

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the labourers in the vineyard. Some have worked from early morning, while others arrive only at the last hour. Yet, when the time comes to receive their payment, all receive the same reward. Those who have worked longest are surprised and perhaps disappointed, but the landowner reminds them: "Why be envious because I am generous?"

The parable reminds us that God's love and mercy cannot be measured by our human calculations. We can easily fall into the temptation of comparing ourselves with others - wondering who has done more, who has sacrificed more, or who deserves more. But God's generosity is not limited by our sense of fairness. His grace is a gift, freely offered to everyone. There is always a place in God's vineyard - for those who have been faithful for many years, for those who are returning to faith, and for those who are only beginning their journey.

This message is particularly fitting today as we celebrate the installation of the Most Rev Michael Router as Bishop of Derry. It is a moment of joy and hope for the Diocese of Derry, as Bishop Michael begins this new chapter of his ministry among the people entrusted to his care. We pray that he will be a shepherd after the heart of Christ: generous in spirit, attentive to those he serves, compassionate towards those who are struggling, and ready to welcome all into the life of the Church.

As Bishop Michael begins this new chapter of service, may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen him in all that lies ahead. May he be given wisdom in his decisions, courage in times of difficulty, and a deep sense of the presence of God in his ministry. May his leadership help the people of the Diocese of Derry to grow together in faith, hope and love, and may he encourage each person to recognise the gifts and vocation God has given them. May this new chapter also remind us that the Church is God's vineyard, and that there is work for each of us to do. Some may have served for many years; others may feel that they have little to offer. Yet the Lord continues to call, inviting each of us to take our place and to share in his work. As we give thanks for Bishop Michael and pray for his ministry, may each of us hear again the Lord's invitation to work in his vineyard. May we do so not with a spirit of comparison or resentment, but with gratitude for the abundant generosity of God's grace, trusting that there is room for everyone in the heart of God.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: For the future priests of our diocese that, in everything they say and do, they will reflect the ways, thoughts, and generous mercy of God in their ministry.

Are you 18 years or older and thinking or wondering about serving the Church as a priest of the diocese of Derry? There will be an afternoon Talk with time for prayer, discussion, questions & answers in Derry on Sunday 11th October. For further details please contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

Save the Date: Saint Carlo Acutis Day of Prayer. You are invited to come to St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Sunday 11th October from 2.00pm where we will have Veneration of a First Class Relic of St Carlo Acutis, gifted to the Cathedral by Carlo's mother, Antonia. The Sacrament of Confession will be available from 2.00pm until Mass at 7.00pm, which will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Router. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Mother Teresa Chapel during the Celebrations. A short film on Carlo's life will be shown in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to this special time.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Malachy Kyle

Niall McHugh

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Margaret McMahon

Joseph McVey

Fr John Downey

Bridget Herron

Leo Kelly

William Cullen

Sally Devine

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Daithí Valentine Dessie Kenny

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Eimear Carlin & Colm Quinn

Sarah Cox & Glenn Gourley

Claire Duddy & Brendan Pimley

who celebrated the Sacrament of

Marriage recently in the Cathedral

*May God bless you abundantly in love,
joy and happiness*

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,482

Parish Development: £1,022

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £200

Hungry Children: £100

Mary's Meals: £100, £20

Smile Train: £100, £20, £25

Indonesia Earthquake Appeal: £50

Sight Savers: £20

MND Association: £50

Cathedral Funds: £25

Water Aid: £25

Food Bank: £25

Trócaire: £75

Flowers for the Altar: £50

Readers for 26th /27th September

6.15pm Garth Tucker

7.30pm Niamh Kehoe

9.30am Kay McGinn

11.00am McGinley Readers

12.30pm Marie Canning

7.00pm Anna Begley

Sick Visitation

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

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena - The Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots will begin after the 7.30pm Mass on Thursday, 1st October in Saint Eugene's Cathedral. It will continue for the following eight Thursdays, concluding on 26th November.

Do you have "knots" in your life? Knots of discord in your family, unresolved pain in relationships, or a lack of peace and joy in your home? Sometimes life can feel like one overwhelming knot, especially when we face health challenges or burdens beyond our control. 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.

Eucharistic Adoration: Derry Diocese is renewing and developing its Diocesan Adoration Lay Committee in order to increase the practice of Eucharistic Adoration in parishes throughout the diocese. You are welcome to attend an Information Meeting on Wednesday 30th September at 8.00pm, in The Drummond Hotel, 2 Main Street, Ballykelly. Registration and light refreshments from 7.30pm.

Ulster Retreat Day – Catholic Mothers Ireland invite you to their Ulster Retreat Day on Saturday, 3rd October, from 10am – 6pm at Benburb Priory. A day of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal with guest speakers Fr Barry Matthews, Fr Gerry Campbell, Helen Stewart and Jim Deeds. Lunch and refreshments provided. Cost: £45. Booking: www.catholicmothers.ie/retreats All welcome — bring a friend.

Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk- The Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk takes place on Monday 21st September at 6.30pm. The 5K walk will begin on the Quay, next to PureGym, and continue down to the lower deck of Craigavon Bridge, along the Greenway, across the Peace Bridge, before returning to the starting point. Everyone is welcome to join us. We look forward to seeing you there and walking together in support of those affected by dementia.

Host for Hospice: October is officially Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning Month. We are calling on supporters to help us raise vital funds by hosting a Coffee Morning. Whether it's at home, work or in your local community, you can support your local hospice by bringing your friends together and putting the kettle on - it's a piece of cake! To request your FREE host pack or for more info, please call Ailbhe McDaid, Community Fundraiser, Foyle Hospice, on 028 7135 9888 or email: ailbhe@foylehospice.com

Ulster Project – The application process for teens for Ulster Project 2027 is now open. Teens must be 15 on or before 1st July year of travel (2027). Must be available for regular meetings and fundraising events. Ideally teens should have a faith-based background and from within the city. Dates of travel to be confirmed. Teens will be expected to fundraise. If you are interested and would like more information, please request a fact sheet and application form please email: ulsterprojectderrylondonderry@outlook.com. Closing date: 30th September 2026. We do expect to be oversubscribed in applications for the limited number of places we have and interviews will be held.

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

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
20th September 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty