

Bishop Donal McKeown, Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty, Fr Colum Clerkin and Fr Frank McLaughlin wish you every blessing, joy and peace this Christmas time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being part of the faith community of Saint Eugene's Cathedral and for your ongoing support and prayers.

### A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Today's beautiful, awe-inspiring Gospel witnesses the young virgin Mary saying 'Yes' to God's will for her. Her humble acceptance of her appointed role is truly remarkable. She says 'Yes' to the life which will soon be sheltering within her body. She says 'Yes' to raising that child to manhood with loving, tender care. And she says, 'Yes' to the 'sword which will one day pierce both their sides.' Mary says 'Yes' to life, to its light, to its love, and to its darkness. She makes no claims of deserving her God-appointed role as the mother of the Saviour of mankind: 'I know I am not worthy – but let it be!' Her quiet wisdom is extraordinary, her composure awe-inspiring.

Jesus, may we, like Mary, your mother, say 'Yes' to life. May we accept that all experience is designed to teach us valuable truths. May we come to understand that we can learn as much through our experience of the darkness of suffering as we can learn through our experience of the light.

Jesus, may we, like Mary, your mother, let God's will be done to us. May we never forget God's infinite love for us, undeserved love, freely given.

**National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** – we pray that Mary's "Yes" to the Lord will be an inspiration to all those called to serve the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry.

### Christmas Mass times

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	6.00pm and 12 midnight
<b>Christmas Day</b>	7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and 12.30pm
<b>St Stephen's Day</b>	12 noon
<b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	12 noon
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	12 noon
	Vigil Masses 6.15pm & 7.30pm
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm & 7.00pm

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately after the 7.00pm Mass on New Year's Eve concluding with Rosary and Benediction at 11.45pm to welcome in the New Year.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January** 12 noon

**Normal weekday Mass times will resume on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** – 8.00am, 10.00am & 7.30pm

**Join a host of wonderful, gifted singers and musicians for a lunchtime Concert on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December at 1.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral.** Joy to the World - Concert celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Singing by Anne Marie Hickey, Lauren & Bethany Doherty, Roisin Rice, St Eugene's Cathedral Folk Group and Sally Mae Comey. Accompanied by Charlotte Logue & Aidan Watkins. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this special time of the year.

### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Mary Given  
Joan Browne  
Barney McFadden  
Leslie Cunnah  
William Curran  
Anne Hutton  
Michael McCarron  
Rhona McCay*

May they rest in peace

### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Johnny & Maureen Coyle  
Margaret (Mard) McCourt  
Peter Toland  
Helen Gallagher  
Peter Griffin  
Rose Tucker  
Molly Callan  
Peter O'Hagan  
Nellie & Davy Barr  
Sheila McCourt  
Paddy McFadden  
Kathleen, Matt & Billy McColgan  
Mary Brady  
Jayne Brady  
Bernadette Skelton (Nee Brady)  
Gladys McColgan  
Esther Cauley  
Johnny Coyle  
Nellie Boyle**  
May they rest in peace

### Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:  
**Jaime Alannagh Caldwell-Wilson  
Croia Kay Arbuckle  
Iona Drewery Walsh**

### Collection

Last week's collection: £5,202  
Parish Development: £1,021

**Thank you for your generosity**

### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**MSF: £50  
Cathedral Funds: £1,000, £100  
SVdP: £300, £50, £10, £50, £50,  
£50, £50, £20, £100  
Smile Train: £50  
Sight Savers: £50, £50, £10  
Trócaire: £50, £50, £100, £50  
Gaza: £50, £100  
Hungry Children: £50  
Flowers for Altar: £20, £140**

### Readers 30<sup>th</sup> / 31<sup>st</sup> December

06.15 pm Roisin Rice-Cutter  
07.30 pm Oran Gartland/  
Caitlin Horner McLaughlin  
09.30 am Kate Doherty  
11.00 am Piaras O Meallain  
12.30 pm Roisin McGarrigle  
07.00pm Marian Boyle

**St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference)** would like to acknowledge with gratitude donations of £1,000, £800 and £500.

**The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated here in St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30 pm.** The Matt Talbot Prayer Society was created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email [vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com](mailto:vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com) or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712

**GOAL's response to crisis in Gaza:** The annual Derry GOAL Mile walk takes place from Sainsbury's car park at 12 midday on Boxing Day. GOAL is responding to the crisis in Gaza by partnering with Taawon which is Palestine's largest NGO (non-Governmental Organisation). Taawon specialises in community development, education, youth empowerment, reconstruction and emergency humanitarian aid.

**Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December** and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10.00 am (Irish time) around the world via [www.pioneerassociation.org](http://www.pioneerassociation.org).

**Live Crib featuring real animals and people at St Eugene's Church Moneyneena,** on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December following the 10.00 am Mass, at which Bishop McKeown will be chief celebrant. The Live Crib will be operational all day until candlelit Mass at 6.00 pm. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. Everyone is welcome to come and discover the true meaning of Christmas.

**Update from Universal Synod** –A full report from the synod of Bishops held during October this year is available online at [www.synod.ie/bishopsreport](http://www.synod.ie/bishopsreport).

**Trócaire School Volunteers:** Are you a retired teacher or someone who has experience presenting to groups of schoolchildren? Trócaire is looking for volunteers to support its School Talks Programme for Lent 2024 in parishes of the Derry Diocese. If you think you have the right skills and experience and will have a few free hours during Lent then we would love to hear from you. For more information call Casey Schell on 028 90 808 033 or email [casey.schell@trocaire.org](mailto:casey.schell@trocaire.org)

**Foyle Hospice Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme** is now open. The scheme helps Foyle Hospice secure much needed funds whilst offering people the opportunity to have their tree disposed of in an environmentally friendly way, for a suggested donation of £10. Shredded trees are then used in our gardens throughout the year. Trees can be registered for collection through the website - [foylehospice.com](http://foylehospice.com) - or by calling Foyle Hospice fundraising office on 02871 359888. Registration closes on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**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), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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](mailto: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**