

*Bishop McKeown, Fr Paul, Fr Patrick and Fr Ignacy
wish you every blessing, joy and peace this Christmas Time.*

*We take this opportunity to thank you for being part
of the faith community of St Eugene's Cathedral
and for your ongoing support and prayers.*

Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday (26th December)

Masses at 7.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm

Monday to Thursday (27th to 30th December)

Mass at 12.00 noon

New Year's Eve - Friday (31st December)

Masses at 12.00 noon and 7.30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately after 7.30 pm
Mass concluding with Rosary and Benediction at 11.45 pm to
welcome in the New Year

Saturday (1st January)

Mass at 12.00 noon

Vigil Masses at 6.15 pm and 7.30 pm

Sunday (2nd January)

Masses at 7.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm

Normal weekday Mass times will resume on
Monday, 3rd January: 8.00 am, 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

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.

To join us via webcam in St Eugene's Cathedral by watching our live streaming which can be viewed online at www.churchservices.tv, churchmedia.tv/camera/st-eugenes-cathedral or the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com.

A short reflection on today's Gospel: *Luke 2: 41-52*

Mary stored up all these things in her heart.

Today's Gospel offers us the only story in the life of Jesus between his birth and his emergence at the beginning of his public life some eighteen years later. It is a fascinating story, a story which witnesses the boy, Jesus, take his first steps out of the safe chrysalis of childhood to begin the transformation which will culminate in his ministry of salvation through faith and forgiveness. After having gone missing for three days, he is found in the Temple by his anxious parents listening to and questioning the Scribes, who are amazed at the extent of his learning and his wisdom.

An overwrought Mary admonishes her son for having caused his parents such anguish, and Jesus' instinctive response that she should have known that he needed to be about his Father's business, puzzles his mother, and perhaps even puzzles Jesus himself! His life, his destiny, are just beginning to unroll before him. Right now he is listening and asking questions, learning and seeking, growing in wisdom and grace, waiting for his readiness to begin his ministry.

Jesus, Son of God, as a human being you sought wisdom in preparation for the fulfilment of your destiny. You listened, you questioned, you read and you studied. Your grace-filled mother also, we learn, pondered and reflected on that which held mystery for her. May we too seek wisdom throughout our earthly journey to our Heavenly Father. May we never allow our precious lives to be consumed by the trivia and inconsequential attractions saturating today's world. May we seek always to grow in wisdom through reflection on and contemplation of revealed truths.

Jesus, you told the sick and the suffering that their faith had made them whole. May we strengthen our faith daily by focusing on its sacred gifts: its sacraments and the beauty of its teaching with its emphases on love, compassion, forgiveness and generosity. Amen.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of

Johnny McFadden

Eilish Power



May they rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Johnny and Maureen Coyle, Mary Callan, Mard McCourt, Peter Toland, Bernadette and Mary Brady, Matt and Kathleen McColgan, Jane and Hugh Brady, Gladys Cox (nee McColgan).

May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome a member of God's family

Eve Kate Nixon



Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Emma Coyle and Charles Hegarty

who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage here in St Eugene's Cathedral.



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 71262894/71365712 or email steugenes@btconnect.com or private message St Eugene's Cathedral.



The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30 pm on Monday, 3rd January

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.



Prayers at the Crib: A prayer card, poster and a booklet with a series of prayers and scripture for use at the Crib at home or in the church is available to download, to print or view on a mobile device at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/christmas>

The 12 Days of Christmas: A family prayer booklet has been specifically compiled with families in mind. The Gospel for each day of Christmas is accompanied by a Gospel reflection and prayers. The booklet can also be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/christmas>

Christmas Prayers for Children: Thoughts, ideas and resources to help children and families to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to celebrate and share the gift of the Baby Jesus with others available at: <https://catecheticalcentre.org/category/christmas/>

Poems with Mary Murphy, live streamed from the Cathedral Hall, will resume on Friday, 7th January.

The Diocesan Vocations Committee will hold a Holy Hour for Vocations in St Mary's Church, Creggan, on Friday, 7th January 2022, from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Everyone is welcome, especially those who may be considering a religious vocation. Members of the Diocesan Vocations Committee will be present, and will be willing to hear Confessions or talk with those who wish to discuss their vocation with them.

The Prayer Garden, which is located behind the Grotto, has now been completed. The Prayer Garden names all the parishes of the Derry Diocese and includes prayers for those who died during the pandemic. Fifty-one rose plants have been planted to remember those who died from each parish in the diocese since March 2020 when there were restrictions on wakes and funerals. The Garden will not be officially dedicated until a later date, however, everyone is welcome to come and pray or reflect.

Starting conversations in our parishes



"We have to look at where the Lord is leading us in order for us to be effective in making new disciples for the Lord"

Pope Francis is inviting the faithful all over the world to come with him “on a journey” as a “Synodal Church”. The word ‘synod’ means “walking together” and “indicates a way of being together as Church and ‘discerning’ how best to spread the Gospel amidst the challenges of life in the 21st century.”

This Synodal Process entitled, *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission* coincides with the start of the two-year Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland which will lead, in time, to a National Synodal Assembly in Ireland.

We pray that the next two years will be a time of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a consultative conversation. This will allow all people - both within the Church and in society at large, to share their insights into the Catholic Church in Ireland – past, present and future – so that we can prepare for a National Synodal Assembly in the coming years.

Bishop Donal explains this is the start of our Synodal Journey: *"We have set ourselves in Ireland a five year period, to look together in a prayerful context where God is leading His Church"*

In this video, <https://youtu.be/Lhky65OFfEQ>, Bishop Donal McKeown reminds us of the purpose of the Church and outlines the prayerful consultation process of Synodality, of walking together, of listening, of being led by the Holy Spirit to understand where the Lord is leading us.

St Eugene's Cathedral Choir is looking for new members to join. The Choir practices at 8.00 pm on Wednesdays and sings at the 12.30 pm Mass each Sunday. There are many ways which you can serve the church. Singing is one of them. If you would be interested in singing with the Choir please get in touch with the Choir Director, Maghnus Monaghan, through the parish office or speak to him after Mass at 12.30 pm.

Mary's Meals- Double the Love campaign runs until 31st January 2022, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a generous group of private donors. Every little act of love will go that little bit further during this period to help us reach the next child waiting, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to get involved including choosing one of their Mary's Meals gift cards or setting a place at our Big Family Christmas table- find out more at www.marysmeals.org.uk.



**Give a child
a brighter future**

Call 0800 0720 137
adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net

#CouldYouFoster #FosterForYourCommunity

HSC
Northern Ireland
Foster Care



Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks donations for **Trócaire:** £80, £40, £30, £100, £1,000, £100, £10. **Building Fund:** £60. **Thanksgiving to St Thérèse:** £40. **Thanksgiving to Our Lady:** £25. **Flowers:** £25, £60. **St Vincent de Paul:** £40, £460, £20, £750, £20, £120, £20, £20, £5. **Afghanistan:** £100. **Mary's Meals:** £100. **Cathedral Funds:** £10, £50, £10.

Last week's Collection amounted to £4,947.

Parish Development Collection amounted to £861.

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 Eugene's 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 continued support to the parish.

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) wish to acknowledge with thanks a cheque donation of £200.



ACCORD DERRY Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (limited to 15 couples per course). Booking now online at www.accordni.com

Gamblers Anonymous: Is gambling affecting your life? Perhaps Gamblers Anonymous can help: call them on 028 7135 1329.

The **Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre** Confirmation Preparation Programme will take place from the 10th -14th January 2022, to support parents, schools and parishes as they prepare the children in this very important stage of their faith journey. Linking with *Filled With Joy*, pupil workbook and *Disciples of Jesus*, parent booklet (available from the Diocesan Catechetical Centre) the programme will consist of,

- Four sessions, 10.00 am -12.00 am on the catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/. Each day the sessions will include catechesis on different aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation, prayer, creative activities and music.
- A support pack for the four sessions which will be emailed to schools and available on the Catechetical Centre Website
- Short Video reflections on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the impact Confirmation has made on different people



The **December issue of Sharing the Good News** can be downloaded from the home page of www.catholicbishops.ie.

The NET: The December edition of The Net is now available online, on <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-december-2021> As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese.

Radio Maria Ireland <https://www.radiomaria.ie/radio-maria-ireland/> is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies.

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 or www.watchmcnmedia or the parish website at 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 Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596 500 793 or email marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org or contact Briega O'Neill, the Safeguarding Coordinator at the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ, tele (028) 71362475 or email safeguarding@derrydiocese.org or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social

Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.