

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 20:19-23

The disciples in today's Gospel are gathered behind locked doors, fearful and uncertain after the events of Good Friday. Their hopes have been shaken, and they are unsure what lies ahead. Yet it is into this atmosphere of fear and confusion that the risen Jesus comes and stands among them. His first words are simple but deeply powerful: "Peace be with you." Jesus does not scold the disciples for abandoning Him or hiding away. Instead, He brings peace, reassurance, and hope. He shows them His wounds - the marks of His suffering transformed by the Resurrection - reminding them that God's love is stronger than sin, suffering, and even death itself.

The Lord then breathes the Holy Spirit upon them and sends them out on mission. The frightened disciples are transformed into witnesses of the Gospel, entrusted with sharing God's mercy and forgiveness with the world. This moment reminds us that the Church is born not from human strength or perfection, but through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We too can sometimes live behind "locked doors" of fear, anxiety, disappointment, or doubt. Yet the risen Christ continues to come among us, especially in prayer and the sacraments, speaking His words of peace to our hearts. He calls each of us not only to receive His mercy, but also to share it generously with others through compassion, forgiveness, and acts of love. As we reflect on this Gospel, may we open our hearts more fully to the peace of Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to renew us for the mission we each share as His disciples.

Lord God, on this Pentecost Sunday, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the parish family of St Eugene's Cathedral. Fill our hearts with your peace, renew us in faith and love, and make us joyful witnesses to the Gospel of Christ. May the fire of the Spirit guide our clergy, families, and young people, bringing unity, hope, and holiness to our community. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: On Pentecost Sunday we pray for a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on deacons, seminarians, and on the men discerning a vocation to serve the Church as priests of our diocese. May the Spirit of Jesus fill the hearts of many more with the courage to answer God's call to them and keep them faithful in their ministry.

St. Eugene's Cathedral 3 Day Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo 6th – 8th September 2026. Cost £300 per person sharing. For more information and full itinerary contact Anne Marie Hickey, Pastoral Coordinator on amhickey@derrydiocese.org, phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894 or call into the Parish Office.

Diocese of Derry Lough Derg Pilgrimage 2026: The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg will take place from Friday 24th July to Sunday 26th July 2026. Cost: £95 / €110 including bus transport. You are welcome, of course, to use your own means of transport. Booking form and full details available at: derrydiocese/lough-derg

A Marian Evening of Prayer will be held in St Mary's Church, Creggan, on Wednesday, 27th May. The event is hosted by Derry Youth Ministry, who are preparing for their diocesan pilgrimage to Fatima in August of this year. The night will begin at 7.00 pm with a rosary procession (outdoors, weather permitting), followed by a short talk on Our Lady and the Eucharist, Adoration, and Benediction. Music will be provided by the Diocesan Youth music group, with refreshments following in the community room. All ages welcome! Contact Bethany at bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org for more details.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Veronica Morton
Annie McMenamin
Sylvia Bowstead
Sheila Jordan*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Patrick Hamilton
William Gillen
Frank Hegarty
Martin Doherty
James Caldwell
Alan Roberts
John Ferguson
Margaret (Maggie) Ferguson
John Martin*

*Oonagh O'Kane Komig
Louisa Kerry Rubenstein
Georgie McLaughlin*
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Árón Emmett Lynn Houston
Cáidan Jack Alexander O'Donnell
Ben Leo Lynch*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Danielle Archer & Barry Burke
and
*May-Theresa Carlin &
Shaun McLaughlin*

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

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,361
Parish Development: £1,036

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Altar Flowers: £40 £20
Hungry Children: £20 £250 £45
SVdP: £60
Smile Train: £20
Sight Savers: £40 £100 £250
Gaza: £40
Cathedral Funds: £2,000 £20
Mary's Meals: £100 £100

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

Readers for 30th /31st May

06.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm	Liz McMonagle
09.30 am	Kay McGinn
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Garth Tucker
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead takes place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 7th June at 3.00 pm. Please be in position at 2.30 pm. Families are asked to bring their own holy water to the Cemetery for the blessing of the graves. At the appropriate time Bishop McKeown will ask a representative of each family to sprinkle their family grave (and neighbouring grave if there is no-one present). There will be no holy water in the Cemetery. 150 car parking spaces will be made available for Blue Badge holders within the Cemetery. The places will be allocated on a first come first served basis to current Blue Badge holders and can be booked at www.derrystrabane.com/cemeterysunday.

There will be no vehicle access to the cemetery until 1pm to facilitate preparations for the service. Access will only be given to those who have registered with gates remaining open until 2pm. **Those who have secured a space must be in place by 2pm, as there will be no access for vehicles after this time.**

Other car parking will be available for blue badge holders at St Mary's Church, Creggan, St Cecilia's College and Celtic Park. Booking is not required, and access will only be given to vehicles that display a current Disability Blue Badge Permit on arrival.

For visitors parking outside the cemetery, we ask that you please park in appropriate areas and be considerate of people living in the area. Do not block roadways, footpaths, or gateways when parking. This is an important time of prayer for families who are remembering loved ones, and we ask that everyone is respectful and mindful of other visitors during the service. We encourage those attending to arrive in good time, and to adhere to the advice of the stewards. We would greatly appreciate cooperation with staff to ensure everyone can have safe and easy access to this time of prayer.

The Service will also be live streamed and available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvtk3PsOheU>

Sacred Music Concert - First Derry Presbyterian Church on Saturday 6th June 2026 at 7.30 pm. A special interdenominational evening of hope through song at First Derry Presbyterian Church! As part of Every Voice Festival 2026, this concert brings together a wonderful range of choirs and vocal groups for a programme of reflective and inspiring music, with opportunities for shared congregational singing in a welcoming and inclusive setting

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

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty