

Sunday (19th December)

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

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

Monday to Thursday (20th – 23rd 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

Christmas Eve - Friday (24th December)

Masses at 8.00 am and 10.00 am

12.00 noon The Angelus & Rosary

Vigil Masses at 4.30 pm, 6.00 pm, 7.30 pm and 12 midnight

Christmas Day - Saturday (25th December)

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

St Stephen's Day - Sunday (26th December)

Masses at 7.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 12.30 pm and 7.00 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 to Friday: Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed at 7.45 am.

Late Opening on Mondays continues on 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.

Monday to Thursday: 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 caeli 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 is sung.

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.

Conversations on Wednesdays with Bishop McKeown during Advent at 7.00 pm livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall. Bishop McKeown will be in conversation with Paul and Yvonne Rooney at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 22nd December.

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

"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 1:39-45

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary, the spiritually beautiful, innocent young girl who accepted the full enormity of God's will for her with humility and grace, in today's Gospel displays an awe-inspiring humanity. Vulnerable in her own early pregnancy, she nevertheless braves the long and potentially dangerous journey from Nazareth to the mountain of Judah to be with her elderly, miraculously pregnant, kinswoman, Elizabeth. In an extraordinary example of love and compassion in action she puts her own needs and fears to one side and faces with equanimity an experience which would have daunted older hearts.

When the kinswomen embrace we are immediately in a world which is quintessentially female: a world of mutual recognition of the awesome miracle of childbirth. Elizabeth's words to Mary show that she has been made aware of the great honour God has granted to her cousin. Her awe in Mary's presence is palpable.

Mary's humanity in today's Gospel is truly beautiful in the selflessness, compassionate love and generosity it displays.

Jesus, teach us how to be truly human in today's world which seems to be riven with fear and anger. Teach us, Jesus, to till the patch of earth we have been given and leave it a better place for our children.

Jesus, may we respond to the world's fear and anger with your blessed mother's beautiful humanity: with love, compassion; with faith, humility and courage. Amen.

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

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of

Mary Leman

Daniel Hegarty

Eugene McClintock

William (Jim) Monaghan

Thomas Wilson



May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Peter Griffin, Harry Francis, Johnny and Maureen Coyle, Mona and Hugh McLaughlin, Helen Gallagher and Catherine Gallacher. May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family

Katie Kasey Anderson-Higgins

Saorlaith Catherine Rachael Brown

Cora Amelia O'Doherty



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.

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.



Prayers at the Crib: A prayer card, poster and a booklet with a series of prayers and scripture for use at the Crib at home or in the church is available to download, to print or view on a mobile device at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/christmas>

The 12 Days of Christmas: A family prayer booklet has been specifically compiled with families in mind. The Gospel for each day of Christmas is accompanied by a Gospel reflection and prayers. The booklet can also be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/christmas>

Christmas Prayers for Children: Thoughts, ideas and resources to help children and families to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to celebrate and share the gift of the Baby Jesus with others available at: <https://catecheticalcentre.org/category/christmas/>

Poems with Mary Murphy, livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall, will resume on Friday, 7th January.

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.

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.

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, Maghnus Monaghan, through the parish office or speak to him after Mass at 12.30 pm.

Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal packs are 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.

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.



Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks donations for **Trócaire:** £40, £50, £120, £100, £200, £200. **Thanksgiving to St Thérèse:** £40. **Thanksgiving to St Anthony:** £20. **St Vincent de Paul:** £50, £40, £50. **Upkeep of the Cathedral:** £150. **Altar Flowers:** £20. **Cathedral Funds:** £200, £20, £100.

Last week's Collection amounted to £5,297.

Parish Development Collection amounted to £968.

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:

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|----------------------|--|
| 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.

ST EUGENE'S CATHEDRAL
PRESENTS

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS CONCERT



GEORGE HUTTON MUSICAL DIRECTOR PETER DOHERTY ROISIN RICE ANNE MARIE HICKEY

WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER
STARTS 9PM

FOLLOW ST EUGENE'S CATHEDRAL ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM



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.

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



THE NET: The December edition of The Net is now available online, on <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-december-2021> As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese.

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.watchmenmedia 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 Briega 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.