

## A short Gospel reflection Matthew 5:13-16

In today's Gospel, Jesus names our identity before He gives us a task: you are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world. Salt doesn't exist for itself—it preserves, brings out flavour, and quietly transforms what it touches. Light doesn't argue or explain; it simply shines and makes things visible. Jesus is reminding us that discipleship isn't mainly about standing out, but about being faithful right where we are, letting God work through ordinary lives.

This Gospel also carries a gentle but honest challenge. Salt can lose its taste, and light can be hidden or covered up. When we live our faith half-heartedly, or keep it private out of fear, comfort, or a desire not to be noticed, the world misses something essential. Our faith was never meant to be locked away or lived only in safe spaces; it is meant to shape how we speak, how we act, and how we treat others each day. When our words and actions flow from prayer, humility, and love, they become signs that point beyond us. The goal is not to draw attention to ourselves, but—just as Jesus says—to let our light shine so that others may see goodness, hope, and mercy at work, and through that, give glory to the Father.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood:** You call servants to be salt and light for Your people. Raise up generous hearts for the diocesan priesthood, and give them courage to follow You with joy.

**Vocations Retreat Weekend for anyone** (18+) interested in the diocesan priesthood, in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Please register using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discrimen-retreat-for-the-diocesan-priesthood-tickets-1980332502825?aff=oddtdtcreator>. For further information, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com.

## Lenten Programme 2026

**Monday to Friday:** 7.45am Morning Prayer of the Church  
1.00pm Lunch-time Mass beginning on Ash Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup> February)

**Mondays:** 5.00pm -7.00pm Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Tuesdays:** 7.00pm Guided Meditation in the Mother Teresa Chapel

**Wednesdays:** 7.00pm "Reasons to have Faith" - Talk by Fr Paul Farren in the Cathedral

**Thursdays:** 1.30pm Stations of the Cross led by our Parish Schools  
8.00pm Fr Shaun Doherty will lead a Medjugorje style Holy Hour of prayer with music, adoration and reflection, with prayers of healing. *Come and pray with your heart.*

**Fridays:** 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

'Fish Fridays' - as this is the day when Jesus was crucified you are invited to give up meat on the Fridays in Lent in remembrance of His sacrifice for us.

## Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Berna McDevitt**  
**Danny Coyle**

May they rest in peace

## Collection

Weekly Collection: £ 6,327  
Parish Development: £1,182

**Thank you for your generosity**

## Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Trócaire:** £100  
**Hungry Children:** £5, £5  
**Gaza Appeal:** £100, £40, £20  
**Ukraine:** £100  
**SVdP:** £40, £50,  
**Sight Savers:** £40  
**Mary's Meals:** £100, £50  
**Concern:** £20

## Readers 14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> February

06.15pm Claire O'Kane  
07.30pm Helen Sweeney  
09.30am Rosemary Finan  
11.00am McGinley Readers  
12.30pm Kevin Finan  
07.00pm Marian Boyle

**Matt Talbot Urban Mystic** - A film about venerable Matt Talbot and his journey to freedom from addiction. Showing at 7.00pm on the 23rd February 2026 at Brunswick Movie Bowl. Pre-booking tickets recommended at <https://www.brunswickmoviebowl.com>

**We extend our congratulations to the children from the four primary schools in our parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation during the week.** This joyful celebration marks an important step in their journey of faith, as they are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This moment is also a grace-filled blessing for our entire parish community. We encourage everyone to keep these young people in prayer, asking the Lord to guide and protect them as they continue to grow as disciples of Christ.

**Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea** - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey, Roisin Rice, Lauren Doherty and The Villagers for a Musical Afternoon Tea. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 71262894 or email [cathedral@derrydiocese.org](mailto:cathedral@derrydiocese.org)

**The Cathedral Club meets on Thursdays after the 10am Mass.** Everyone is welcome to this parish social group who meet once a week in the Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road. Refreshments will be served.

**The Lourdes Hospitalite collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, takes place at this weekend Masses.** As in previous years, we appeal to your generosity for this worthwhile cause as we continue to provide the opportunity for people who need assistance, to travel to Lourdes.

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** takes place from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The Lourdes Office in the Pastoral Centre in Bishop Street, Derry, is now open Thursdays and Saturdays from 11am to 1pm. To enquire about availability please ring 02871 260293 and leave a message or email [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com). Alternatively contact JWT Dublin on 00 353 1 685 2244.

Vol 54 No 6  
Fifth Sunday  
In Ordinary Time  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**DEEDS – Supporting the Carer Talk Series.** The second talk in our Carers Information Sessions, funded by the Western Health and Social Care Trust, will focus on the costs associated with Residential Care. This information session will take place at the **Old Library Trust Healthy Living Centre**, Central Drive, Creggan, on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 12.00 noon**. Light refreshments will be provided. For further information or to register, please contact **Eilish** on **02871 373870** or email [eilish@olt.ie](mailto:eilish@olt.ie).

**Job Opportunity – Derry Diocesan Trust - Ardmore Parish: Sacristan – St Mary’s Church, Ardmore, Derry.** Part-time – 16 hours per week. The Sacristan will ensure effective security of the church and associated maintenance and cleaning whilst organising all associated liturgical requirements in line with diocesan guidelines. For application packs please telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org). Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop’s House, St Eugene’s Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org) no later than 12 noon on Monday 9th February 2026. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer.*

**It’s easy to see what alcohol is doing to the drinker but can you see what it is doing to you?** Al-Anon Family Groups can help. · Do you worry about how much someone else drinks? · Do you tell lies to cover up for someone else’s drinking? For further information contact the Al Anon confidential helpline on 0800 0086 811 or email [helpline@al-anonuk.org.uk](mailto:helpline@al-anonuk.org.uk) . Alternatively, phone 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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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](mailto: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

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty**