

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink

What we learn in today's Gospel is at the heart of our faith: Christ is the life-giving bread awaiting our hunger. St Augustine echoes what Jesus tells us in today's Gospel: God is the food and all we have to do is to provide the hunger. We know that God is in Jesus and Jesus promised that he would never leave us, that he would be with us forever. This is made manifest when, as a community of faith, we submit ourselves fully to the miracle of the Eucharist, to its constant and completely unearned grace. When we give ourselves over fully to the unearned grace of the Eucharist, we experience profound gratitude and transformative joy. Someone once stated that sinners are, more often than not, more hungry than 'saints', a statement which is at once comforting, provocative and challenging, a statement which comforts our guilty selves, challenges our spiritual inertia, and provokes us into opening ourselves fully to our hunger for God and the appeasement of that hunger in the Eucharist.

Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of pride, egotism and self-righteousness, all of which leave no room for our hunger for God.

Jesus, may we always remember that when we receive the unearned grace of the Eucharist, we take into ourselves your life, your death, your surrender to the will of your Father. In other words, we take into ourselves your great gift of yourself. Help us to take the time to sit with you and meditate on this truth with humble gratitude. Amen

Cemetery Sunday - The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 25th June 2023 at **3.00 pm**.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg Friday 23rd- Sunday 25th of June. We are inviting anyone age 16+ to join us for our annual pilgrimage to Lough Derg on Friday 23rd June to Sunday 25th June. Bishop McKeown will be leading the pilgrimage this year and invites those who wish to join him to book by calling the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre Tel: + 44 28 71264087 or email: lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org. The cost is £80 for three nights, including transport from Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Derry. You may wish to make your own way there, if more convenient. Please contact the email or telephone number above if you require any additional information.

A Silent Weekend Retreat will be held in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca from Friday 16th June until Sunday 18th June. Cost £90. For further details and bookings telephone 71 262512.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Grainne Maguire
Mary Morrow
George Paige
Mary & Hugh Bell
Patrick & Rose McCaul
May Nugent
Deirdre McGinley*

May they rest in peace

Readers for 17th /18th June

06.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Eilish Friel
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £1,000
Altar Flowers: £100, £65, £100
Carlo Acutis Statue: £100
Trocaire: £500, £50, £200
Sight Savers: £300
Smile Train: £300
Mary's Meals: £300, £25
Turkey/Syria Appeal: £200
Ukraine Appeal: £200
SVdP: £25, £5

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,324
Parish Development: £987

Thank you for your generosity

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) would like to acknowledge with thanks a contribution of £20.

The Annual Concern Scalp Walk, Burnfoot, Co. Donegal takes place on Sunday 18th June 2023, starting time 2.00pm. Water will be provided. Please remember hats and sun protection. Donations accepted at starting point or at the Concern Bookshop, Ferryquay Street or online via www.justgiving.com/page/derryscalp

Day for Life 2023 - Day for Life is celebrated this year on Sunday 18th June. The theme is 'Listen to Her' and focuses on the experience of one Catholic woman in the aftermath of abortion. It tells of her journey towards healing. The hope is that this will help people to listen, to understand and to respond with compassion. You can read the message in full on www.councilforlife.ie

Rosary on the Coast - The next Rosary on the Coast will be on Sunday 18th June at 3.00pm on Benone Strand, Limavady. All Rosary Coasters welcome and remember to invite your families and friends along too.

Music for A Summer's Evening Concert: Join International Chart-topping singers Fr Eugene O'Hagan from the multi-platinum selling classical group "The Priests" and International award winning singer Margaret Keys at Christ Church, Derry on the 17th June at 7.30pm, together with the stunning Scala Strings Orchestra and guest choir for what promises to be a night of uplifting and much loved music. Performing a wide range of music from much loved classical favourites, songs from the shows, Irish favourites and popular ballads this is an evening not to be missed! Tickets are priced at £20. You can book via [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie) or call 07812588010 for tickets.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias

Charity Independence Day Afternoon Tea Dance on Monday 3rd July from 2.00pm to 6.00pm at Brigade Cricket Club, to raise funds for Foyle Down Syndrome Trust. Food, music, dancing, raffle plus much more. Music by Marty McColgan. Tickets cost £5 or pay at the door.

Wellness Event – Lumen Christi College: Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00pm. Expert advice from guest speakers to help support young people make responsible decisions around social media (Claire Heaney from Dry Arch Centre), alcohol and drugs (Gary Rutherford from ARC Fitness). Blood pressure checks also available on the evening. Everyone welcome.

Sean Davis 4 Day Outdoor Summer Fun Soccer Academy takes place at Templemore Sports Complex on Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th July 2023. Boys and girls aged 5 to 18 years are welcome. Times: 10:00 am to 3.00 pm. For further details Tel. Sean Davis FAI, IFA, FA European A Licence Coach on 028 71263044.

The Centre Social Supermarket is a wraparound project which helps residents in need through weekly check-ins and referrals. We can assist with food poverty, money management, education and training, mental health support, volunteering opportunities, social interaction and much more. Meet the team, call in for a chat to Pilots Row Centre, Rossville Street or give us a call on 02871 261916.

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 with regard to 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 Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.