

A short reflection on today's Gospel

Today's Gospel witnesses the Pharisees' devious attempt to trap Jesus out of his own mouth. After their initial flattering comments on his integrity, they bring their own natural dualistic, either/or, thinking into play with their question: 'Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' If Jesus answers that only God can command their obedience, it leaves him open to an accusation of treason; if he encourages them to pay taxes to Caesar, he can be accused of betraying the 'religious purity' of his own people. Jesus' response makes it clear that the ideal and the real are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

To 'give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar' is relatively simple. To give to God what belongs to God is to accept the centrality of love in our lives; to accept that love is the beginning and the end of everything. It is to accept that as imperfect, flawed human beings, we cannot give God His due without the aid of his mercy, compassion and grace. Alone we are weak and vulnerable. To succeed, we must empty ourselves time and time again of our egos and fill ourselves with the glorious presence of God: God in us, we in God.

Jesus, may we accept our utter reliance on the Holy Spirit to send love through us and from us as we journey through life.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – As we pray this weekend for all those spreading the gospel in "the foreign missions" we continue to pray for those called to serve as priests here in our own diocese, and particularly for anyone from our own parish who may be contemplating a vocation to the priesthood.

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.

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.

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.

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 25th October 2023.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Edward (Eddie) Kennedy
Myles McDonald
Gerry McGoldrick
Kathleen Fahey
Margo McCallion
Betty Nixon
Terry Robson

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Eddie Diggins

May he rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Cody Wilson

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couples who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

Charlene Thomson & Concobhar McGeehan
Aileen Quinn & Michael Doherty

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,783
Parish Development: £856

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trócaire: £100, £40

Cathedral Funds: £100, £100

Missions: £200

Hungry Children: £30, £25

Water Aid: £30

Smile Train: £25

Readers for 28th/29th October

06.15 pm **Oran Gartland**

07.30 pm **Amulya George**

09.30 am **Rosemary Finan**

11.00 am **Piaras O Meallain**

12.30 pm **Kevin Finan**

07.00 pm **Marian Boyle**

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 22nd October will be Bishop Phonsie Cullinan. All are welcome.

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

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh beginning Monday 23rd October and continuing for 9 Mondays ending with a Penitential Service on 18th December. Theme: Our Lady's Fiat with reflections on the 7 Sorrows, candlelit Rosary, Adoration, Benediction, and speakers. Everyone is welcome.

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in Ordinary Time
22nd October 2023*

Preparing for Christmas: Weekend Retreat at Ards Friary, 8th – 10th December. Led by Philip McParland. In the weeks leading up to Christmas there is usually a lot going on in our lives. This weekend will offer you an opportunity to focus on your spiritual preparation. It will be both reflective and practical, suggesting ways to keep in touch with Jesus. To book, contact Ards Friary telephone 00353 (0)74 91 38909 or email: info@ardsfriary.ie

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Encountering Christ Ministries are pleased to announce that international guest speaker Dr Mary Healy, USA, is coming to Ireland and will be in **Knockbridge, Co Louth** to join with Fr Gerry Campbell, and Catholic Lay Evangelist Terry Quinn for the 3rd Annual Contagious for Christ Conferences. St Mary's Church A91 EV56.

Friday 24th November 2023 – REVIVE WOMEN. 6pm to 9pm. This is a donation only event. *My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to your word. Psalm 119:25.*

Saturday 25th November 2023 – REVIVE IRELAND. 9.30am to 5pm. This is a ticketed event. *Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Psalm 85:6.* Contact Helen at: encounteringchristknockbridge@gmail.com for more information and/or ticket enquiries.

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. The funds raised will help pay for the renovations of the church. Draw Tickets will be on sale after weekend Masses in Holy Family Church, or you can also pay up for the ticket by calling each Wednesday between 7pm –8.30pm. You can also contact the parish office to purchase a ticket. If you would be willing to sell tickets after Masses, please contact Fr Gormley.

In Sunshine and in shadow - A book of poetry written by the late Fr Paddy O'Kane has been reprinted. It is available to buy at the Holy Family parish office any morning Monday-Friday or at Veritas Bookshop, Shipquay Street. Cost £10. All proceeds will go the Foyle Hospice.

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.**