

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 6:51-58

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals the profound gift of the Eucharist: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven." His words challenge His listeners because He speaks not symbolically, but of a real communion with Him through His Body and Blood. Jesus teaches that the Eucharist is the source of eternal life, nourishing us not only spiritually but drawing us into a deeper union with Him.

The people listening to Jesus struggle to understand His words. Yet Jesus does not soften His teaching. Instead, He emphasises that His flesh is true food and His blood is true drink. In these words, the Church recognises the foundation of the Eucharist, where Christ becomes truly present and gives Himself completely for the salvation of the world.

Every time we participate in the Mass, we are invited to receive this living Bread from heaven. The Eucharist is not simply a ritual or a symbol; it is an encounter with the risen Lord who nourishes our souls and strengthens us for our journey of faith. In a world that often leaves us spiritually hungry, Jesus offers Himself as the food that satisfies our deepest longing for love, meaning, and eternal life.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on our own appreciation of the Eucharist. Do we approach Holy Communion with faith, reverence, and gratitude? Do we allow the grace we receive at the altar to shape the way we live each day? As we receive Christ, may we become more like Him—people of compassion, sacrifice, and love.

May our hearts always hunger for the Bread of Life, and may the Eucharist deepen our union with Christ, who promises, to raise up those who remain faithful to Him, on the last day.

A Prayer for Corpus Christi

Jesus, Body and Blood, we are grateful for the gift of your life and the way it strengthens us to live ours. Teach us to draw on the gift of your Body and Blood for energy, renewal, strength and grace. May we never take the gift of your presence for granted. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray for the men who will serve the Church as priests of our diocese, that their faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist will be strengthened as they share the Body and Blood of Christ with their brothers and sisters.

Parish Summer Day Pilgrimage on Wednesday 22nd July. Bus leaves the Cathedral at 9.15am and returns approximately 5.30pm. Morning Tea in the Clanree Hotel followed by morning prayer at Doon Well. Mass in Ards Friary and lunch in the Carrigart Hotel. Price £40 includes - Transport, Morning Tea & Lunch. For more information or to book a place call into the Parish Office or call 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org. Please note that this must be Pre-Booked.

Diocese of Derry Lough Derg Pilgrimage 2026: The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg will take place from Friday 24th July to Sunday 26th July 2026. Cost: £95 / €110 including bus transport. You are welcome, of course, to use your own means of transport. Booking form and full details available at: derrydiocese/lough-derg

Eucharistic Marian Procession, Saturday 13th June beginning at 12 noon St Mary's Church, Creggan and ending at Celtic Park. You and your family are warmly invited to come along and join in! For full details visit worldwidemarianprocession.com

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Thomas McLaughlin
William McCafferty

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Patrick McCaul
Kealan Kelly
Edward Patrick Doherty

Sally Boyle
May Nugent
Deirdre McGinley

Denis Doherty
Grainne Maguire
Neil Hamill

Patrick Hamill
Ann McMahon
Patrick Johnston
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Gia Willow Duffy
Úna Hutton
Ríon Damien Kerrigan

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,697
Parish Development: £1,146

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Medical Missionaries of Mary: £20
Sight Savers: £50, £10
Gaza Appeal: £50
Hungry Children: £5
Tròcaire: £10, £100
Smile Train: £10, £25
Sr Orla Tracey (South Sudan) £100

Readers for 13th /14th June

06.15 pm Karen O'Brien
07.30 pm Mary Morrison
09.30 am Barry McDaid/
Caragh McSheffrey
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Megan Dallat
07.00 pm Marian Boyle

Saint Columba's Day 2026: This year's St Columba Celebrations at Long Tower have a special significance - we're celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Long Tower in 1946. Events include:

Monday 8th June: All-Night Vigil of Adoration: 8pm - 6.30am

Tuesday 9th June – Feast of St Columba:

7.00am Mass at Hawthorn Tree

10.00am Mass for Schools and Families

6.30pm Vespers at the base of the Medieval-era monastic Bell Tower, Lumen Christi College

7.00pm Rosary in Irish for World Peace at Calvary.

7.30pm Mass of St Columba to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Consecration of Long Tower church celebrated by Fr John Joe Duffy, PP Creeslough followed by procession to St Columba's Well and Parish Party in Lower School Hall.

St Eugene's Cathedral – Monthly Draw Winners

£500 Prize Draw	Ticket no 38	Marie Curran
1st Prize	£1,000 Ticket no 7	Denise Healey
2nd Prize	£500 Ticket no 98	Teresa Simpson
3rd Prize	£100 Ticket no 154	Aileen Morrow
	£100 Ticket no 9	John O'Kane
	£100 Ticket no 197	Donna Cartin
	£100 Ticket no 77	Michael Doherty
	£100 Ticket no 170	Rachel McCallion

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7th June 2026

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Congratulations to the winners of the first draw held on Saturday 30th May! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who continues to support our parish - your generosity is greatly appreciated. The next draw will be held on Saturday 27th June after 7.30pm Mass, best of luck to everyone!

Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead takes place in the City Cemetery today (Sunday) at 3.00 pm. Please be in position at 2.30 pm. Families are asked to bring their own holy water to the Cemetery for the blessing of the graves. At the appropriate time Bishop McKeown will ask a representative of each family to sprinkle their family grave (and neighbouring grave if there is no-one present). There will be no holy water in the Cemetery. There will be no vehicle access to the cemetery until 1pm to facilitate preparations for the service. Access will only be given to those who have registered with gates remaining open until 2pm. **Those who have secured a space must be in place by 2pm, as there will be no access for vehicles after this time.** Other car parking will be available for blue badge holders at St Mary's Church, Creggan, St Cecilia's College and Celtic Park. Booking is not required, and access will only be given to vehicles that display a current Disability Blue Badge Permit on arrival. The Service will also be live streamed and available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvtk3PsOheU>

Human Life International talk in St Trea's Church, 140 Aughrim Road, Castledawson, Newbridge, Co Derry, next Tuesday, 9th June, at 7.30pm. 'The Holy Face of Jesus', a devotion for our times. Learn about the saints, popes, miracles and promises (including specific protection on YOUR town) associated with this devotion. Holy Face relic and blessed oil available. For further information, tel: 00353852525612

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