

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus lives and walks among us today and every day: he has never left us and will never leave us. That is the awe-inspiring message of today's Gospel. He lives in every destitute person who exists, in every person who is in pain, every person who is sick, hungry, cold, homeless, in prison. He looks out of the eyes of every child terrified by the inhumanity of a world at war.

Jesus makes it clear that only those who see him in suffering humanity and who respond with compassion, will enter the kingdom of heaven. It is not enough to obey the law and keep one's hands clean: we are commanded by Jesus in today's Gospel to put our faith into action wherever we see the need. We must be imitators of Jesus in every way, a command which should jolt us out of any trace of complacency we might be harbouring, because to be an imitator of Jesus is to carry his cross uncomplainingly. It is to reach out always to those in need. It is to find the courage within to love those we might think are unlovable, to forgive those we might think are unforgiveable.

The way of Jesus leads to eternal life, but it is not an easy way. Let us not fail to recognise Jesus on every step of that way. He is the person reaching his hands out to us in supplication.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray for those who hope to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry, that they will play their part in building up the Kingdom of Christ from Aghyaran to Coleraine, from Malin Head to Bellaghy. Bishop McKeown has said, "We will be more like the Holy Spirit-filled Body of Christ when our diocese is blessed with many families of faith, people of all ages exploring and developing their faith, official ministries of Lector, Acolyte, and Catechist, the presence of consecrated virgins, female and male religious, permanent deacons, and ordained priests."

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena concludes after 7.30pm Mass this Thursday 30th November. We pray and entrust our specific "knots" to Our Lady's hands, learning how to let go of that which binds us.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 3rd December. Take some time out from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas to pray and meditate on the true meaning of Advent.

Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed in the Cathedral each morning at 7.45am, Monday to Friday beginning on Monday 4th December.

Late opening: In preparation for Christmas, the Cathedral will open late on the three Mondays during Advent (4th, 11th and 18th December) from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. During this time there will be an opportunity for Confession and prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic Adoration: every Sunday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and every Tuesday from 10.30am until 7.20pm.

Saint Eugene's Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00pm on Sunday 17th December. St Eugene's Cathedral Choir will lead the carols. We invite children to bring presents of new unwrapped toys and adults to donate sweets, biscuits, vouchers or cash. St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute the gifts.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Maureen Gallagher
Colin Liddy
Theresa Doherty*
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Martin Gillespie
Manus (Nassie) McCaul
Joe & Anne Hegarty
Sean Mellon
Agnes Ward*
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Fallún Eimhear Ferguson
Keon Elijah Doherty*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,567
Parish Development: £986

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Matt Talbot Society: £20
Trócaire: £50
SVdP: £50, £500
Children in Need: £20
Cathedral Funds: £30

Readers 2nd/3rd December

06.15 pm	Therese Ferry
07.30 pm	Oran Gartland
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

A **prayer booklet** has been created by the diocese in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network, for use during the season of Advent. The booklet contains a Gospel reading for each Sunday of Advent accompanied by a reflection, prayers and links to music. It can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/advent>

If you have family away from home this Christmas and would like them to receive a Christmas Card from the parish, please write their names and full postal addresses on a card available at the back of the Cathedral and place it in the box before Sunday 26th November.

Saint Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets are available for purchase from the Parochial House. Cost £2.

Christmas Afternoon Tea - Saturday 2nd December at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for an Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Entry £25 - Pre booking only. Call into Parish Office or Tel: 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

Christmas Floral Workshops – 14th December spaces available for the 7.00pm workshop. Join our experienced Church florists in the Cathedral Hall for a workshop to create your own floral arrangement. Watch the florists demonstrate the design and then make your own to take home. Pre-Booking only – Cost £25 – please contact the Parish Office on 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org or call into the Parish Office.

ACCORD Derry Marriage Preparation Courses – following dates available for 2024 - 19th/20th January, 23rd/24th February and 22nd/23rd March. Venue: The Everglades Hotel, Prehen Road, Derry. Please note that these courses are NOT Virtual and are in person. Bookings are now being taken on www.accordni.com

Shepherding Talent Programme, *Aspire to Serve, Inspire to Lead*. In partnership with Saint Mary's University Twickenham, the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre is hosting an information session on the *Shepherding Talent Programme, Aspire to Serve, Inspire to Lead* on **4th December at 3.30pm via ZOOM.** *'Shepherding Talent'* is a pioneering programme in which teaching professionals with leadership potential are challenged to explore their vocation to lead. Aimed at all teaching professionals in Catholic schools, this programme is delivered in the context of Catholic school education. It will be delivered over five weeks, with each session taking 2 hours and the total cost is £250. If you would like to register for the Information Session, please email: tferry@derrydiocese.org or Tel: 00442871264087

St Eugene's Primary School is holding their Annual Rickety Wheel at from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Thursday 30th November in Pilot's Row Centre. All proceeds will go towards events which will enrich the lives of the pupils at the school. Everyone is welcome.

St Joseph's Boys School show 'Adventures of the Lone More Ranger' will take place from Monday 27th November to Wednesday 29th November in the school assembly hall. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for child/concession.

Mary's Meals – Double the Love. Mary's Meals is keeping the promise of a daily school meal to over 2.4 million children in 18 countries. Our Double the Love Campaign has launched, and all donations made to Mary's Meals until 22nd January 2024 will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1 million. Find out more and browse our Christmas gift cards at marysmeals.org.uk or freephone 0800 698 1212.

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.**

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty