

A short Gospel reflection John 20:19-31

Today's Gospel is especially fitting because it is proclaimed on Divine Mercy Sunday, a day that reveals the very heart of the risen Christ.

The disciples are gathered in fear behind locked doors, yet Jesus comes to them not with reproach, but with mercy: "Peace be with you." He shows them His wounds - not to accuse, but to reassure them that His love is stronger than sin and death. In that moment, we see what Divine Mercy truly means: God does not turn away from our weakness; He enters into it, bringing forgiveness, healing, and peace.

When Jesus breathes on the disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them," He entrusts to the Church the mission of mercy. This is at the heart of Divine Mercy Sunday - an invitation to encounter Christ's forgiveness in a real and personal way, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Thomas' story also takes on new meaning here. His doubt is met with patience and compassion. Jesus invites him to touch His wounds, leading Thomas to that profound confession: "My Lord and my God!" Divine Mercy does not demand perfect faith at the outset; it meets us in our struggles and gently leads us to deeper faith and trust.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are reminded that no door is too tightly shut, no sin too great, no doubt too heavy for Christ to enter. He comes to us again and again with the same words: "Peace be with you." And He sends us out to share that mercy with others.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: On this Divine Mercy Sunday we pray for our seminarians and the future priests of the diocese as we hear Jesus sending the disciples out in the power of His Holy Spirit to preach a message of forgiveness of sins and the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Divine Mercy 3 O'clock prayer - You expired, Lord Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You. Amen

St Eugene's Cathedral Parish Draw – only 200 tickets available! 10 monthly draws at £20 per draw beginning May 2026. Monthly fee for all draws can be paid in full or monthly. Entries paid in full will be entered into a draw for £500. Prizes per month £1,000, £500 and 5 x £100. The draw will raise funds for necessary repair, maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful Cathedral. Registration for the draw will close on 30th April 2026. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

St Eugene's Cathedral Choir will present "Exploring Mystery" a concert on Friday 24th April at 8.30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. This concert is a celebration in thanksgiving for the work of Bishop McKeown on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination. There will be a retiring collection in support of the Choral Scholar's Scheme.

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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Lorraine McLaughlin
George Boyle
Maureen Dugan
Helen Stevenson
Dorothy Hegarty*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Mary Holden
Eddie Doherty
Tommy Bonner
Margaret McLaughlin
Patricia McCallion
Mary Carlin
John Spangler*

May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Laura Gorman & Niall Gallagher
who celebrated the Sacrament of
Marriage recently in the Cathedral
*May God bless you abundantly in love,
joy and happiness*

Collection

Weekly Collection: £7,438
Parish Development Collection: £1,505
Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Mary's Meals: £100
Trócaire: £100
Smile Train: £40
Sight Savers: £40

Readers 18th /19th April

06.15pm Mary Morrison
07.30pm Helen Sweeney
09.30am Rosemary Finan
11.00am McGinley Readers
12.30pm Megan Dallat
07.00pm Marian Boyle

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) acknowledges with gratitude a donation of £160.

St Eugene's Cathedral Scholars: Applications will open on 27th April for the 2026-2027 Choral Scholars Scheme. The scheme is open to all full-time students over the age of 16. The choral scholars sing with the cathedral choir weekly as well as other special events as instructed by the director of music. They will receive instruction in a wide range of choral music, and they receive a stipend for their participation. Entrance is by application only. For an application form contact the director of music at maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com. Deadline for applications is 11th May 2026.

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima - We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 5 nights from 3rd to 8th August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £820 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

Child Safeguarding – Full Introductory Training will be held on Saturday 30th May in the Cathedral Hall from 10am to 2pm. Child Safeguarding Training is relevant to those involved in Church activity that involves children e.g. clergy, leaders/co-ordinators/volunteers and any personnel with a key responsibility for child safeguarding. Bookings can be made by contacting the Safeguarding Office either by telephone on 028 7136 2475 or email safeguarding@derrydiocese.org.

'Shepherding Talent' Online Programme - *Aspire to Serve, Inspire to Lead*: In partnership with St Mary's University Twickenham, the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre is offering this programme. *'Shepherding Talent'* is a pioneering programme from the university, in which teaching professionals with leadership potential are challenged to explore their vocation to lead. Aimed at all teaching professionals in Catholic schools, this programme is delivered in the context of Catholic School education. It will be delivered over five weeks, with each session taking two hours. The total cost is £250. The first session takes place on Wednesday 29th April 2026, 4.30 – 6.30pm. For further information and registration please email: tferry@derrydiocese.org.

Marriage Preparation Workshops: April 24th/25th, May 15th/16th, June 19th/20th 2026. These courses are available online for booking at www.accordni.com. Please note that Accord Derry will NOT be facilitating courses during July or August.

Annual Sr Clare Retreat at St Columba's Church, Long Tower: "I prefer Paradise" - Remembering Sr Clare's 10th Anniversary 13th to 19th April. Monday - Friday - Daily Mass - 7am & 10am, 7pm Evening Service with Benediction & Guest Speaker. Wednesday 15th: 7pm - Eucharistic Healing. Thursday 16th: Solemn Concelebrated Mass to mark the 10th Anniversary of Sr Clare. Saturday 18th: 10am - Mass with Anointing of the Sick. 3pm - Service with Benediction and Guest Speaker. Sunday 19th April: 3pm - Closing Mass celebrated by Most Rev Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry. All are very welcome.

A Concert will be held in St Columba's Cathedral, Derry on Saturday 9th May at 7.30pm, featuring the visiting High Point University Chamber Singers. Performances will include modern and traditional sacred, spiritual and gospel music. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

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 within the Church please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +447596500793 or email: 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