

A short Gospel reflection Matthew 4:1-11

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus led by the Spirit into the desert, where He fasts for forty days and is tempted by the devil. At the very beginning of His public ministry, He faces hunger, pride, and the lure of power. In moments of real weakness and physical exhaustion, the tempter approaches Him. Yet each time, Jesus responds not with anger or argument, but with calm trust in His Father and firm reliance on the Word of God.

Where Adam failed in the garden and Israel stumbled in the wilderness, Jesus remains faithful. He relives those moments of testing and transforms them through obedience. He shows us that temptation itself is not sin; rather, it is an opportunity to choose God again, to renew our trust, and to strengthen our love. In resisting the devil, Christ reveals His total dependence on the Father and sets before us a path of fidelity.

Especially during Lent, this Gospel reminds us that our own "desert" moments — struggles, doubts, sacrifices, and times of dryness — are not meaningless. When united with Christ, they can become places of grace. By prayer, fasting, and trust in God's Word, we share in His victory, grow stronger in faith, and allow the Lord to shape our hearts more fully according to His will.

Vocations Retreat Weekend for anyone (18+) interested in the diocesan priesthood, in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Friday 6th - Sunday 8th March 2026. Please register using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discernment-retreat-for-the-diocesan-priesthood-tickets-1980332502825?aff=oddtcreator>. For further information, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com.

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.

The Forty Hours Adoration begins today (Sunday) following the 12.30pm Mass. All parishioners are warmly invited to come and spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Matt Talbot Urban Mystic - A film about venerable Matt Talbot and his journey to freedom from addiction. Showing at 7.00pm on the 23rd February 2026 at Brunswick Movie Bowl. Pre-booking tickets recommended at brunswickmoviebowl.com

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Cathy McDermott
Brian McKinney**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Noel McGrory
Michael Cullen
Harry & Emma O'Connor
Padraig Tucker**

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

**Eadie Florence Downey
Olivia May Clarke
Cálaeb Iman Nicholson
Cael Oisin Ward**

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Readers 28th February/1st March

- 06.15pm Karen O'Brien
07.30pm Helen Sweeney
09.30am Eva Marie Mallon/
Caragh McSheffrey
11.00am McGinley Readers
12.30pm Michael Wilson
07.00pm Marian Boyle

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,707
Parish Development Collection: £961

Thank you for your generosity

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Monday: Lisfannon Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Cable Street, Lower Road, Abbey House, Little Diamond

Tuesday: Mulvey Park, Laburnum Terrace, Elmwood Terrace, Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor, Grangemore, Northland Road

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Flowers for the Altar: £20, £40
Smile Train: £40
Mary's Meals: £20, £30, £100
Ukraine: £100
Hungry Children: £5
Trócaire: £20

Sick Visitation

Fr Shaun Doherty will attend the sick and housebound in his care on Tuesday and Friday.

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.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea - Saturday 14th March at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey, Roisin Rice, Lauren Doherty and The Villagers for a Musical Afternoon Tea. Cost £25. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Children in Crossfire are deeply grateful for all the kind support for their 2025 Advent Appeal. St Eugene's Cathedral Parish contributed an amazing £1029.68 & €6.77, which is greatly appreciated. Funds raised will help improve the lives of children and families in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, providing access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and family support.

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart - parishioners who wish to take a short-term pledge for Lent are invited to visit www.pioneers.ie or contact the Parish office.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July. The Lourdes Office in the Pastoral Centre in Bishop Street, Derry, is now open Thursdays and Saturdays from 11am to 1pm. To enquire about availability please ring 02871 260293 and leave a message or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com. Alternatively contact JWT Dublin on 00 353 1 685 2244.

You are invited to come on a St Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk in Downpatrick with guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on Saturday March 14th in honour of Ireland's patron saint and the 25th Anniversary of The Saint Patrick Centre. Includes the fabulous 180° IMAX film of St Patrick, with internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch, an authentic Camino passport and a 6-mile pilgrimage walk finishing at St Patrick's grave. A special 25% discount price is on offer of £40 (normally £55). To book ring 02844 61900 or www.saintpatrickcentre.com

DEEDS – Supporting the Carer Talk Series. The second talk in our Carers Information Sessions, funded by the Western Health and Social Care Trust, will focus on the costs associated with Residential Care. This information session will take place at the **Old Library Trust Healthy Living Centre**, Central Drive, Creggan, on **Thursday 26th March 2026 at 12.00 noon**. Light refreshments will be provided. For further information or to register, please contact **Eilish** on **02871 373870** or email eilish@olt.ie.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Public Information Meeting at Rosemount Resource Centre, 1A Westway, Derry BT48 9NT on Monday 24th March at 3.00 pm. The meeting is open to anyone who may be personally affected, have a family member or friend affected, or simply wish to learn more about recovery, community supports, and how people can access help.

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

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22nd February 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty