral, on winning the Gold Prize in the Public Service/Charity/Church category of the City Centre Initiative Annual Floral Competition. We extend our gratitude to Joe and Gareth for their hard work all year round looking after the Cathedral grounds – well done!

ACCORD NI Marriage Preparation Courses (6.30pm – 9.30pm Monday and Tuesday) - the following dates are available 25th/26th September, 16th/17th October, 6th/7th November, 27th/28th November, and 11th/12th December. Courses can be booked online at www.accordni.com. All courses are virtual.

Job opportunities – School Liaison Coordinator Parish of Templemore: St Eugene’s & St Columba’s. 35 hours per week 1-year Fixed Term contract with possibility of extension. The Parish of Templemore: St Eugene’s and St Columba’s are seeking to recruit an individual to fulfil the role of School Liaison Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Pastoral Coordinator this person will work in the two city parishes that presently have five primary schools and three post primary schools. This is a full-time role for one year with the possibility of extension.

School Liaison Coordinator Parishes of Steelstown and Culmore. 35 hours per week 1-year Fixed Term contract with possibility of extension. The Parishes of Steelstown and Culmore are seeking to recruit an individual to fulfil the role of School Liaison Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Parish Priest/Administrator this person will work in the two parishes that presently have three primary schools and one post primary school. This is a full-time role for one year with the possibility of extension.

For application packs please contact: Bishop’s House, St Eugene’s Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 02871262302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop’s House, St Eugene’s Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to recruitment@derrydiocese.org no later than 4.30pm on 14th August 2023.

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

‘Building Parish Life’ – a talk by Mr David Wells in St Columb’s College, Buncrana Road, Derry on Tuesday 29th August 7.00pm – 8.30pm. An international speaker and author, David Wells has worked with parishes and dioceses internationally, encouraging and inspiring people to share the Joy of the Gospel, through the lens of building parish life. This is a free event. Booking not required. You are invited to attend this talk, to be inspired and equipped for the work of building parish and discerning the way forward in changing times in our parishes. For more information on the event, contact Tony Brennan, Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator, on 028 7126 2302 or email tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org

The Net – July/August 2023 edition is now available in parishes as well as on the Diocesan website. For coverage of faith related stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.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.watchmenmedia 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 Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias