

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of two sons. One says "no" to his father but later changes his mind and goes to work; the other says "yes" but does not go. Jesus reminds us that what matters is not simply what we say, but how we live our response to God's call.

This Gospel speaks beautifully to us as a parish community at this time, following the installation last week of Bishop Michael Router as the new Bishop of Derry. At his installation, Bishop Michael spoke of the importance of listening, humility and walking together as a Church. He acknowledged that he has much to learn and said that perhaps the best place for a new bishop to begin is "not by talking too much, but by listening."

The Gospel challenges each of us to ask: How am I responding to God's invitation? It is easy to say "yes" to faith with our words, but the Lord calls us to make that "yes" visible through kindness, forgiveness, service and care for others.

As Bishop Michael begins his ministry among us, may we pray that he will be guided by the Holy Spirit, and that together we may be a Church that does not merely speak about faith, but lives it. May our words and our actions increasingly say the same thing: "Yes, Lord, I will go."

Lord, bless Bishop Michael as he begins his service among the people of the Diocese of Derry. Help us all to hear your call, respond with generous hearts, and put our faith into action. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: In the words of St Paul in our second reading, we pray that the men called to serve as priests of our diocese will '...be united in their convictions and in their love.....with no competition among them, no conceit; but everybody self-effacing, always considering the other person to be better than themselves, each one thinking of other people's interests first.'

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.

International Exhibition - The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, designed and created by St. Carlo Acutis will take place in The Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road from 9–16 October 2026. Come and discover the remarkable stories of Eucharistic miracles from around the world, brought together through the inspiring work of St. Carlo Acutis. Admission is free - all are welcome.

Are you enrolled in the Pope John Paul II Award in St Eugene's Cathedral this year? If so, you are invited to attend an Information Session on Wednesday 7th October at 4.30pm in the Upper Sacristy. There will be a short presentation and discussion on how we can help you find suitable tasks that you will enjoy taking part in. Any questions you can email lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Delia Bonney
Paula McCourt***

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Susan & Danny Hegarty
Charlie O'Donnell
Eddie Harkin
Noreen McCafferty
Vincent McCafferty
Tommy Molloy***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Cahir Padraig Houston

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

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

Collection

Priests Collection: £6,238

Parish Development: £1,186

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Hungry Children: £5, £100, £50

SVdP: £20, £20

Mary's Meals: £50

Smile Train: £50

Sightsavers: £50

UNICEF: £20

Cathedral Funds: £20

Readers for 3rd /4th October

6.15pm Karen O'Brien

7.30pm Helen Sweeney

9.30am Rosemary Finan

11.00am Rosemount PS

12.30pm Kevin Finan

7.00pm Marian Boyle

Sick Visitation

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

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.

Annual Safeguarding Mass: Bishop Router invites everyone involved in Safeguarding to the Annual Safeguarding Mass on Friday 2nd October at 7.30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry. The Safeguarding Mass will be offered for peace, reconciliation and healing for all who have suffered the pain of abuse. The Mass will also be offered in thanksgiving for the Parish Safeguarding Representatives in the parishes across the diocese, and diocesan staff and volunteers who continue to work and support ongoing safeguarding practices across our diocese. Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass.

Book Launch – *The Power of Gathering* - You are warmly invited to the launch of Fr. Paul Farren's new book, *The Power of Gathering: How Coming Together at Mass Renews Our Faith*. The book reflects on the gift of gathering as a community of faith and the importance of coming together to celebrate Mass. The Launch is on Wednesday 7th October 2026 at 7.00pm in St. Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry. The Guest Speaker will be Bishop Michael Router. All are very welcome.

Accord Couple Counselling - Our couples counselling specialists provide in-person and online services to individuals and couples dealing with relationship challenges. For further information and to make an appointment please contact us Accord Derry - Telephone (028) 71362475 by email at derry@accordni.com or visit www.accordni.com

A St Faustina Weekend will take place in St Mary's Church, Convoy Co Donegal F93FX66 on 3rd & 4th October. It will consist of prayer and reflection on Divine Mercy Devotions. Led by Fr Eamonn Kelly, the weekend will invite all to come to know the Person of Divine Mercy. You are invited to come to all or part of the weekend.

'Find the able beyond the label' is a free Information Evening for parents and carers of children and young people with learning challenges, with Neurodevelopmental Practitioner Anne-Marie O'Kane, at Culmore Community Hub on Wednesday 30th September, 7.30 pm-8.30pm. Tea and coffee provided.

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. 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

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

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty