

**EXCERPT FROM THE STATEMENT BY THE NORTHERN BISHOPS  
ANNOUNCING THAT PUBLIC WORSHIP MAY RESUME  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
FROM FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

- *Bishops in the North announce a cautious return to public worship for the faithful from Friday 26th March, in time for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter.*
- *Bishops emphasise the need for continued caution and a rigorous application of all mitigations and safeguards required to ensure the safest possible return to public worship in our Churches.*
- *Every person should consider carefully if returning to collective worship is the safe and appropriate step for them, at this time. Families are encouraged to join those celebrating the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus in Churches, from the ‘domestic church’ of their own living rooms, via live-streaming.*
- *Bishops, together with other Church leaders, encourage all on Easter Sunday to pray and reflect in a spirit of remembering, solidarity and hope in the context of the current pandemic.*

***Amendments to the Liturgies of Holy Week will be required.***

This year the celebration of Holy Week and Easter will also require adjustments to certain aspects of the liturgy to take account of the need for safe social distancing, sanitising and other mitigations necessary in the context of the current pandemic. Guidelines for the Liturgies of Holy Week in a time of pandemic will be issued separately to parishes over coming days. We strongly encourage families to participate from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in commemorating the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord this Easter.

***The Good Friday collection for the Holy Land and other charitable initiatives.***

Throughout the pandemic, our Parishes have provided a real life-line of hope and solidarity to many in our local communities, including some of the most vulnerable. The joyful message of Easter inspires us to continue to reach out to those in greatest need around us at this time. We therefore ask families and individuals to bring the light of hope to others this Easter by making a particular effort to support the charitable needs of their local parish and by highlighting in a particular way this year the traditional Good Friday collection expressing our solidarity with

fellow Christians in the Holy Land. We also draw attention to the ongoing and ever-increasing demands on the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and Trócaire, who will welcome much needed contributions as they have been unable to raise funds in the normal way during the pandemic.

*A time of mercy and healing.*

We are also conscious that Holy Week and Easter are a time when, traditionally, many people ask for in a particular way God's forgiveness and for healing of spirit. Although it may not be possible for all who wish to, to safely avail of the sacrament of Reconciliation, we strongly encourage all the faithful to confidently renew their trust in God's mercy at this sacred time of the year through an Act of Perfect Contrition.

*A time of solidarity and hope!*

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent in preparation for Easter, we strongly encourage the faithful to bring the intentions of all those impacted by Covid19 to the Lord's care in prayer and petition. We are particularly conscious of those whose livelihoods have been seriously threatened by the pandemic. We keep in mind people who are coping with bereavement, families that cannot be together, those in care homes who can only have limited visits from their loved ones. The Easter period will also be difficult for Irish emigrants and migrants living in Ireland, who are unable to travel home. We pray that the time will come very soon when loving connections between families and friends can be fully restored.

On Easter Sunday, we will join with Christians of all traditions in offering special prayers of intercession for those impacted by Covid-19 and provide moments for our entire society to reflect together, in a spirit of hope, on the challenges of the past year arising from the global pandemic. Until then, we continue to journey in the confident hope that the efforts of all those working hard to provide the circumstances in which all sectors of our society can re-open safely will soon bear fruit

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2021/03/17/statement-by-the-northern-bishops-announcing-that-public-worship-may-resume-in-northern-ireland-from-friday-26-march-2021/>

**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.

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## ***Please join us via the Webcam:***

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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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [churchmedia.tv/camera/st-eugenes-cathedral](http://churchmedia.tv/camera/st-eugenes-cathedral) or the parish website at [www.steugenescathedral.com](http://www.steugenescathedral.com).

### **Sunday (21st March)**

**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.*

### **Lenten Programme – Care, Hope and Pray**

#### **Monday 22nd – Thursday 25th March):**

**Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am**

**Mass via Webcam at 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm and 7.30pm**

**The Angelus & Rosary at 12.00 noon**

**Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3.00 pm**

**Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary followed by Night Prayer via Webcam at 8.00 pm**

#### **Friday, 26th March) – Cathedral reopened for public worship:**

**Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am**

**Mass at 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm and 7.30pm**

**The Angelus & Rosary at 12.00 noon**

**Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3.00 pm**

**Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary followed by Night Prayer via at 8.00 pm**

**Monday and Friday: Gospel Encounter at 5.00 pm**

**Thursday: Stations of the Cross at 5.00 pm**

**Tuesday: Covid Conversations with Bishop McKeown livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall and on Facebook at 7.00 pm.**

**Wednesday: Local Vocal with Margarett McNamee each Wednesday at 4.00 pm livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall and on Facebook.**

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

### **Saturday (27th March)**

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



**Funerals:** The Northern Ireland Executive restricts attendance at funerals to only 25 people. In order to adhere to this regulation, when St Eugene's Cathedral reopens for public workshop (Friday, 26th March) funerals will be celebrated at either 9.00 am or 11.00 am Monday to Saturday. Unfortunately, there will be no funeral Masses celebrated on a Sunday.



**Reflection on today's Gospel:** *John 12:20-33*

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Today's Gospel teaches us a fundamental Christian truth which gloriously liberates the soul but may strike fear in the timorous heart: death is a prerequisite of life. If there is no Good Friday, there is no Easter Sunday. Death of any kind is a subject from which most of us shy away. We know that we are mortal creatures, but we often live as though our time on earth is unlimited, as though we will live forever. We may know that there are aspects of our lives to which we must die if we are to thrive and prosper in the light of God and bear good fruit, but we procrastinate over and over, telling ourselves that we have plenty of time before letting those aspects fall into the earth and die.

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks to us in the knowledge that he is standing in the shadow of his forthcoming Passion and death. He is the grain of wheat which will fall on the ground and die in order to yield the rich harvest of humanity's salvation; in order to open the door to eternal life for all who believe in him. His death will call us to eternal life. Good Friday lights the way to Easter Sunday.

Jesus, as we stand in the light of your Passion and death may we have the courage to face and let fall to the ground to die those aspects of ourselves which prevent us from yielding good fruit. In the light of our knowledge that final death calls us to eternal life, may we live our lives fully, gratefully and bravely, and may we develop and share with others the gifts of compassion and genuine kindness as we sojourn through our allotted span.

## Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of

**Annie O’Kane**

**Gary O’Brien**

**Vincent Brown**



May they rest in peace.

## Anniversaries

Ann O’Kane, Catherine Donaghey, Jim Taylor, Celine Taylor, Sadie McIntyre and Barney McIntyre. May they rest in peace.

## **Baptisms**

We welcome as members of God’s family

**Daniel Gerard McBride**

**Theia Ann Mary McGeehan**

**Molly Darke**

**Rionach Sarah Power**

**Rosaleen Niamh Brown**



## **Readers for next weekend – Palm Sunday (27th/28th March)**



<b>06.15 pm</b>	<b>Reader:</b> Therese Ferry		
	<b>The Passion:</b> Claire O’Kane (N)	Sean Hickey (S)	
<b>07.30 pm</b>	<b>Reader:</b> Oran Gartland		
	<b>The Passion:</b> Stephen Orr (N)	Angela McCallion (S)	
<b>09.30 am</b>	<b>Reader:</b> Helen Sweeney		
	<b>The Passion:</b> Rosemary Finan (N)	Kevin Finan (S)	
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Reader:</b> Barry McDaid		
	<b>The Passion:</b> Kay McGinn (N)	Ava McGinn (S)	
<b>12.30 pm</b>	<b>Reader:</b> Eilish Friel		
	<b>The Passion:</b> Mary Feeney (N)	Roisin McGarrigle (S)	
<b>07.00 pm</b>	<b>Reader:</b> Niamh Kehoe		
	<b>The Passion:</b> Anna Begley (N)	Marian Boyle (S)	

**Stations of the Cross Remembrance Vigil in St Eugene's Cathedral on Friday, 26th March beginning at 9.00 pm and continuing until Mass on Saturday morning at 4.00 am.** Bishop McKeown will lead a prayerful remembrance of all who have died in our diocese since the start of the pandemic. The Vigil will be built round the Stations of the Cross and the names from each parish will be read out. As the names are read out, a rose plant will be brought forward to the Sanctuary in the name of each parish. These roses will, at a later stage, be planted in a planned Garden of Remembrance in the grounds of St Eugene's Cathedral.

**Garden of Remembrance for those who died during the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions:** In memory of all those in the Derry Diocese who died during the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions, a Garden of Remembrance will be created behind the Grotto in the grounds of St Eugene's Cathedral where 51 rose bushes will be planted to remember those who died from each parish in the Derry Diocese during the pandemic restrictions.

**Palm Sunday (28th March) at 8.15 pm here in St Eugene's Cathedral: "A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." (From Messiah by Handel).** A moving journey through the Passion of Christ in Scripture, reflection and song, performed by young people of the Diocese of Derry.

**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.

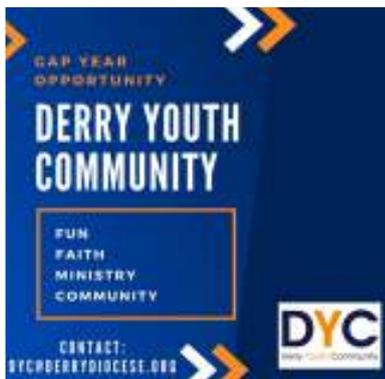
To join the Matt Talbot Prayer Society, you are invited to enrol the name of the person to be prayed for and the addiction we are praying that they will be freed from.

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](mailto:steugenes@btconnect.com) or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page.



**Right to Life UK** ask that you could remember their intentions in your prayers during the month of March. Sunday 21st March: "Today we celebrate World Down's Syndrome Day. We pray especially for the current attempts in Northern Ireland to protect babies with Down's syndrome from abortion, that elected representatives would pursue the protection of rights for all people with disabilities, and that babies with Down's syndrome are loved and protected equally. Lord hear us"



## 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?

## 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.



Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks donations for: **Trócaire:** £20, £100. **Sight Savers:** £10. **St Vincent de Paul:** £20. **Flowers:** £20. **St Joseph’s Young Priests Society:** £20. **Smile Train:** £10. **Building Fund:** £100. **Cathedral Funds:** £100.

## Last Week’s Collection amounted to £2,240.

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.

**Easter Mass Bouquets** are now available from the Parish Office. Cost £2.00 each.

**Mini-Lenten Retreat in preparation for Holy Week:** In preparation for the Easter Triduum, 'The Hook of Faith' is happy to offer a 'Mini-Lenten Retreat in Preparation for Holy Week' on Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March. The retreat will be held on Zoom and will be led by Fr Billy Swan. Each conference begins at 8.00 pm. The three conferences will anticipate the Triduum and will therefore focus on the Eucharist (Tuesday, 23rd); the Cross and the Mystery of Suffering (Wednesday, 24th); the Resurrection, Joy and Hope (Thursday, 25th). To take part, send an email to: [thehookoffaith@gmail.com](mailto:thehookoffaith@gmail.com). All are welcome.



**This Lent your love can make all the difference to Trócaire.** Donations received before 16th May 2021 will be doubled by the UK government up to £2m. These matched funds will help thousands of people in South Sudan to grow enough food to feed their families. It will also support strong

women like Awut and Ajah in having their voices heard in decisions affecting them. Donations can also be made online at [www.trocaire.org/donate](http://www.trocaire.org/donate) or via NI freephone number **0800 912 1200** or via online banking - bank details for Trócaire: Sort Code: **93.80.92** and Account number **8822 7020**.

**The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership.** This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email [tferry@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org).

**Aid for the Children of Yemen:** Fr Neal Carlin's new book, *The Eagle, The Tiger and Covid*, is now on sale at €10/£10 and can be purchased by contacting [goldenagecentre@hotmail.com](mailto:goldenagecentre@hotmail.com). All proceeds are being sent via a direct contact to aid the Children of Yemen.



**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 are streamed at 8.30 pm each Thursday during Lent at [www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live) or on Facebook @knockshrine.

**Strive is a good relations programme for young people** aged 14 to 24 led by Include Youth. It is a youth led programme, Strive is a cross community, cross cultural and cross border programme that engages young people in transformative good relations, citizenship and personal development work. Youth Initiatives run the Strive programme in Derry and are presently recruiting for the final year of the Peace IV programme. If you are interested, contact us on 07510931490 or find us on Instagram [youthinitiativesderry](https://www.instagram.com/youthinitiativesderry) or our YIderry facebook page.



**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](http://marriageencounter.ie) or 028 276 38512.



**ACCORD DERRY Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme**  
*(limited to 15 couples per course)*. Booking now online at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com).

### ***Course Dates***

*July 6th/7th 2021*

*August 10th/11th 2021*

*Sept 14th/15th 2021*

*Oct 12th/13th 2021*

*Nov 9th/10th 2021*

*Dec 7th/8th 2021*

**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](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](mailto: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](http://www.churchservices.tv) or [www.watchmcnmedia](http://www.watchmcnmedia) or the parish website at [www.steugenescathedral.com](http://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.