

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 1:14-20

John's work is done; Jesus' work has begun and, significantly, his message echoes the message of John: 'Repent and believe the Good News.'

John has carried out his ministry of repentance and salvation far from any seat of earthly power, choosing instead the wilderness as his pulpit, locusts and wild honey as his staple diet, animal skins to cover his nakedness. He is 'the thing itself', 'unaccommodated man'.

Today's Gospel witnesses Jesus gathering about him his first disciples. He doesn't seek them out among the rich and powerful, nor among the sophisticated and highly educated; instead, he seeks out ordinary men, fishermen, men who work hard to earn a living. The word 'respect' means 'to look again' and this second look is deemed to see beyond the superficial first look to the less visible truth of a person. Jesus always looked again. He always saw the truth which lies in the human heart. Here he sees the purity of heart of these simple fishermen. He sees their true worth, and their true worth has nothing to do with earthly power or sophistication. He recognises their truth, and they recognise his truth.

Jesus, may we always take the time and effort to 'look again' and seek the true worth of those around us rather than indulge in superficial judgements.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - We pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in our own diocese, for all those who, like Simon and Andrew, hear Jesus say, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men and women."

Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy continues Fridays at 11.00am in the Cathedral Hall. You are most welcome to join via the online platform or in person.

Children's Liturgy continues at 11.00am Mass on Sundays 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.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024: Monday 1st to Friday 5th July, ex City of Derry Airport. Led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Full board £799, single room supplement £150. The pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry, will open to the public 11am to 1pm on Thursdays and Saturdays, starting Saturday 10th February. Telephone number 028 71260293, email derrypilgrim@outlook.com

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 9 nights from 30th July to 8th August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with peers from around the world, in a faith context. Up to 50,000 young people attend the Medjugorje Youth Festival each year. Cost is £800 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

St Vincent de Paul is appealing for suites in good condition and bedroom furniture. All donations would be greatly appreciated. Please telephone 02871265489 to arrange collection.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Matt McColgan
Breid Donaghy
Patrick (PJ) Doyle
Peter Duffy
John Coyle
Ciaran McAlister*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Liam Griffin
Neil McMahon
Maeve Walsh
Jean Boyce
Rosaleen McFadden
Tony Simpson
Sean Lafferty
Patricia Monaghan
Anna Sweeney
Brian Hegarty
Patrick Griffin
Seamus & Lily McCready
Patricia Gill
Phonsie Kelly
Martin Concannon*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Saoirse Louise McConnell

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Please remember: Godparents (1 male and 1 female over the age of 16)

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,278

Parish Development: £ 1,032

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Hungry Children: £5, £5, £5

Children's Hospice: £40

Pancreatic Cancer UK: £40

Concern: £40

Palestine: £50

Ukraine: £50

Sick Visitation

Fr Shaun Doherty will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Tuesday: Fairman Place, Academy Terrace, Tutor Close, Northland Parade, Glenbank Road, Glenbank Gardens, Marlborough Road, Creggan Road, Helen Street, Oakfield Crescent

Friday: Glenowen Park, Cashelmore Park, Hatmore Park, Turasmore Park, Ardglen, Nassau Crescent, Rosemount Gardens, Osborne Street, Joseph Place, Beechwood Avenue

Readers for 27th/28th January

06.15 pm Therese Ferry

07.30 pm Helen Sweeney/

Caitlin Horner McLaughlin

09.30 am Kay McGinn

11.00 am McGinley Readers

12.30 pm Eilish Friel

07.00 pm Marian Boyle

Pre-School or Primary One places for September 2024. There are three excellent Catholic Schools in the Parish, which take both boys and girls. The three schools are St Anne's Primary School (Tel no 71 263046) St Eugene's Primary School (Tel no 71 261601) and Rosemount Primary School (Tel no 71 265605). Nursery class places are available in St Eugene's and Rosemount Primary Schools. If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2024, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 26th January 2024.

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Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
21st January 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Altnagelvin Hospital Choir will celebrate its 30th anniversary later this month with 'Music for a Winter's Eve' – a performance of Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor, and Haydn's Te Deum in C Major. The event will begin at 7.30pm on Sunday 28th January in Christ Church. Tickets are priced at £10 and can be bought from choir members or online at: www.trybooking.com/uk/cyo. Proceeds in aid of Life After.

2024 is Lepra's Centenary Year. Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life changing disabilities and even blindness, as well as moderate to severe depression and anxiety due to the prejudice and discrimination associated with the disease. Today 600 people will be diagnosed with leprosy, more than 50 will be children. **It is curable** - for 100 years Lepra's research has led to improved healthcare programmes and systems, as well as better detection, treatment, and support. To learn more about Lepra's work please visit www.lepra.org.uk or contact lauricej@lepra.org.uk.

Job Opportunity: School Liaison Coordinator 1-year Fixed Term contract 35 Hours Per Week. The Parishes of Banagher & Claudy are seeking to recruit an individual to fulfil the role of School Liaison Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Parish Priest/Administrator the successful candidate will work in the two parishes that presently have four primary schools and one post primary school. This is a full-time role for one year. For application packs 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 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 2nd February 2024.

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

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 regarding 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.