

A short Gospel reflection John 9:1-41

In today's Gospel, Jesus heals a man who has been blind since birth. At first glance, the miracle is about physical sight, but as the story unfolds it becomes clear that the deeper issue is spiritual sight.

The man who was blind gradually comes to see not only with his eyes, but with faith. At first, he simply calls Jesus "the man called Jesus." Later he recognises him as a prophet, and finally he proclaims, "Lord, I believe," and worships him. His sight grows step by step. Meanwhile, those who think they can see clearly – the Pharisees – remain spiritually blind. They are so certain of their own understanding that they cannot recognise what God is doing before their eyes.

Lent invites us to ask an important question: Where might we still be blind? Perhaps in the way we judge others, in the way we see ourselves, or in the way we recognise God at work in our lives.

Christ comes as the light of the world. When we allow his light to reach the hidden places of our hearts, our vision begins to change. Like the man in the Gospel, we too can grow in faith until we are able to say with confidence: "Lord, I believe."

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: Heavenly Father, you rejoice when the lost are found. Call generous men to the priesthood who will reveal your mercy and lead your people back to you.

Holy Hour for Vocations: There will be a Holy Hour for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Derry, on Monday 16th March at 8:00pm. All are welcome to join us for this time of prayer.

Lenten Programme 2026

- Monday to Friday:** 7.45am Morning Prayer of the Church
1.00pm Lunch-time Mass
- Mondays:** 5.00pm -7.00pm Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Tuesdays:** 7.00pm Guided Meditation in the Mother Teresa Chapel
- Wednesdays:** 7.00pm "Reasons to have Faith" - Talk by Fr Paul Farren in the Cathedral
- Thursdays:** 1.30pm Stations of the Cross led by our Parish Schools
8.00pm Fr Shaun Doherty will lead a Medjugorje style Holy Hour of prayer with music, adoration and reflection, with prayers of healing. *Come and pray with your heart.*
- Fridays:** 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

'Fish Fridays' - as this is the day when Jesus was crucified you are invited to give up meat on the Fridays in Lent in remembrance of His sacrifice for us.

Tuesday 17th March – Feast of St Patrick. St Patrick brought the Christian Gospel to Ireland in a way nobody else did, leaving behind a permanent memory that has united Irish people over the centuries and across the world. On the feast of St Patrick, we pray that we will remain strong in love and faithful to the way of Christ.

Monday 16th March – Vigil Masses at 6.15pm & 7.30pm

Tuesday 17th March – 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm

There will be a collection for Clerical Education and ongoing formation at all Masses.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Lily Sweeney
Catherine Devlin
John Keys
Brian Deehan*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Tillie Ferris
Justin Morrow
Peggy Quigley
Celine Dunleavy
Rev Fr Connell Harkin
Connell Harkin (Senior)
Christine Ann Cullen
Nora & Peter Toland
Willie O'Reilly*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Carter Thomas O'Donoghue
Jayden Cody Molero*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Readers 21st /22nd March

06.15pm Garth Tucker
07.30pm Helen Sweeney
09.30am Barry McDauid
11.00am Rosemount PS
12.30pm Jackie Tyre
7.00pm Anna Begley

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,487
Parish Development Collection: £1,146
Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £100, £60
Trócaire: £20
Sight Savers: £60, £10
Mary's Meals: £50
SVdP: £50, £1,000, £20
Cancer Research: £80
St Anthony Charity: £100

Celebrate St Patrick's Day with the Columba Community at the Iosas Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Derryvane Road, Muff F93 F104 tele 00353 74 9384866. Tasty treats served in the Iosas Centre from 11am to 4.30pm. Mass will be celebrated at 3.00pm in St Canice's Oratory. All are welcome to join in this special celebration.

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

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

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.

Derry Diocesan Trust - Parish Catechist - Three Patrons Parish. 35 Hours per week Permanent – 3 years Fixed Term Contract. Reporting to the Parish Priest, Three Patrons Parish is recruiting a Parish Catechist. For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to recruitment@derrydiocese.org no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 24th March 2026. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.*

The Legion of Mary will hold their Annual Acies Ceremony with Holy Mass in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh on Sunday, 22nd March at 3.00 pm. Auxiliary members are especially invited and warmly encouraged to attend this important annual gathering.

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

Accord Facilitators Needed. Accord is inviting volunteers to train as facilitators for its Marriage Preparation Programmes, supporting couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Facilitators work as part of a small local team and help lead up to four programmes each year. Free professional training is provided. To find out more or apply: Tel: 00353 (0)1 505 3112 Email: marriagepreparation@accord.ie Closing date for applications: 29th May 2026. Please consider sharing your experience of marriage to support couples preparing for this important sacrament.

Foyle Hospice “Make a Will Month”: During the month of March local solicitors very kindly agree to waive their usual Will-writing fee in return for a suggested £100 donation to Foyle Hospice. A list of participating solicitors can be found at foylehospice.com/make-a-will/ or by calling Kathleen at the Foyle Hospice on 028 71 359888. Money raised will ensure Foyle Hospice can continue to deliver high quality specialist palliative care and end of life care to those in our community with life-limiting illness.

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