

A short Gospel reflection Matthew 3:1-12

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist appears in the desert with a bold and urgent message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." His call is not meant to frighten us but to awaken us. John invites us to clear out the clutter of sin and complacency so that our hearts may be ready to receive Christ.

John reminds us that true conversion is more than words or religious appearances—it bears fruit. God desires a living faith expressed in mercy, humility, and justice. The image of the winnowing fan and the burning chaff is not about God's anger but His desire to free us from whatever keeps us from Him.

As Advent progresses, this Gospel urges us to look honestly at our lives: Where is God inviting me to change? What needs to be pruned or purified? How can I make more room for Christ?

May we welcome Jesus with hearts renewed, trusting that His coming brings not fear, but new life, hope, and joy.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Monday, 8th December is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this feast we honour Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception. Chosen to be the Mother of God, Mary was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

Mass times for the Holyday:

Monday: 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm

The season of Advent: Take some time out from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas to pray and meditate on the true meaning of Advent.

Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed in the Cathedral each morning at 7.45am, Monday to Friday beginning Monday 1st December.

On the Way Home - In preparation for Christmas, there will be an opportunity for Confession and Adoration each Monday during Advent (1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd) from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Eucharistic Adoration: every Sunday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and every Tuesday from 10.30am until 7.20pm

St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00pm on Sunday 21st December. St Eugene's Cathedral Choir will lead the carols. We invite children to bring presents of new unwrapped toys and adults to donate sweets, biscuits, vouchers or cash. St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute the gifts.

Celebrate Christmas Together - St. Columb's Cathedral & St. Eugene's Cathedral - This Christmas, our two Cathedrals come together in friendship, unity, and hope. You are warmly invited to join us in St. Columb's Cathedral on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm as we celebrate this holy Season with shared joy, prayer, music and community. All are welcome.

St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets are available to buy after the weekend Masses and during the week at the Parish Office. Cost £2.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Pauline Deane

Tommy Grumley

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Eilish Lafferty

Patsy Bradley

Pascal Keys

Kitty Doherty

Paddy Carlin

Marian McCourt

Fr Shaun O'Donnell

Lily Cassidy

Betty McDevitt

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Éala Grace McLaughlin

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Iesha Cassidy & Brendan McGuire

who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Collection

Priests Collection: £7,537

Parish Development: £1,117

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trócaire: £20, £110

Mary's Meals: £25, £250

Sight Savers: £40, £15, £250

Hungry Children: £5, £30

Gaza Appeal: £20

Smile Train: £15, £100, £40

Water Aid: £30, £15

SVdP: £20, £25

Cathedral Funds: £20, £10

Mercy Ships: £15

Flowers for the Altar: £30

Readers for Holyday 8 December

09.30 am	Piarsa O Meallain
11.00 am	Anna Begley
12.30 pm	Eilish Friel
07.30 pm	Kieron Kehoe

Readers for 13th/14th December

06.15 pm	Mary Morrison
07.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	St Anne's PS
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

St Eugene's Conference of St Vincent de Paul will take up their annual collection at all Masses this weekend. During the past year the total dispensed by St Eugene's Conference was £41,906, covering food vouchers, beds, white goods and heating. Your generosity throughout the year and to the Christmas Collection is very much appreciated.

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.

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7th December 2025

Advent Pastoral Letter from Bishop McKeown - This weekend Bishop Donal McKeown shares his Advent Pastoral Letter, *Moving Forward Together in Changing Times*, inviting all of us to a renewed focus on prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, and working together in mission. Copies of the letter are available from the parish office and is also available to read online at www.derrydiocese.org/pastoral-letter

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Dungiven Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Departing from Belfast International on Monday 10th August for 6 nights*. We will be in Lourdes for the Feast of The Assumption. (*may be reduced to 5 nights - this will be confirmed at a later date). Cost per person based on twin/double sharing, including full board, is £975. Single supplement is £39 per night. Insurance is optional and costs an extra £45. There are only a limited number of seats remaining. Contact the parish office: dungivenparish@derrydiocese.org or Tel 028 7774 0702.

Pilgrimages 2026: Poland: 16th – 23rd June, 2026. Cost £1,275 Flights and Half Board. Salt Mines: (Optional) £55. Spiritual Director: Fr. James Devine.

Fatima: 23rd – 30th July. Cost £879 Flights, Full Board, Coach to Dublin Airport. Spiritual Director: Fr. James Devine

Medjugorje: 4th -11th September from Belfast. Cost £849. Flights and Half Board
For more information contact Maria at 02881648357 or 07768 395038.offer.

Marriage Preparation Workshops January to June 2026:

January 23rd/24th, February 20th/21st, March 27th/28th, April 24th/25th, May 15th/16th, June 19th/20th 2026. These courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com. Please note that Accord Derry will NOT be facilitating courses during July or August.

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