

2025 has been another blessed year in Saint Eugene's Parish. We are truly grateful for the many parishioners who give their time and talents so generously in service of our community. We are especially blessed to have our retired priest, Fr Colum Clerkin, living among us and continuing to serve the parish so faithfully.

During the year, we also remember with gratitude Fr Frank McLaughlin, who passed away in 2025. We thank God for his life, priestly ministry, and dedicated service to the Church, and we entrust him to God's loving mercy.

As we begin 2026, we ask God's continued blessing upon our parish and give thanks to Him for the many gifts and graces of 2025.

A short Gospel reflection John 1:1-18

In the opening of John's Gospel, we are taken back before time itself: "In the beginning was the Word." Jesus is revealed not only as a teacher or prophet, but as the eternal Word of God, through whom all things were made. This reminds us that our faith is not rooted in an idea, but in a Person who existed before creation and entered history out of love for us. The light of Christ shines into the darkness of the world—and into our own lives—and no darkness can overcome it.

The most powerful truth of this passage is that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." God chose to come close, to live our human life, so we could truly know Him. In Jesus, we see the face of the Father, full of grace and truth. As Catholics, we are invited not only to believe this mystery, but to receive it—especially in the Eucharist—and to become children of God who reflect Christ's light to others through love, humility, and faith.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: At the beginning of a new year our prayer for seminarians and those discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood is taken from St Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in our second reading: "May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit."

Feast of the Epiphany, Tuesday 6th January 2026 is a Holyday of Obligation. Mass times for the Holyday are as follows:

Monday Vigil Masses 6.15pm & 7.30pm

Tuesday 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm

There will be a collection for Parish Missionaries Overseas at all the Masses on the Feast of the Epiphany. If you wish to nominate a priest or nun who has family connections in the Parish for financial support, please email their name and contact details to cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 5th January 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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Danielle McKinney
Jane McElhinney
Paul Garon*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Evelyn Gillen
Patrick Sharkey
Molly Callan
Catherine Gallacher
Janie Gallacher
Kieran McKinney
Letty Crossan
Seamus Downey*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Ciara Nora Murray

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate
Demi Gallagher & Ciaron Harkin
who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral
May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,207

Parish Development: £1,015

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £325

Gaza Appeal: £100

Cathedral Funds: £20, £50, £25

Mary's Meals: £80

Readers 10th /11th January

06.15pm Karen O'Brien

07.30pm Niamh Kehoe

09.30am Eva Marie Mallon/
Caragh McSheffrey

11.00am Gareth Tucker

12.30pm Megan Dallat

07.00pm Anna Begley

Prayer for the New Year

Loving Father, as we begin this new year, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, the Word made flesh, the Light that shines in our darkness. In Jesus, You have come close to us. Help us to welcome Him more deeply into our lives, that His light may guide our choices, His truth shape our words, and His grace renew our hearts.

As we step into this new year, make us faithful witnesses to Your love. Strengthen us when the way is uncertain, fill us with hope when we face challenges, and help us to live as Your children, reflecting Christ's light to all we meet.

We place this year in Your hands, trusting in Your mercy and care, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. Cost £895 inclusive of local taxes but exclusive of single supplements and insurance. The Pilgrimage office will open for bookings on Saturday 17th January 2026 at 11.00am. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available (Monday to Thursday) from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.

Life in the Spirit Seminars, Tuesday evenings (13th January – 24th February) 7.00pm
Mass in St Joseph's Church Galliagh, St Pio Hall from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. This is an opportunity to deepen your faith and to activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism. Register on the night. Donations in lieu of fee. For more information contact 02871 262360.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty will take place on Tuesday 6th January 2026. Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm followed by the celebration of Mass at 7.15pm. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic of St Pio while closing prayers are recited. Everyone is welcome.

St Cecilia's College open day Thursday 8th January from 5.00pm – 8.00pm. Principal's address at 5pm & 6.15pm. all welcome.

St Joseph's Boys School open day will take place on Thursday 8th January from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. All welcome.

Saint Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry: Open Day is on Saturday 10th January 2026 beginning at 9.00am. The principal's address is at 9.15am and 10.30am. Tours of the school will begin immediately after each address. Open Day ends at 12.30pm. All are welcome.

Thornhill College Open Day - Saturday 17th January 2026 from 10.00am–1.00pm.
Address by the Principal at 10.00am and 12.30pm. For parents/guardians and prospective Year 8 students. Prospective Year 13 students are also welcome to come along and discuss A-level or Applied GCE courses. Visit our website at www.thornhillcollege.org.uk

Pre-School or Primary One places for September 2026. There are three excellent Catholic Schools in the Parish, which take both boys and girls. The three schools are St Anne's Primary School (Tel no 71 263046) St Eugene's Primary School (Tel no 71 261601) and Rosemount Primary School (Tel no 71 265605). Nursery class places are available in St Eugene's and Rosemount Primary Schools. If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2026, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

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 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

Vol 54 No 1
Second Sunday
of Christmas
4th January 2026

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty