

A short Gospel reflection John 11:1-45

In today's Gospel the raising of Lazarus reveals a deeply human and profoundly divine Jesus. He encounters grief, weeps with those who mourn, and yet stands with authority over death itself. This Gospel reminds us that faith does not remove suffering, but invites us to trust that God is present within it.

Martha's confession - "I believe that you are the Christ"- comes even before the miracle. Her faith is not based on seeing, but on trusting. In our own lives, we are often called to believe before we understand, to hope even when situations seem beyond repair.

Jesus' command, "Lazarus, come out," is not only about physical resurrection but speaks to every place in us that feels bound, buried, or lifeless. He calls us out of fear, sin, and despair into new life.

This passage invites us to ask: where is Christ calling me to trust more deeply? And what "stone" might I need to let Him roll away so that new life can emerge?

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray for our seminarians and men who are considering service to the Church as diocesan priests, that their interests will be in the things of the Holy Spirit who will have made His home in them (cf. St Paul to the Romans).

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 St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 24th March 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.

Sunday 29th March is Palm Sunday. Palms will be blessed at all Masses.

Join us at 8.00pm on Palm Sunday for *The Last Seven Words of Christ*. Prepare for Holy Week by spending time in the presence of Jesus, contemplating His final words through reflection and music. All are welcome.

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

A sum of money has been found in the Little Diamond area. Anyone who believes it may be theirs is asked to contact the Parish Office tel. 02871 262894.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Angela Devine
Karen Cassidy
Rory McAteer*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Rose Browne
Terry O'Kane
Gerry Caldwell
Freddie Boyle
Jim Taylor
Celine Taylor*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Lottie Elizabeth Tracey
Brenna Grace Wade
Koáh Cianán Denis Long*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

*Natalie Kavanagh & Pádraig
McKeown*

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

Sick Visitation

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

Collection

Weekly Collection: £6,207
Parish Development Collection: £1,151

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

St Anthony Charity: £20
Trócaire: £20, £20
SVdP: £40
Cancer Research: £40
Sight Savers: £40
Hungry Children: £15

Readers 28th /29th March

06.15pm Helen Sweeney
07.30pm Liz McMonagle
09.30am Kate Doherty
11.00am McGinley Readers
12.30pm Eilish Friel
7.00pm Amulya George

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,
Westland Terrace, Gartan Square,
Clarendon Manor, Grangemore,
Northland Road

The Columba Community warmly invites you to its Palm Sunday Retreat on Sunday 29th March at 11.00am in St Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Co Donegal, F93NF76. This special time of retreat offers the opportunity to pause, reflect on the Passion of the Lord, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. The programme will include teaching, guided meditation, adoration and Eucharist. Please book by telephoning: 0035374 9384866.

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

Past pupils, staff and Governors of St Brigid's College, Carnhill - You are warmly invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St Brigid's College on Monday, 23rd March. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated by Bishop McKeown at St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, at 7.00pm, followed by a reception in the College.

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.*

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.

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.watchmenmedia 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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Fifth Sunday
of Lent
22nd March 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty