

A short Gospel reflection Matthew 2:1-12

Today's Gospel opens with Jesus on the mountain, teaching not from power, but from compassion. The Beatitudes turn the world upside down: the poor, the meek, the merciful, and the persecuted are called blessed. Jesus is not romanticising suffering; He is revealing where God already dwells. In a world that prizes success, strength, and recognition, Christ points us to a deeper happiness rooted in trust, humility, and love.

These words invite us to examine our own hearts. Do we seek comfort at any cost, or are we willing to hunger for righteousness? Do we avoid sorrow, or allow it to soften us into mercy? The Beatitudes are not a checklist, but a portrait of Christ Himself—and a path of discipleship. When we choose to live this way, even quietly and imperfectly, we discover that true joy is not found in having more, but in belonging more fully to God.

Prayer to St Brigid: Saint Brigid, beloved servant of Christ, you showed us how to love the poor, to welcome the stranger, and to see God's presence in everyday life.

Teach us generosity of heart, gentleness in strength, and faith that burns like a steady flame. May our homes be places of peace, our hands ready to serve, and our lives a blessing to others. Saint Brigid, pray for us.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: You call blessed those who are meek, merciful, and pure of heart—raise up from our midst men who will live these Beatitudes as diocesan priests. May their lives proclaim Your Kingdom, bringing comfort, justice, and peace to the people You entrust to their care.

Vocations Retreat Weekend for anyone (18+) interested in the diocesan priesthood, in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Friday 6th - Sunday 8th March 2026. Please register using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discrimination-retreat-for-the-diocesan-priesthood-tickets-1980332502825?aff=oddtdtcreator>. For further information, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 2nd February at 7.30 pm. 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 also be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30 pm. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

Matt Talbot Urban Mystic - A film about venerable Matt Talbot and his journey to freedom from addiction. Showing at 7.00pm on the 23rd February 2026 at Brunswick Movie Bowl. Pre-booking tickets recommended at <https://www.brunswickmoviebowl.com>

On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th February, the children from the four primary schools in our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a sacred and joyful moment in their lives, as they are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is also a time of grace for our whole parish family. We invite you to support these young people with your prayerful encouragement, asking the Lord to guide and protect them as they continue their journey of faith. *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Michelle Kennedy
Gary Page
James Nash
Tommy Murphy
Sean Canning*

May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate
Rachael Mooney & Kevin Lynch
who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral
May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Collection

Priests Collection: £7,123
Parish Development: £1,066

Thank you for your generosity

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Nora McCafferty
Danny Griffin
Marrietta McGrellis
Jimmy McKendrick
Joe McCauley
Neil McCauley
Danny Gillespie*

May they rest in peace

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £40
Gaza Appeal: £60, £20
Altar Flowers: £40
Concern: £10
Hungry Children: £5, £20
Sightsavers: £50
Smile Train: £50
SVdP: £70

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Rua Grace Quigg
Lara Shae Friel
Evelyn Bridie Callaghan*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Readers 7th /8th February

06.15pm Michael McCaul
07.30pm Niamh Kehoe
09.30am Barry McDaid
11.00am Piaras O Meallain
12.30pm Ursula Doherty
07.00pm Anna Begley

Tuesday 3rd February is the Feast of St Blaise. Throats will be blessed at all Masses.

The Cathedral Club meets on Thursdays after the 10am Mass. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group who meet once a week in the Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road. Refreshments will be served.

The Lourdes Hospitalite collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, is due to take place at weekend Masses on the 7th/8th of February 2026. As in previous years, we appeal to your generosity for this worthwhile cause as we continue to provide the opportunity for people who need assistance, to travel to Lourdes.

St Eugene's Cathedral – Monthly Draw Winners

1st Prize	£1,000	Ticket no 164	Teresa Kelly
2nd Prize	£500	Ticket no 163	Jude & Margaret Hargan
3rd Prize	£100	Ticket no 119	James Gallagher
	£100	Ticket no 62	Anne O'Donnell
	£100	Ticket no 132	Sinead McDowell
	£100	Ticket no 157	Louise McLaughlin
	£100	Ticket no 186	Michael Doherty

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1st February 2026

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Congratulations to the winners of the ninth draw held on Saturday 24th January! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who continues to support our parish — your generosity is greatly appreciated. The last draw will be held on Saturday 28th February after 7.30pm Mass, best of luck to everyone!

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July. The Lourdes Office in the Pastoral Centre in Bishop Street, Derry, is now open Thursdays and Saturdays from 11am to 1pm. Tel 028 71260293 or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com for more information. All applications welcome. We are also appealing to those who could volunteer to join our Medical Team as a Nurse or Carer to please contact the office, as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty will be celebrating their 20th year anniversary on Tuesday 3rd February 2026. We will begin at 6.45pm with the Rosary, followed by Mass. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic of St. Pio. Everyone is welcome

Job Opportunity – Derry Diocesan Trust - Ardmore Parish: Sacristan – St Mary's Church, Ardmore, Derry. Part-time – 16 hours per week. The Sacristan will ensure effective security of the church and associated maintenance and cleaning whilst organising all associated liturgical requirements in line with diocesan guidelines. For application packs please telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to recruitment@derrydiocese.org no later than 12 noon on Monday 9th February 2026. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer.*

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 within the Church please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +447596500793 or email: dlp@derrydiocese.org .

Northern Ireland emergency services: PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland): 101 Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust: 028 7131 4090 (and ask for the Duty Social Worker), Gateway Services, Northern HSC Trust: 028 9442 4459, Regional Emergency Social Work Services: 0800 1979 995. **Republic of Ireland emergency services:** Garda Síochána Buncrana: 00353 749 320 540 Letterkenny: 00353 749 167 100, TUSLA (ROI) Child and Family Agency: 00353 749 102 233