

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

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us to "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." His words invite us to reflect on our priorities, our responsibilities and the place God holds in our lives. While we have duties to our families, communities and society, our relationship with God must always remain at the centre.

Giving to God what belongs to God means more than attending Mass or saying our prayers. It means living our faith through love, kindness, forgiveness and compassion. When we care for the vulnerable, support those in need and reach out to the lonely, we make God's love visible through our actions.

In the busyness of everyday life, we can sometimes forget to make time for God. Today's Gospel reminds us that our possessions and achievements should never take his place in our hearts. What matters most is how we use our gifts and blessings to serve God and others.

As we reflect on today's Gospel, let us ask ourselves: Am I putting God first? Am I using my gifts for the good of others? Do my words and actions reflect the love of Christ?

May we have the courage to put God first, the generosity to serve others and the humility to recognise his presence in everyone we meet.

Lord, help us to give you what truly belongs to you: our hearts, our lives and our love. Guide us to serve others with kindness and generosity, and may everything we say and do bring glory to your holy name. Amen.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood:** St Paul could have written this passage from today's Second Reading to our seminarians and to the men discerning their vocation: "We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction."

**Mission Sunday 2026 – One in Christ, United in Mission.** Mission Sunday, celebrated today, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026, invites us to renew our commitment to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with people throughout the world. It is a special opportunity to pray for missionaries and the communities they serve, and to support their work through our generosity. Across the world, missionaries bring hope, comfort and practical help to those in need, often in challenging circumstances.

As a parish community, we are reminded that mission begins with each of us. Through our prayers, kindness and willingness to serve others, we can make Christ's love visible in our homes, our parish and the wider world. May this Mission Sunday inspire us to be joyful witnesses to the Gospel, sharing God's love with everyone we meet.

**The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena** - The Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots continues after the 7.30pm Mass on Thursdays, in St Eugene's Cathedral, concluding on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady, and that Christ gave us His Mother as Our Lady, Untier of Knots. Through this devotion, we entrust our personal "knots" to her loving care - learning to let go and allowing her to gently untie what binds us. All are welcome to join in prayer and reflection during this special time of grace.

#### **Sympathy**

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Margaret McGilloway  
Seamus Quigg***

May they rest in peace

#### **Anniversaries**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Christine Curran  
Jack Knight  
Margaret Knight***

May they rest in peace

#### **Sacrament of Marriage**

We congratulate

***Sarah Kennedy & Ryan Hegarty***  
who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral  
*May God bless you abundantly in love,  
joy and happiness*

#### **Sick Visitation**

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care on Monday and Wednesday.

#### **Collection**

Weekly Collection: £5,562

Parish Development: £1,183

***Thank you for your generosity***

#### **Thank you**

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Mary's Meals:** £100, £60

**Smile Train:** £100, £50, £20, €10

**Sight Savers:** £50

**Somalia Appeal:** £40

**Rosemount Primary School:** £500

**Legion of Mary (Derry):** £500

**Hungry Children:** £50, £50

#### **Readers for 24<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> October**

6.15pm Helen Sweeney

7.30pm Niamh Kehoe

9.30am Rosemary Finan

11.00am McGinley Readers

12.30pm Kevin Finan

7.00pm Marian Boyle

**Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, Loreto, Cascia & Assisi, Italy – 24-31 May 2027** – Fr Paul Farren will lead a Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, Loreto, Cascia & Assisi, Italy from 24-31 May 2027. Price is £1,550 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £245 (subject to availability). For more information please contact Anne Marie Hickey, Pastoral Co-ordinator on [amhickey@derrydiocese.org](mailto:amhickey@derrydiocese.org) or phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894.

**Would you like to become an Altar Server in St Eugene's Cathedral?** We are recruiting for anyone who is in Primary 5 and upwards, to come and serve at our weekend Masses. If you are interested in becoming an altar server, please email Lauren at [lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org) or phone the parish office on 02871 262894 for more information.'

**Called to Serve: A Day of Support and Inspiration for Parish Ministry on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10am to 3.00pm in Knock Shrine.** Are you involved in ministry in your parish, or interested in becoming more involved? Join us at Knock Shrine for a day of encouragement, learning, and sharing.

Whether you are a Minister of the Eucharist, Minister of the Word, Sacristan, in your parish choir, interested in developing a Sensory Mass, or looking for ways to engage young people more actively in parish life, this day is for you.

Come together with others involved in parish ministry to gain practical ideas, share experiences, and maybe be a little inspired! For more information visit <https://www.knockshrine.ie/upcoming-events/>

**Accord Derry Marriage Preparation Courses January 2027 to March 2027 are now online for booking.** The courses can be booked on the website [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com). All of these courses are in person.

**Struggling to understand how Direct Payments work? Looking for more information on how they could support you or someone you care for?** Join us for a free information session delivered by The Centre for Independent Living, where you'll learn more about Direct Payments, how to access them, and the benefits they can provide.

The session will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 12 noon in Health for Life HLC, Central Drive, Creggan, BT48 9QG. To book your place or find out more, contact Eilish Brown at [eilish.brown@healthforlifew.org](mailto:eilish.brown@healthforlifew.org)

**Book of Memories of Father Paddy O’Kane.** A new book is being planned about well-known Derry priest Father Paddy O’Kane, who died in 2022. Due for publication next year, it will include memories and stories from those who knew him, alongside selections from his *Derry News* column. If you have a memory or story to share, author Ciaran O’Neill would be delighted to hear from you. Email: [caoneill1971@gmail.com](mailto:caoneill1971@gmail.com)  
Phone: 07875 904354

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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](mailto: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

*Vol 54 No 41  
Twenty-ninth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2026*

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty**