

## A Short Reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

*"You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."*

A superficial reading of today's Gospel might easily interpret it as threatening it can induce the fear that if we do not watch out for God's coming, we can be caught 'on the hop', as it were, and incur His everlasting displeasure. But God is always with us; He is always present in our lives. It is we who are not always present to God. When Jesus told us that he had come to give us life and give it to the full, he meant us to ponder his words deeply. Living life to the full means being alive to the presence of God in every moment we breathe; it means being fully awake, fully alert to how we are living our God-given lives. It means seeing God's plan for us in all our experiences, joyful and sorrowful. It means we can never accuse God of not listening to us; we can only accuse ourselves of not listening to God.

**Advent Programme – Morning Prayer** – Monday - Friday at 7.45am.  
**Monday after the 10.00am Mass** – Special Prayer during Advent – everyone welcome. Tea provided. **Late Opening** - Monday night from 8.00 – 10.00pm for Christmas with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession.

**Carol Service** – on Sunday 18 December at 4.00pm

**Pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome** : As part of St Eugene's Cathedral 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, Bishop Donal McKeown will lead a pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome from 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Visiting the birthplace of Padre Pio, Shrine of St Michael Archangel, St Peter's Basilica and other important sites. Price is £879pps (Single room supplement £150). For more details, email [info@marian.ie](mailto:info@marian.ie) or call Belfast on (028) 956 80005 or Dublin on (01) 878 8159

**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 address on a request slip and place it in the box at the back of the Cathedral before 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Hugh Kearney  
Lorraine Moran  
Gerry Kelly  
Marney Tracey*

May they rest in peace.

### Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Araya Sheila Rudd  
Éabha Lily Daniels  
Cohen James Foster  
Thomas Patrick Curran McCloskey*

To book a Baptism phone  
02871262894.

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

### Collection

Last week's collection: £4,718  
Parish Development: £906

*Thank you for your generosity*

### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Church Funds:** £100, £10, £5  
**Flowers:** £20  
**Smile Train:** £20  
**Trocaire:** £100  
**Mary's Meals:** £100  
**Save the Children:** £20  
**SVDP:** £100

### Readers for 3rd/4th December

06.15 pm	Carmel Devenney
07.30 pm	Majella Coyle
09.30 am	Kay McGinn
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Oran Gartland
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

**St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets** will be available to buy at the Parochial House from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Price £2.

**Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal** boxes are now available at the back of the Cathedral. As we all know, drinking dirty water costs lives – particularly children's lives. Up to 70,000 per year in Ethiopia alone die because of water-related diseases. Our 2022 Appeal aims to build 6 new wells in rural communities in Ethiopia, providing clean safe water for thousands. Thank you for your support.

## St Eugene's Cathedral 150 years

St Eugene's Cathedral was opened on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1873. It was an historic and extremely significant moment in the life of this city and diocese. Next year, 2023, we will celebrate 150 years of the Cathedral. Please God it will be a wonderful year of faith and rejoicing. Our theme for the year is ***I rejoiced when I heard them say let us go to God's house!***

We will be celebrating generations of faith coming to this house of God for 150 years. We will give thanks to God for the past. We will commit ourselves to God and to the Church in the present and we will entrust the future to God.

There will be many events to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

- There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00pm. This Mass will be for the whole diocese to celebrate.
- On the anniversary day we will celebrate all day!
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We will have different events throughout the year starting with –

- A Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be available afterwards in the Cathedral Hall.
- We are commissioning a Statue of Blessed Carlo Acutis for the Cathedral as we celebrate the only saint born in the third century after the Cathedral was opened.
- We will develop an outreach to those who are poor particularly to those who are living in Ecuador where Fr Paddy McIntyre ministered.
- We will prepare and deliver a parish Catechism and Prayer Book to help us grow in our faith and hand that faith on to future generations.

These are a few ways we will celebrate this milestone in the life of the Cathedral. We want all of you to join in the celebration and allow this time to be a sacred time where our faith in Jesus is deepened.

**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 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 the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias, Deacon: Rev Michael McCaul**