

A Short Reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Today's Gospel presents us with the powerful, vigorous, non-, conformist figure of John the Baptist. Far from any centre of power, dressed in a garment made of camel hair with a leather belt around his waist, he preaches repentance in the wilderness of Judaea. The word "repent" means "to change direction"; in other words, to turn away from one's sinfulness, and to turn one's face to the light of God's loving forgiveness. Both Jesus and John the Baptist preached repentance leading to forgiveness, a message which challenged self-satisfaction, spiritual torpor, attachment to worldly power, all of which characterised the Pharisees and Sadducees of the day. This is why John singled those two groups out and passionately denounced them.

One of the most satisfying things about John the Baptist is, that, although people flocked to him, drawn to his powerful, unconventional presence and his passionate preaching, he knows exactly who he is: he is one who is preparing the way for his Lord and Master, Jesus, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire, while he, John, baptises with water only. John refuses to be elevated to anything other than what he knows himself to be.

Lord Jesus, let us embrace, with the passion and truth of John, our baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Let us remember who we are in God's eyes and resist the temptation to elevate ourselves to a false self for the eyes of the world.

Saint Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will be taken up after all Masses next weekend, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December. Your generosity throughout the year and at Christmas is very much appreciated and it is because of this we can support those in need within our parish. This year we would ask people to donate vouchers instead of toys/food items. Should you need help we are always here to help – please contact us at telephone no. 028 71265489.

Advent Programme – Morning Prayer (Monday-Friday at 7.45am). **Special Prayer during Advent** (Monday after the 10.00am Mass) – everyone welcome & tea provided. **Late Opening** (Monday 8.00pm – 10.00pm) with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession.

St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service will be held on Sunday 18th December at 4.00pm

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Seamus McAllister
Maryann Doherty
Mary (Molly) Boyle*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Eilish Lafferty
Patsy Bradley
Chris Francis
Alex (Lexie) Ross
Pascal Keys
Patrick McGeehan
Paddy Carlin
Isobel Clarke
Agnes Ward
Manus (Nassie) McCaul*

May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Daihi Michael Breslin
Renéya Grace Healy
Autumn Rose O'Hagan-Donaghey
Ada Grace Meehan*

To book a Baptism phone 02871262894.

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

Collection

Priests' Collection: £7,199
Parish Development: £1,033

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £50, £20
Cathedral Funds: £300, £5
SVDP: £50
Sight Savers: £20
Trocaire: £50

Readers for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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| 06.15 pm | Mary Feeny |
| 07.30 pm | Marian Boyle |
| 09.30 am | Anna Peake |
| 11.00 am | Anna Begley |
| 12.30 pm | Eilish Friel |
| 07.00 pm | Angela McCallion |

Readers for 10th/11th December

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| 06.15 pm | Therese Ferry |
| 07.30 pm | Oran Gartland |
| 09.30 am | Rosemary Finan |
| 11.00 am | Rosemount PS |
| 12.30 pm | Eilish Friel |
| 07.00 pm | Anna Begley |

Pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome : As part of St Eugene's Cathedral 150th Anniversary Celebrations, Bishop Donal McKeown will lead a pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome from 25th – 30th September 2023. Price is £879pps (Single room supplement £150). For more details, email info@marian.ie or call Belfast on (028) 956 80005 or Dublin on (01) 878 8159

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

St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets are available to buy at the Parochial House. Price £2.

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. 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 Society. 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. **The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 5th December at 7.30 pm.**

Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 8th December at 7:15pm in the Raddison Blu Hotel, Letterkenny Co. Donegal. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents. For more info call 00353 (1) 4045378.

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 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.