

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

Today's Gospel contains an exchange between Jesus and a Canaanite woman in which Jesus appears to exercise racism and elitism to a degree which shocks us to the core. But is this what is really taking place! Is Jesus a victim of inherited prejudice and an unquestioning acceptance of Jewish supremacy? Or is he demonstrating effectively what happens when we fail to reach out in love to all mankind: when we fail to realise that it is God's will and the will of Jesus, His beloved Son, for us to grow in universal love and care as opposed to self-love, racism and the false notion of selected supremacy! What happens is that a child remains suffering in torment while a loving mother is forced to watch on in helpless anguish. Jesus always sees into the truth which lives in the heart. He sees into the heart of the Canaanite woman. He sees her love for her tormented child. He sees her willingness to suffer insult for the sake of her child. And he sees her unflinching faith in him as her child's only hope.

Jesus, may we grow and mature daily in universal love and care, away from 'self-love and elitism' in the knowledge that it is your will that we do so.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: That the men called to priesthood will "... have a care for justice (and) act with integrity..." as they preach the message of God's salvation for everyone, the Good News that the Church is "a house of prayer for all the peoples".

"Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons" 2026 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly opened on Saturday 8th August at 11.00am. Exhibition times are 11.00am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Creggan Street, Derry, BT48 9AP. The Exhibition will run until 18th August and everyone is welcome.

The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place at Knock Shrine from Thursday 13th to Friday 21st August 2026. Novena ceremonies will be celebrated daily at 3.00pm and 8.00pm, with workshops and guided prayer sessions also taking place throughout the nine days. This year's theme is "Sheltered in God's Love." See the full program at www.knockshrine.ie.

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 18 August at 7.30pm. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive mental health and to pray for those who are struggling with mental health issues and those who care for them.

Prayer to Our Lady of Mental Peace

Mother of tranquillity, Mother of Hope, Our Lady of Mental Peace. We reach out to you for what is needful in our weakness. Teach a searching heart that God's love is unchanging, that human love begins and grows by touching God's love.

Let your gentle peace – which the world cannot give – be always with me. And help me to bring this same peace into the lives of others.

Our Lady of Mental Peace – pray for me.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Bobby Moran

Kay Callaghan

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Sibeal Sharkey

Kathleen Bierwas

Martin Gillespie

Sean Paul Boyle

Majella Quigley

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Daire Bennett Cassidy

Harrison Dean Quigley

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

St Joseph's Boys' School – Return to school information:

Year 12 and 14 – Monday 24 August 2026

Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 – Wednesday 26 August 2026

Year 8 and Year 13 – Friday 28 August 2026

All year groups full return – Tuesday 1st September 2026 – **All classes will attend from Tuesday 1st September from 8.40am – 3.00pm**

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,273

Parish Development: £1,016

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £50, £30, £200

Sightsavers: £50, £30, £10, £200

Mary's Meals: £30

Hungry Children: £5

Trócaire: £200

St Vincent de Paul: £200

Concern: £200

Readers for 22nd/23rd August

6.15pm Amulya George

7.30pm Garth Tucker

9.30am Kay McGinn

11.00am Mickey Kerr

12.30pm Michael Wilson

7.00pm Marian Boyle

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Fiona Corr & Stephen Matthewson

Lauren Doherty & Caolan Cassidy

who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Job Opportunity, Derry Diocesan Trust: Administrative & Financial Officer (18 hours per week), Waterside Parish, Parochial House, 32 Chapel Road, Derry. Rate of pay: £12.88 per hr - £13.50 per hr. For application packs please email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 7126 2302. 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 Monday 24 August 2026. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.*

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Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
16th August 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Personal Assistants Wanted: The Churches Trust is recruiting people for flexible part-time work supporting and befriending elderly people living independently at home. No experience required – training and support provided. Full clean driving licence and access to a vehicle is required. For more information, call **02871 311322**.

Accord Derry – Marriage Preparation Workshops 2026 - Accord Derry is pleased to announce upcoming Marriage Preparation Workshops taking place in 2026. These courses are designed to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. The remaining available dates for 2026 are as follows:

- **September:** 25th–26th 2026
- **November:** 20th–21st 2026

All courses are now available for online booking at: www.accordni.com.

Please note that **Accord Derry will not be facilitating Marriage Preparation Courses during October or December 2026**. Couples are encouraged to book early to secure a place on their preferred date.

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 23