

New Spiritual Initiative to Support Families Affected by Drug Addiction

As concerns continue to grow over drug use among young people, the Matt Talbot Prayer Society is launching a new spiritual initiative aimed at supporting families affected by addiction and helping parents protect their children from the dangers of substance abuse.

The initiative follows comments made by Pope Francis, who condemned drug trafficking and its impact on young people. Speaking in June 2024, the Holy Father said: *“Let us pray for these criminals who give drugs to young people. They are criminals, they are murderers. We pray for their conversion.”*

Many families are now facing the devastating consequences of addiction, with increasing numbers of young people being exposed to drugs at an early age. Prayer and faith can play a vital role in protecting young people and supporting those struggling with addiction.

To assist families, we have Spiritual Protection Packs containing items and prayers designed to help families bless their homes and pray for loved ones. Parents are encouraged to bless their children’s rooms daily with Holy Water and to pray regularly for protection from drugs and addiction.

The initiative draws inspiration from Venerable Matt Talbot of Dublin, who overcame severe alcohol addiction through prayer, devotion to the Eucharist, regular Mass attendance, and a deep spiritual commitment. Matt Talbot began drinking at the age of 14 and became addicted by his early twenties. Today, he is recognised by the Catholic Church as a model of hope for those seeking freedom from addiction.

The Matt Talbot Prayer Society continues to pray daily for people struggling with addiction and for their families. Individuals may enrol a loved one for prayer through the Society’s website at <https://www.matttalbotprayersociety.com>

The new Spiritual Protection Packs will be distributed at the monthly Matt Talbot Mass on Monday, 6th July 2026, at 7.30pm in St Eugene’s Cathedral, Derry. The packs will be available free of charge to anyone wishing to receive one.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene’s Cathedral on Monday, 6th July 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. Mass will also be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene’s Cathedral at 7.30pm. 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.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: That those who may be anxious or worried about feeling called to priesthood will trust the Lord and hear the One who is "... gentle and humble in heart..." promising them rest and the peace that comes from knowing He is with them, carrying their burdens alongside them.

St. Maria Goretti – Monday 6th July is the Feast Day of Saint Maria Goretti who was born on 16th October 1890 and who died on 6th July 1902. She was canonised by Pope Pius XII in 1950. She is the patron Saint of youth, young women, purity and victims of rape. St. Maria Goretti, pray for us.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Betty Boyle
Maureen Boyle
Sadie Ferry*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Pearse Mc Caul
Sr. Philomena Doherty
Anne Rooney
Frank O’Neill
Angela Tyre
John Mc Groarty*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God’s family:

Éire Rós Mc Cafferty

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week’s collection: £5,710
Parish Development: £1,137

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Altar Flowers:	£40
Cathedral Funds:	£100
Clerical Students:	£100
Gaza Appeal:	£20
Hungry Children:	£10
Mary’s Meals:	£60
SVDP:	£60
Smile Train:	£100
Trócaire:	£10

Readers for 11th / 12th July

6.15 pm	Helen Sweeney
7.30 pm	Stephen Orr/Karl Orr
9.30 am	Claire O’Kane
11.00 am	Yju A
12.30 pm	Marie Canning
7.00 pm	Marian Boyle

LIFE Camp – 6th July - 10th July *Opening Mass will take place on Sunday 5th July at 11am.* Living in Faith Everywhere—continues its mission of helping young people deepen their relationship with Christ while enjoying an exciting programme of activities in a welcoming and supportive environment. LIFE Camp has become a highlight of the parish calendar, bringing together children, volunteers and families for a memorable week centred on faith, community and personal growth. Throughout the week, participants will enjoy daily prayer and faith formation alongside sports, arts and crafts, music, games, team-building challenges and other engaging activities designed to encourage confidence, friendship and joyful participation. The camp is made possible through the dedication of parish staff and volunteers and the continued support of the wider parish community. Together, we create an environment where young people are encouraged to grow in faith while building lasting friendships. We look forward to welcoming both returning campers and those joining us for the first time. LIFE Camp is a wonderful opportunity for young people to experience the joy of faith, develop new friendships and discover that living their faith can be exciting, meaningful and fun. We keep them all in our prayers this week.

Diocesan Lough Derg Pilgrimage 2026

If you've often heard about Lough Derg but have never been, why not make this the year? The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage takes place from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July 2026. Step away from the pace of daily life and discover three days of prayer, peace, reflection and renewal. Cost: £95 / €110, including bus transport. Booking form and full details are available at derrydiocese.org/lough-derg

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Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
5th July 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty will take place on Tuesday 7th July 2026. Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm before mass, celebration of Mass at 7.15pm, then the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St. Pio, while closing prayers are recited. All welcome.

Accord Derry – Marriage Preparation Workshops 2026 - Accord Derry is pleased to announce upcoming Marriage Preparation Workshops taking place in 2026. These courses are designed to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

The remaining available dates for 2026 are as follows:

- **September:** 25th–26th 2026
- **November:** 20th–21st 2026

All courses are now available for online booking at: www.accordni.com.

Please note that **Accord Derry will not be facilitating Marriage Preparation Courses during October or December 2026**. Couples are encouraged to book early to secure a place on their preferred date.

Al-Anon – It is easy to see what alcohol is doing to the person who drinks, but can you see what it is doing to you? Are you afraid to upset someone for fear that it might trigger a drinking bout? For further information, contact the Al-Anon confidential helpline on 0800 0086 811 or email helpline@al-anonuk.org.uk. Alternatively, telephone 028 9068 2368.

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 23