

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 10: 37-42

'Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it'. These words spoken by Jesus in today's Gospel, spoken with such force, can initially seem enigmatic, paradoxical, even. How can we find ourselves by losing ourselves? And then it dawns on us. If the life we find ourselves living and cherishing is a life wedded exclusively to the material world, a life which embraces the power-hunger, greed and corrupt practices of that world, then that life, when it ends, is lost. But anyone who lives life with Jesus as its centre, a life which embraces Jesus fully – his teaching, his guidance, the cross he carried out of a love so profound it made the cold world reel in shocked incredulity, that person has found eternal life.

To be a true and faithful disciple of Jesus is not easy, and Jesus knows this. He knows it is not easy for us to carry the cross of our suffering with the same courage, fortitude and humility with which he carried his own heavy cross to Calvary. He knows our predilection to attach ourselves to the wrong things, the wrong people, the shiny and superficial as opposed to the deep and worthwhile. He assures us over and over that he will never desert us: he will never abandon us to our fears. He assures us that true faith overcomes all fears: if we put his spirit before all else, our reward will be great indeed, in this life as well as in eternal life. We can experience in the here and now the peace and joy which is the reward of casting aside the ego-centred life and embracing a life which is gloriously Jesus-centred.

Jesus, may we never forget that faith can overcome all fear. Jesus, may we always remember to put you before all else if we are to gain a life of peace and joy for all eternity.

ATU St Angela's is inviting applications for the following programme beginning Autumn 2026: **Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education for Primary School, with Online Delivery.** The programme is open to: Qualified primary school teachers; Qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply. Closing date for Applications is Friday 14 August 2026. For further information contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, Education Department, ATU St Angela's, Lough Gill, Sligo. Email mary.kearns@atu.ie or visit Website: www.atu.ie

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: In this weekend's gospel Jesus encourages the men He is calling to priesthood not to be afraid to "...take up their cross and follow (Him)..." and promises them that they will find fulfilment and "life" in Him.

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

Schools Out! As our parish schools finish up for the summer we ask God to bless all the children, young people and their families. We pray that the summer will be a time of joy and peace for everyone and that we all keep Jesus at the centre of our lives and our homes.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Angela McLaughlin
Maureen Carlin
Michael McEwan*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Mary Abel
Charlie Callan
Kathleen McNamara
Jimmy Carlin
Eugene O'Donnell
F J Nugent
Tony Carlin
Thomas Keys*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Daria Nuala O'Neill

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,306
Parish Development: £1,006

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Sight Savers: £50, £250
UNICEF: £200
Smile Train: £200, £250
Mary's Meals: £200
Hungry Children: £10
Gaza Appeal: £20

Readers for 4th /5th July

06.15 pm	Mary Morrison
07.30 pm	Liz McMonagle
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	Rebecca Sweeney/ Amulya George
12.30 pm	Jackie Tyre
7.00 pm	Anna Begley

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes We pray for all those from our diocese, led by Bishop McKeown, who are in Lourdes this week. We join our prayers with theirs at the Grotto.

Fr Mike Schmitz Parables Tour for Young People 20th July Dublin: Derry Youth Ministry are inviting young people aged 16+ to join them for the **Fr Mike Schmitz Parables Tour** taking place on 20th July 2026 in the National Stadium Dublin. Fr Mike is an American priest and digital evangelist, who will present the message of the Gospel in a novel, energetic and engaging style that speaks into young people's lives today. There will be a special Mass for youth attending from all over Ireland to begin the evening celebrations. Cost is £45 for ticket and transport. Bus departs Derry at 12noon, with pick-ups in Strabane and Omagh. To secure your place or for more information contact bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org or call 02871264087

Mother Teresa reminds us the fruit of silence if prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace.

*Vol 54 No 25
Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
28th June 2026*

Fest of St. Oliver Plunkett is on Wednesday 1st July. We ask for St. Oliver Plunkett's intercession for peace in our families, communities, country and our world.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

A Miraculous Medal and chain have been found in the Glenbank area. If you believe this item may belong to you, please contact the Parish Office.

CONCERN Derry Group – The annual Scalp Challenge in aid of Concern's worldwide development work will take place today Sunday 28th June at Henry McLaughlin's farm (from Derry, turn right at Burnfoot). The first walkers will set off at 12 noon, with the last group departing at 2pm. Please check the weather forecast and wear suitable clothing and footwear. All support is greatly appreciated.

Accord Derry – Marriage Preparation Workshops 2026 - Accord Derry is pleased to announce upcoming Marriage Preparation Workshops taking place in 2026. These courses are designed to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

The remaining available dates for 2026 are as follows:

- **September:** 25th–26th 2026
- **November:** 20th–21st 2026

All courses are now available for online booking at: www.accordni.com.

Please note that **Accord Derry will not be facilitating Marriage Preparation Courses during October or December 2026.** Couples are encouraged to book early to secure a place on their preferred date.

Al-Anon – It is easy to see what alcohol is doing to the person who drinks, but can you see what it is doing to you? Are you afraid to upset someone for fear that it might trigger a drinking bout? For further information, contact the Al-Anon confidential helpline on 0800 0086 811 or email helpline@al-anonuk.org.uk. Alternatively, telephone 028 9068 2368.

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