

A short reflection on today's Gospel

In today's Gospel the parable Jesus recounts to the chief priests and the elders of the people uses the familiar Biblical image of the banquet to describe the kingdom of heaven. A king issues invitations to the feast he is giving for his son's wedding. His invitations are rudely rebuffed by his ignorant subjects, who are then sorely punished by the king for their graceless behaviour. The question posed by today's Gospel is this: 'Do we want to be a part of the wedding feast?' God issues an invitation to every one of us, an invitation to sit at His open table in fellowship with each other and partake of the meal He has prepared for us as the image of His unconditional love, of His grace. His gift is free. In a world organized into a meritocracy by humanity we find the abundance of God's grace difficult to understand. While we hold on to the mind set of deserving, of merit, of earning, buying, selling, we shall never be able to understand the beauty of God's grace. We shall never understand His invitation to the banquet. Jesus, help us to free ourselves from the sticking-place of our obsession with deserving and open ourselves to the beauty of God's grace. Jesus, your mother, Mary, full of grace, shows us the way in her humble acceptance of God's choice of her as the mother of His Son. Teach us to put on the wedding garment of a grateful heart – open to God's grace.

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.

Fr John Downey's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated here in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on Wednesday 18th October at 7.30pm. 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.

Safeguarding Information Evening - Fr Paul Farren kindly invites all Sacristans, Assistant Sacristans, Secretaries, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors, Readers, Children's Liturgy Facilitators, Pope John Paul II Award Leaders, Parish Council members, SVDP members, Choir/music Leaders, Cleaners, Ground Workers and all those interested in Safeguarding in our Parish, to a Safeguarding Information Evening in the Cathedral Hall on Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 5.30pm–6.30pm. Please RSVP to Parochial House on 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org by Friday 13th October 2023. As Safeguarding is a high priority in both our Parish and Diocese, your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

Are you enrolled in the Pope John Paul II Award in St Eugene's this year? If so, you are invited to attend an Information Session on Wednesday 18th October at 4.30pm in the Upper Sacristy. There will be a short presentation and discussion on how we can help you find suitable tasks that you will enjoy taking part in. Any questions you can email lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Bridie Harkin

May she rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Brian Leman

Michael Brennan

Rose & Patrick McCaul

James Quinn

Patrick Condren

Veronica Carlin

Raymond Cassidy

Michael & Declan Brennan

May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome into the Body of Christ:

Ella Marie English

Cian Conor McCallion

Finn Diarmuid O'hEara

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £5138

Parish Development: £912

Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: €30, £10

Hungry Children: £5

SVdP: £10, £20

Trócaire: £50, £30, £25, £100

Smile Train: £25, £50

Mary's Meals: £25

Altar Flowers: £25, £50

Water Aid: £50

Readers for 21st /22nd October

06.15 pm Claire O'Kane

07.30 pm Roisin McGarrigle

09.30 am Piaras O Meallain

11.00 am McGinley Readers

12.30 pm Eilish Friel

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, Fahan Street, Westland Street. Cable Street, Lower Road.

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

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – St Paul tells us in our second reading that "... there is nothing I cannot master with the help of the one who gives me strength".

St. Eugene's Folk Group will be joined by the Dungiven Parish Choir next Saturday at 7.30pm Mass as part of the City of Derry International Choral Festival.

Children's Liturgy continues every Sunday at 11.00am Mass and is open to all children in Primaries 1 to 4. It involves proclaiming the Gospel in an accessible way to the Children, reflecting on its meaning and responding in prayer with an activity related to the Gospel story.

Annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help takes place in St Columba's Church, Long Tower, Derry for nine Sundays before Christmas beginning Sunday 22nd October at 6.00pm. This year's theme: '**Year of Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood**'. Guest speaker on the opening night on Sunday 22 October will be Bishop Phonsie Cullinan. All welcome.

Our Lady of The Bowed Head Triduum takes place on Mon. 30th , Tues. 31st October and Wednesday 1st November, in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca beginning at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

Day Retreat in honour of St. Peregrine on Thursday 19th October in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca from 10.00am - 3.00pm. Cost is £15 (includes light lunch). Please bring along a bottle of olive oil to be blessed in honour of St. Peregrine. A first-class relic of St. Peregrine will be available on the day. For bookings contact 71 262512.

Catechesis with Fr. Cajetan in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on Thursday 19th October from 7.30 - 8.30pm. For more information contact 71 262512.

Rally for their Lives - Please join us for this most important Life Chain at Belfast City Hall on Saturday 21st October at 2.00pm to stand for the protection of babies in the womb. For more information contact Precious Life on 02890278484 /07592280522.

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. Please contact the parish office to purchase a ticket.

Job Opportunity - Financial and Administrative Secretary to Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre and Pope John Paul II Award 20 hours per week (Monday to Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm) Temporary Contract until the end of June 2024 (Possibility of extension to hours and /or term of contract) For job description and application pack please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone (028) 7126 2302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned no later than 4.30pm on 25.10.2023.

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.**

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty