

Vol. 48 No 7
Sunday, 14th February 2021

Extension of the Covid-19 Shut-down by the Northern Ireland Executive

On 21st January 2021, the Northern Ireland Executive took the unanimous decision to extend the current Covid-19 restrictions until **Friday, 5th March 2021**.

In the light of this decision, and on the basis of the clear and unequivocal public health advice that people should continue to *stay at home*, the Northern Catholic Bishops have decided that, until **5th March (but subject to ongoing review in line with any change to the public health advice)**, the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies should continue to take place without the physical presence of the faithful - with the exception of marriage, funeral and baptismal liturgies.

St Eugene's Cathedral will open after Mass for individual prayer.

Ash Wednesday, 17th February 2021

Unfortunately, we cannot distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Please join us at Mass (8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm or 7.30 pm) via Webcam.

Ash Wednesday - A Day of Fast and Abstinence

There is an obligation to fast (one main meal and two light meals in the course of the day) and to abstain from meat.

The law of fasting obliges all Catholics (except the sick) between the ages of 18 and 59 years.

The law of abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14 years.

Face Coverings: We ask all adults and children aged 14 and over to please wear a face covering (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.

Please join us via the Webcam:

We invite you 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-eugenescathedral or the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com.

Sunday (14th February)

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

Please note: Local Radio Station Drive 105 will broadcast the 12.30 pm Sunday Mass live.

6.00 pm Benediction

Monday and Tuesday (15th and 16th February)

Mass via Webcam at 8.00 am, 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

12.00 noon The Angelus & Rosary

3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

Via Webcam

8.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary followed by Night Prayer

Ash Wednesday to Friday (17th – 19th February)

Lenten Programme

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am (Monday to Friday) beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Mass via Webcam at 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm (Ash Wednesday to Friday) and 7.30 pm

The Angelus & Rosary at 12.00 noon

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3.00 pm

Gospel Encounter (Monday, Wednesday and Friday during Lent) at 5.00 pm beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Stations of the Cross (Tuesday and Thursday during Lent) at 5.00 pm beginning on Thursday, 18th February.

8.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary followed by Night Prayer (Monday to Friday) via Webcam



Local Vocal with Margarette McNamee livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall each Wednesday at 4.00 pm during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. “Do you love singing? Have you any respiratory problems or are you recovering from Covid? If so, join this fun, interactive singing sessions with Margarette and enjoy the health benefits of singing from the safety of your own home. To livestream visit the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com and click **Cathedral Hall Webcam**.

Monday at 8.30 pm - Book Club: Want something different this Lent? If you would like to do something different this Lent, why not join St Eugene’s Cathedral Book Club beginning on Monday, 22nd February as we journey through Austin Ivereigh’s latest book on the writings of Pope Francis: *‘Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future’*. For further information, please contact St Eugene’s Cathedral on 028 71262894/71365712 or email steugenes@btconnect.com.

Tuesday at 7.00 pm: Covid Conversations with Bishop McKeown livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall and on Facebook beginning on Tuesday, 23rd February.

Friday at 11.00 am: Exploring a selection of poems with Mary Murphy livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall and on Facebook.

Wellbeing talks: We will be hosting a series of well-being talks via Zoom during Lent. The topics include recognising and strengthening resilience, tips for a better sleep, anxiety, managing setbacks and getting a good night's sleep. If you are interested in participating in these talks please contact emmet.thompson@derrydiocese.org or contact the parish office.

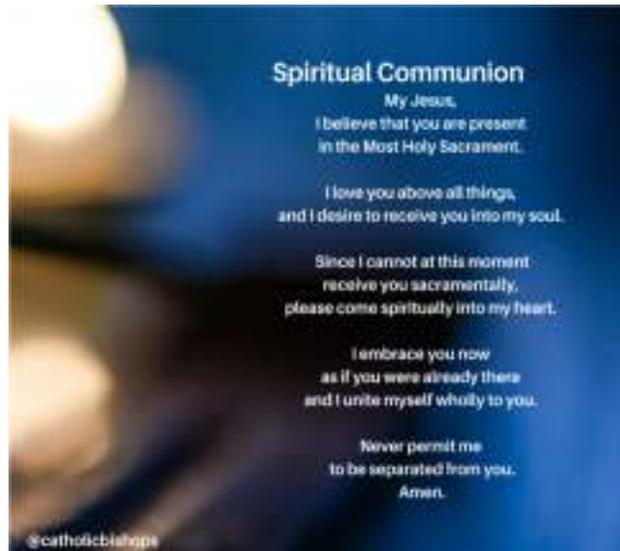
‘How Fit is Your Soul programme’ – St Eugene’s Cathedral: To get physically fitter, you would go to a coach, receive a training plan and follow it to improve your fitness.

Well the ‘How Fit is Your Soul Programme?’ is for those who want to become spiritually fit. It will benefit you whether you pray much or little or maybe not at all at the moment. You will receive a plan and weekly guidance via phone or email to implement practical ways to improve your prayer life and become closer to Jesus. Please contact Emmett Mullan at (028) 71262894 or emailing Emmett.mullan@derrydiocese.org for further information.

Saturday (20th February)

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

St Eugene's Cathedral will open after Mass for individual prayer.



Reflection on today's Gospel: *Mark 1: 40-45*

Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.

Today's Gospel contains words which flame into the deepest recesses of our being and set our souls alight with the clarity and beauty of their truth:

“Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.”

Jesus touched the untouchable. Jesus reached out and laid his hand on one of the most despised, loathed, and rejected of people: the leper. Leprosy was the most feared of diseases, a horrible, suppurating, highly infectious skin condition which literally caused the sufferer's skin to rot away. The unfortunate people who had the disease were banished to places outside of the towns and cities, and were forced to announce their approach to 'clean' people by ringing a warning bell loudly. One can only imagine the painful suffering of their lonely and despairing existence.

“Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.”

Jesus touched the leper first and then healed him. He didn't wait until the leper was cleansed of his disease before he touched him; he reached out and touched the rotting flesh of the leper with the unflinching, compassionate love that precedes all healing.

Today's Gospel is rich with meaning for all of us. In these strange times we are living through, many of us long for the clasp of a hand in ours; the gentle touch of a loved one; the warm hug of genuine friendship. But how many of us are guilty of the cold fastidiousness which causes us to turn aside from those we find physically or emotionally offensive. How often do we over-

indulge our over-refined sensibilities and refuse to look on what we see as the ugly face of need? Do we ever reflect on how lacking we might be in the compassion and love which insists that we reach out to others with the touch of Jesus which precedes all healing?

Jesus, may we find the courage, the love and the compassion which enables us to look unflinchingly on the face of need; may we reach out to others with your gentle healing touch. Amen.

Anniversaries

Margaret Boyce, Sean McMahon, Derrik Tucker, Michelle Gray (nee Mullan), Margaret Doherty, Eoin and Dan Brennan.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family

Fiadh Sarah Marina O'Neill

Luciana Kaye Sharkey

Dáire Anthony Curran



The St Dymphna Mass will be celebrated via webcam at 7.30 pm on Tuesday (16th February) 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.



Forty Hours Adoration

The Forty Hours Adoration begins next Sunday, 21st February after the 12.30 pm Mass. Donations of flowers for the Altar would be much appreciated and can be left in the Parochial House next Friday and Saturday.

Readers for next weekend – 20th/21st February

06.15 pm	Mary Feeney
07.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	Helen Sweeney
12.30 pm	Roisin McGarrigle
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle



Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Families like Awut and Ajak's in South Sudan need your support now more than ever.

Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on www.trocaire.org and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways:

1. By collecting a Trócaire box at the back of the Cathedral.
2. Online at www.trocaire.org
3. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI) or 1850 408 408 (ROI)

The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Penitential Vigil

Fast starts: 12.00 midnight Thursday, 18th February

24 hour Vigil starts: 6.00 am Friday, 19th February

Lent is an annual season of the Liturgical Year with a strong emphasis on the biblical practices of prayer, penance and almsgiving (Matthew 6:1-18). I invite people to consider joining us across the Diocese of Derry on the first weekend of Lent 2021. As happened last year, we propose to mirror some of the key elements of the centuries-old Lough Derg pilgrimage.

This pandemic has caused a crisis for many institutions in church and civil society. This is a time to open ourselves to God's grace through penance and intense prayer. We pray for an end to the ravages caused by the virus and by lockdowns. The Lenten emptying of ourselves is an invitation to the Holy Spirit to fill us with the fullness of divine grace in God's service. Only when we have died with Christ, can we join him in his Resurrection. (Romans 6:5)

+Donal McKeown

This time of prayer and penance at home will take its shape from core elements of the [3-day Lough Derg pilgrimage](#). Each person is invited to participate in whatever parts of the penitential 'virtual pilgrimage' that they feel able to adopt. If anyone is suffering from weakness or ill health, they should not overexert themselves. At the heart of the full Lough Derg pilgrimage are the following elements:

a. THE STATIONS - Lough Derg Style:

Throughout the Friday, participants will pray three Stations:

- 08.30 am** First Station
- 12.00 noon** The Angelus and Second Station
- 06.00 pm** The Angelus and Third Station

b. THE NIGHT VIGIL:

During the Night Vigil, four Stations are prayed:

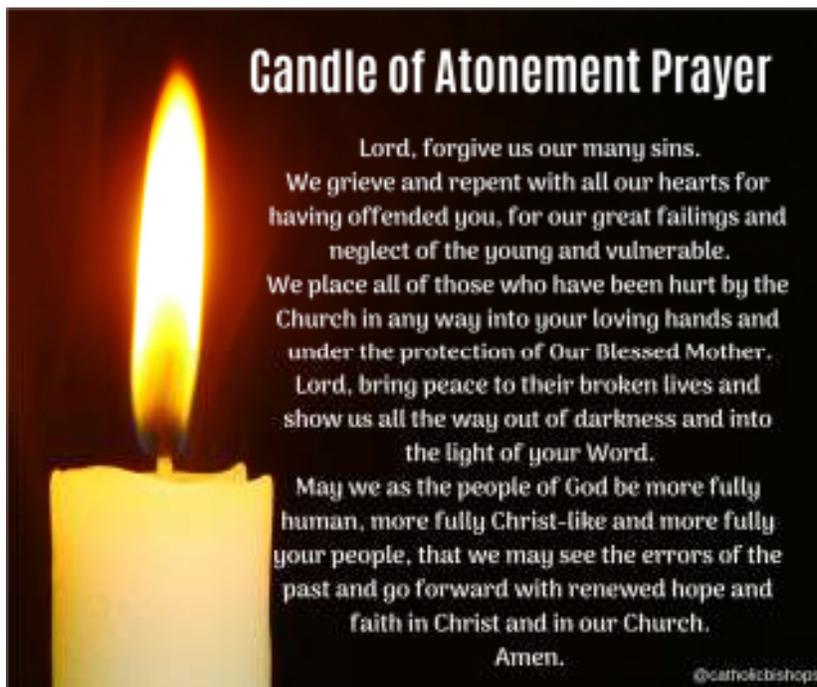
- 12.00 midnight** Fourth Station
- 01.30 am** Fifth Station
- 03.00 am** Sixth Station
- 04.30 am** Seventh Station

The Night Vigil will conclude with Mass, at **6.00am on Saturday** from St Eugene's Cathedral.

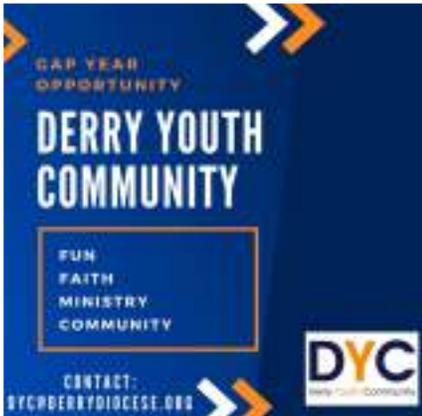
c. FASTING

To join spiritually with Bishop Donal on this 'virtual pilgrimage' people are invited, if they are physically able, to adopt the Lough Derg-style Fast **from 12.00 midnight on Thursday night until after 6.00am Mass on Saturday morning**. The Lough Derg Fast consists of water or black tea or coffee (no milk or sugar) with dry bread, toast and oatcakes, one time during the day. 'Pilgrims' can drink water, tea or coffee anytime.

The Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse will take place on Friday, 19th February, the first Friday of Lent. The Day of Prayer is an initiative by Pope Francis and was first marked in Irish dioceses and parishes in 2017.



Derry Youth Community



- Are you aged between 18-25 years old?
- Deciding what to do in the future (September 2021)?
- Thinking about a Gap Year?
- Want to do something faith based?

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 of Carlos Acutis



Carlo Acutis, an Italian Catholic teenager, was beatified in Assisi, Italy on Saturday, 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 Carlo and prayer cards which you are welcome to take.

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks donations for: **Trócaire:** £10, £20. **Concern:** £100. **St Vincent de Paul:** £20. **Cathedral Funds:** £50, £100, £5, £20. **Flowers:** £60, £20. **Building Fund:** £60.

Last Week's Collection amounted to £2,695.

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 Eugenes 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 understanding and your continued support to the parish.



Knock Shrine to host special online faith discussions during Lent under the title 'Living Christian Faith – Lenten Conversations'. The conversations will explore a different theme each week and guest speakers will discuss some of the important questions we all face in living out our faith. The talks will be streamed at 8.30 pm each Thursday during Lent, beginning Thursday, 18th February at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live or on Facebook @knockshrine.

The Western Health & Social Care Trust Recovery College is running free courses on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Courses start in March, and at the moment they are planning to deliver them via Zoom. If Covid-19 restrictions allow later in the term the Western Health & Social Care Trust Recovery College intend to run face to face workshops as usual in Derry, Enniskillen, Omagh and Strabane, so they are encouraging people to register as usual even if they do not have computer access. Some shortened courses are already free to watch online on the Recovery College page on the Trust website www.westerntrust.hscni.net/service/recovery-services/recovery-college/ and the Western Trust's You Tube channel.

Preparing for Marriage? Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27th-28th March. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028 276 38512.



ACCORD DERRY Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme
(limited to 15 couples per course) - 2021 Course Dates: 9th/10th February, 9th/10th March, 13th/14th April, 11th/12th May and 8th/9th June.
Booking now online at www.accordni.com.



Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service will be in St Mary's College, Derry on Tuesday, 23rd February from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm and from 5.00 pm to 7.30 pm and on Wednesday, 24th February from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm and from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm. **By appointment only - please phone 08085 534 653 to book.**

The Net, the monthly publication sharing the fruits of faith in the Derry Diocese, is now available on the Diocesan website and Facebook Page.

The Messenger: Messenger Publications are offering a free online copy. Please visit: https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger_june_v11.3_low_res. If you have any difficulty accessing the link or if you have any further queries, please email c.henry@messenger.ie.

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: Noel O'Donnell, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07596500793 or Celine McKenna, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07707311358 or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.