

Gospel Reflection Luke3:1-6

Today's Gospel is powerful in its significance: the long-awaited prophet, John the Baptist, has begun the work ordained for him by God and prophesied way back in the much-distant past by Isaiah. John's is the voice crying in the wilderness; he is the one preparing the way for the Lord, making his paths straight, filling in every valley and laying low every hill, straightening the winding ways and smoothing the rough ways. Through John's passionate ministry of repentance and forgiveness leading to reconciliation with God, the curtains of ambiguity are drawn back to reveal the arrival of the Son of God, Jesus, whose ministry focuses on tenderness, healing, forgiveness and love. Jesus, who always sees beyond the surface appearance of the sinner to the heart which reveals the remorse and anguished suffering often hiding there, fulfils Isaiah's prophesy that 'all mankind shall see the salvation of God.' John brings The Old Testament to its close. The New Testament begins with Jesus.

Jesus, as the season of Advent begins, as we prepare for the birth of our Saviour, help us to be the voice crying in the wilderness of a world which often seems lost and desolate. Help us to be heard as the voice of passionate belief in a loving God who holds in His cupped hand every tear we have ever shed; who has heard every sigh we have ever breathed, and who waits with infinite patience for us to reach out to Him, trusting in His wisdom and accepting that whatever befalls us is part of His perfect, loving plan for our salvation and eternal bliss.

It is time for us to begin our preparations for the beating heart of Christmas.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray for the future priests of the diocese of Derry that, like St John the Baptist, they will work to "... prepare the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight.... so that all mankind can see the salvation of God."

This year as the second Sunday of Advent falls on 8th December, **the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on Monday 9th December**, and is not a Holyday of Obligation. Mass times for Monday are 8.00am, 10.00am 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.

On the Way Home - In preparation for Christmas, there will be an opportunity for Confession and Adoration each Monday during Advent (9th, 16th & 23rd) 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 22nd 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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Cecilia Barr
Deirdre Doherty
Marian McCourt
Keith Mosedale

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Rita Harkin
Lily Cassidy
Betty McDevitt
Junior Thomas McKinney
Paula Doherty
Pascal Keys
Eilish Lafferty
Patsy Bradley
Martin Dunleavy
Nuala Grant (Née Sheehan)
Paddy Carlin

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Clodagh Rose Doherty
Isla Grace Temple
Ailbhe Aoibh Doherty

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,437
Parish Development: £1,100

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trócaire: £100, £50, £40
Admin's Choice: £50, £500
Mary's Meals: £100, £25, £200
Smile Train: £20, £50, £200
Sight Savers: £20
Medical Missions of Mary: £20
Gaza Appeal: £20
SVdP: £25

Readers 14th/15th December

06.15 pm Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm Stephen Orr
09.30 am Kay Mc Ginn
11.00 am St. Eugene's PS
12.30 pm Ursula Doherty
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couples who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

Catriona Hegarty &
Damien Butler
Gemma O'Connell &
Seán McKinney

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

St Eugene's Conference of St Vincent de Paul will take up their annual collection at all Masses this weekend.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are now available to buy at the Parish Office. Cost £2.

Parish Advent Pilgrimage on Thursday 12th December. 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

Digital Advent 2024 Calendar with the theme of 'Hope' is available daily throughout Advent on the Irish Bishops' Conference website, www.catholicbishops.ie. The Digital Calendar is a convenient, but special way to reflect, pray, and prepare with hope for Christmas and for the upcoming Jubilee 2025.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025 led by Bishop Donal McKeown, from Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July, leaving from City of Derry Airport. Price £849 plus insurance and single supplement if required. The Pilgrimage Office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ will not be open for booking until Saturday 1st February 2025, 11.00am to 1.00pm (and each following Saturday and Thursday at the same time unless notified). However, Gift Vouchers are now available from the Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Enquiries can be made by email to derrypilgrim@outlook.com

Our Lady of Montligeon Holy Souls of Purgatory Prayer Group meets every Monday in St Joseph's, Galliagh (Our Lady's side chapel), after 11.00am Mass, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. The next meeting for the intercession for Priests and Religious vocations takes place in Termonbacca on Tuesday 10^h December at 12.30pm. Please note: meetings in Kildare Room, St Brigid's, Carnhill, no longer take place.

Christmas Carols by Candlelight followed by Live Crib at 5.00pm, at St Patrick's Church, Crossroads, Killygordon, on Sunday 15th December. Hot Chocolate will be served! Everyone is welcome.

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal – Blessed Sacrament Guadalupe Procession following 11am Mass on Thursday 12th December at St Joseph's Church. Everyone is welcome.

Mary's Meals – Double The Love. All donations made to Mary's Meals are being doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £900,000. Please keep us in your prayers during this Advent season that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. Find out more at marysmeals.org.uk

Accord Derry - Marriage Preparation Workshops 2025. The following dates available: January 24th/25th February 21st/22nd March 28th/29th April 11th/12th May 30th/31st and June 20th/21st. All courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com. Please note that all these courses are in person and not virtual.

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 regarding 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 mariegormley@derrydiocese.org or contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral

Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of Northern) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

*Vol 51 No.48
Second Sunday
of Advent
8th December 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty