

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 3:16-18

At the heart of today's Gospel lies perfect love, the perfect love God has for humanity. It is this perfect love, out of which God always acts, which caused Him to send his beloved Son into our world to teach us how to live, and thereby save us from ourselves. Jesus' life is our clear example of how life should be lived. He taught us that only through great love and great suffering do we live fully in the light of God's love. Jesus, Son of God, became one with our woundedness to teach us not to hide from the light. This perfect love at the heart of today's Gospel offers us the beautiful consoling truth that God loves us not because we are good: God loves us because God is good.

Jesus, may we look anew at your life in the full knowledge that you are truly the Way, the Truth and the Life. You shared in all our humanity: our joys and our griefs, our suffering, our humiliations and even our deaths. Your response to the wrongs committed against you was always one of compassion and forgiveness. May we follow your Way always.

Jesus, may we remind ourselves every day of the two great commandments you taught us: love of God, and love of humankind. May we live our lives in the light of those commandments and in the light of your beautiful Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus, may our faith be steadfast and true, so that we are never lost in the darkness of ignorance and despair, but are living fully in the light of God's love, unafraid to embrace both great love and great suffering.

St Eugene's Cathedral – Lenten Programme

Confession and Adoration on the way home – Mondays from 5.00pm to 7.20pm

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45am Monday to Friday

Lunch-time Mass 1.00pm each weekday (Monday to Friday)

Lenten Holy Hour of prayer led by Fr Shaun, Thursday evenings from 8.00pm with adoration, reflection and music.

Lenten talk Tuesday 12th March 8.00pm - **Confirmation: “the Holy Spirit bursts through in our lives”** How do the sacraments help us to live life to the full? We focus this week on the Sacrament of Confirmation, the sacrament which confirms the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life and invites us to have the confidence to allow Him free reign in our life. Using a short video as a basis for reflection, there will be an opportunity for discussion/comment on the key message of the week, followed by a brief scripture passage and concluding with a prayer.

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

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray God's blessing on all those involved in a Vocations Retreat in Larne this weekend, for Fr Ryan Connors who is leading the retreat, for the Vocations Directors of the northern dioceses who helped organise it, and for the 28 men taking part in it, including 12 from our own diocese.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Michael McDaid
Eamonn McCamhill
Bill Ferry
Celine Dunleavy

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Bobby Michael Morrison
Flynn Laurence &
Lorcán Gerald Mitchell

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Readers for 16th / 17th March

06.15 pm Helen Sweeney

07.30 pm Caitlin Horner McLaughlin/
Cadi McHugh

09.30 am Kate Doherty

11.00 am McGinley Readers

12.30 pm Piaras O Meallain

07.00 pm Anna Begley

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,247

Parish Development: £1,032

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £25, £15

Mary's Meals: £20, £25

Foyle Hospice: £50

SVdP: £25

Gaza Appeal: £10

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Tuesday (pm): Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Chamberlain Street, Westland Street. Cable Street, Lower Road

Wednesday (pm): Mulvey Park, Beechwood Street, Elmwood Terrace, Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor

LIFE Camp 2024 – registration opens on Monday 11th March at 9.00am. Calling all pupils currently in Primary 3 – Primary 7. Week 1 – Monday 1st – Friday 5th July and Week 2 – Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July. Cost for each week is £40. To register visit <http://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Life%20Summer%20Camp>

St. Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th -24th October 2024. Cost £770 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £150 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894.

The Cathedral Club meets after the 10.00am Mass each Thursday in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group. Refreshments will be served.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea - Saturday 16th March at 1.30pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for an Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Derry Diocesan Youth Synod Gathering: Lizzie and Niamh of the Diocese of Derry Youth Team are inviting all young people or those who work with young people in parishes and schools in the diocese to an evening of sharing faith along with Tea, Chat and Prayer. This event will be held in the Cathedral Hall, on Tuesday, 12th March from 6:30pm- 8:00pm and in Maghera Pastoral Centre on Wednesday, 20th March 6:30pm-8:00pm. If you would like to register for any of these events, please email Lizzie on lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or phone 028 71264087.

Parents and Grandparents of boys in St Joseph's Boys' School are invited to a Mass in the school to celebrate St Joseph on Wednesday 20th March at 1.30pm. Please ring the school office on 02871262923 to confirm your attendance.

Upcoming events at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca:

Novena to Sleeping Saint Joseph from 11th – 19th March each evening at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

Lenten Retreat for Men - Saturday 16th March from 10.00am – 4.00pm. Talks given by Robert Nugent and Fr. Antonio Maria C.F.R. Cost for the day £15 including light lunch. For bookings e-mail: termonbaccaderry@gmail.com or call 71 262512.

Ladies Weekend Retreat - Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March. Conducted by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Cost £90 residential. £70 non-residential. For bookings e-mail: termonbaccaderry@gmail.com or call 71 262512.

A Saint Patrick's Way pilgrimage experience in Downpatrick on March 16th led by pilgrim guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly. Visit The Saint Patrick Centre, see IMAX film, & receive passport to walk with guides to Inch Abbey and Saul Church & St Patrick's grave. Lunch and bus transfers inc £35 pp. 9.00am-3.00pm More info contact the Centre on 02844 619000 (The walk is approx 6 miles).

Gala Concert in St Columb's Hall Sunday 24th March at 7.30pm. The Priests and soprano Margaret Keys will be performing. Tickets cost £30.00. Tickets can be purchased by going onto the Long Tower website www.longtowerchurch.org via the donate button. Alternatively, tickets will be sold after 6.00pm Saturday Vigil & 12 Noon Sunday Masses, at the rear of the Long Tower Church and from the Long Tower Parish Office on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2.30pm-4.00pm. For Further details email darinaghboyle15@gmail.com or longtower@derrydiocese.org.

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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty