

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 12:38-44

Jesus' message in today's Gospel is clear and direct: beware of confusing a cultivated image with true worth. The scribes, doctors of the law, were full of self-importance. They were in love with the awe their learning and function inspired in others, and unscrupulous regarding their own frequent tendency to exploit the most vulnerable in society: widows and orphans. Neither were they concerned about the discrepancy between their rigid interpretation of God's law where others were concerned, and their own dubious moral standards.

Today's Gospel is in two parts and these two parts are linked together in terms of the meaning they impart: it is the truth in the heart which God sees, and it is to the heart's truth that God responds. The widow appears in both parts of the Gospel, as an image of vulnerability in the first part who deserves to be protected, not exploited, and in the second part as an image of selfless generosity. She quietly gives from the little she has to the treasury and leaves herself with hardly anything. The rich give ostentatiously and expect their magnanimity to be loudly acknowledged.

Jesus, may we live our lives humbly, generously, and truthfully. The world often fails to see the truth which is in our hearts, but you always see that truth clearly. What lay in the widow's heart was an extraordinary generosity. What lay in the hearts of the scribes was duplicity, inordinate vanity, and greed. You and your heavenly Father see directly into the truth. May we live always in your light, openly, cleanly, and at one with your love.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – That those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry will have the generosity of the widow in today's gospel.

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Derry in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Derry, on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 8:00pm. All are welcome to come and pray for this special intention.

The deceased members of our families and friends will be remembered at each Mass throughout November at St Eugene's Cathedral. Please take a Remembrance Card from the back of the Cathedral, write down the names of your loved ones and place it in the basket on the Sanctuary.

If you have family away from home this Christmas and would like them to receive a Christmas card from the parish, please write their names and full postal address on a card available at the back of the Cathedral and return either at the Parish Office or in the box before 27th November.

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena continues after 7.30pm Mass on Thursdays finishing on 28th November. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady; that Christ gave His Mother to be our Mother, the Untier of Knots. We pray and entrust our specific "knots" to Her loving hands, learning how to let go of that which binds us.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Sean Kelly
Jack O'Doherty
Patsy Moore
Veronica McShane
Charles O'Donnell*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Johnny Doherty
Margaret McConomy
Frances Hasson
Michael McCaul
Lily McCafferty
Elma Harkin
Brendan McGrellis
George Holmes
David Holly
Joe & Anne Hegarty
Patsy Hegarty*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Noah Christopher Strawbridge
Faela Jean Ferry
Mia Grace McIvor*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,572
Parish Development: £1,006
Retired Priests Collection: £3,737

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Save the Children: £30
Gaza Appeal: ££20, £40
Mary's Meals: £25
SVdP: £25
Trócaire £60, £50
Smile Train: £50, £200
Sight Savers: £200
Homeless Charity: £40

Readers 16th /17th November

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

Parish Advent Pilgrimage on Thursday 12th December. Bus leaves the Cathedral at 9.30am and returns at approx. 4.45pm. Morning Prayer in the IOSAS Centre followed by refreshments, Mass in the Chapel of Ease in Fahan and lunch in the Inishowen Gateway 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

Christmas Afternoon Tea - Saturday 7th December at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for a Festive Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Cost £25. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 028 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Christmas Floral Workshop - Saturday 14th December at 12.00noon in the Cathedral Hall. Cost £20 which includes all flowers, sundries & refreshments. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 028 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

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

Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese, the latest edition of 'The Net' is available at the back of the Cathedral as well as on the Diocesan website. For coverage of faith related stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.com.

Thornhill Ministries: 'Sourcing the Hope Retreat' led by Philip McParland - an oasis day to nourish the soul. Saturday 16th November from 10.00 am - 1:30 pm in An Grianan Hotel, Burt. For details/to register: Please contact Erin on E: thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org or P: 07736832458

Trócaire School Volunteers: Are you a retired teacher or someone who has experience presenting to groups of school children? Do you have a passion for making this world a better place, especially for the most vulnerable? Trócaire is looking for volunteers to support our 2025 Lent Appeal in the Derry Diocese. If you think you have the right skills and experience and will be available to help during school hours over Lent, then we would love to hear from you. Full training and ongoing support will be provided. For more information, please call Naomi Purnell on 028 9080 8033 or email naomi.purnell@trocaire.org.

St Mary's College Christmas Craft Fair (Northland Road, Derry) - Saturday 30th November 2024 from 11.00am – 4.00pm. £1 Entry – Over 70 stalls - Café - Santa – Great family day out!

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