

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 2:13-25

In today's Gospel we experience the passionate anger of Jesus as he witnesses the sanctuary of the Temple being desecrated by the corrupt, money lenders and merchants. The Son of God will not tolerate the desecration of the sacred; he will not tolerate the fouling of holy ground by the kind of greed and corruption which insult the purity of the God of Love. Jesus' passionate, violent anger is startling, frightening even, until the moment when we fully realise the ugliness and insult offered to the Divine by human corruption. The desecraters have turned indifferent backs on God in their pursuit of money, and now they will bear the full brunt of Jesus' anger.

May we learn from today's Gospel that we must never ride rough-shod over holy ground; we must never insult the God of Love by foul language, or foul deeds. May we always recognise and love the sacred and may we live our lives informed by that recognition. Amen

St Eugene's Cathedral – Lenten Programme

Confession and Adoration on the way home – Mondays from 5.00pm to 7.20pm

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45am Monday to Friday

Lunch-time Mass 1.00pm each weekday (Monday to Friday)

Lenten Holy Hour of prayer led by Fr Shaun, Thursday evenings from 8.00pm with adoration, reflection and music

Lenten talk Tuesday 5th March 8.00pm - **Eucharist: "His body and His Life"**

How do the sacraments help us to live life to the full? We focus this week on the Sacrament of the Eucharist. St Jean Marie Vianney said "If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us." Using a short video as a basis for reflection, there will be an opportunity for discussion/comment on the key message of the week, followed by a brief scripture passage and concluding with a prayer.

Trócaire Lenten Appeal – Trócaire boxes are available for collection at the back of the Cathedral.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray that those being called to serve as priests for the people of this diocese may take courage and confidence from the words of St Paul in this weekend's second reading: "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." Please pray every day for an increase in vocations, and for those attending next weekend's Vocations Retreat in Larne, that the Lord will bless them in their ongoing discernment of His will for them.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 4th March at 7.30 pm. The Matt Talbot Prayer Society was 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. 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. 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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Geraldine Campbell
Thomas McManus
Brian Curran
Mary Irvine**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Sadie Feeney
Noel McDowell
Jeanie Hickey
Willie Cullen
Josie Cullen
Joseph McCauley
Kathleen Ferry
Declan Brennan
Rose Carlin
Sally Villa**

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

**Khalayah Gillen
Joey Michael Horner & Jasmine
Patrica Horner**

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,737

Parish Development: £992

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £35, £10

Hungry Children: £10

Trócaire: £20, £20, £50

Admin's Choice: £50

Smile Train: £50

SVdP: £80

Pancreatic Cancer UK: £100

Readers for 9th / 10th March

06.15 pm Therese Ferry

07.30 pm Michael Wilson/
Caitlin Horner McLaughlin

09.30 am Barry McDaid

11.00 am McGinley Readers

12.30 pm Sophia Mason

07.00 pm Marian Boyle

St. Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th-24th October 2024. Cost £770 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £150 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894.

Easter Mass Bouquets are now available to buy at the Parish Office. Cost £2.

The Cathedral Club meets after the 10.00am Mass each Thursday in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group. Refreshments will be served.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea - Saturday 16th March at 1.30pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for an Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

SVP urgently need volunteers for their William Street Shop (especially Fridays and Saturdays) and for their warehouse in Buncrana Road which would involve collecting and moving furniture and volunteers to drive the van. If you can volunteer a few hours, please contact 028 71268325.

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 5th March at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. Starting with the Rosary at 6.45pm, Mass at 7.15pm, followed by novena to St. Pio. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic after the Mass.

Father Terence O' Sullivan will conduct a Day Retreat in honour of Saint Charbel on Thursday 14th March from 10.00am to 3.00pm in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca. Cost for the day, including light lunch £20. A First Class Relic and Blessed Oil of St. Charbel will be available on the day. For bookings contact 02871 262512.

Palm Sunday Retreat: Join with the Columba Community for a Day of Healing Prayer at St Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot, which will include Scripture meditations, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Teaching and Celebration of Eucharist as we enter Holy Week together. Sunday 24th March, 11am-4pm. Mass celebrated at 3pm. Light lunch included. Suggested donation £20. Email columbacomunity@hotmail.com to book or call 02871262407.

Day Retreat for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: Saturday 9th March from 10.30am – 4.00pm, at Ards Friary, Creeslough, Co Donegal. The day will include some input, silent time, social time and a full lunch. Contact Ards Friary on 074 9138909 or email info@ardsfriary.ie for further information.

Gala Concert in St Columba's Hall Sunday 24th March at 7.30pm. The Priests and soprano Margaret Keys will be performing. The concert is a fundraiser for the restoration of the Church organ in St Columba's Church, Long Tower and for restoration of Christ Church in recognition of the kind financial support given by Bishop Hervey to the building of Long Tower 240 years ago this year. Tickets will go on sale this coming weekend, priced at £30.00. Tickets can be purchased by going onto the Long Tower website www.longtowerchurch.org via the donate button. Alternatively, tickets will be sold after 6.00pm Saturday Vigil & 12 Noon Sunday Masses, at the rear of the Long Tower Church and from the Long Tower Parish Office on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2.30pm-4.00pm. For Further details email darinaghboyle15@gmail.com or longtower@derrydiocese.org.

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.watchmenmedia 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 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.