

## St Eugene's Cathedral Lenten Programme

**The Seven Last Words of Christ.** Everyone is welcome to this time of prayer and reflection. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral.

**Confession and Adoration on the way home** – Monday from 5.00pm to 7.20pm

**Morning Prayer of the Church** at 7.45 am Monday to Wednesday

**Daily Mass** at 8.00am, 10.00am, 1.00pm & 7.30pm (Monday – Wednesday)

**Funeral Masses are not celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday**

### CELEBRATION OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The six weeks of Lent are a preparation for the last three days of this week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. We celebrate the central event of our religion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, the Saviour of the world.

#### **Holy Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

##### **10.00am Mass of Chrism**

Bishop McKeown will celebrate the Mass of Chrism with priests from all over the Diocese. During the Mass the Holy Oils which will be used in Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination are blessed. Bishop McKeown and the priests will renew their priestly vows to serve Christ and His Church.

##### **7.30pm Concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper**

*Celebrating the gift of the Eucharist and the ministry of service*

On Thursday evening we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We gather with Jesus and the apostles in the upper room. There it is revealed to us that to be the body of Christ we are called to serve. We are called to wash the feet of others – to be their humble servants.

##### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose until 11.00pm**

*Praying at the Garden of Gethsemane*

On Thursday night we wait as the Body of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. We share in the fear and loneliness of Jesus as he reaches the depths of despair.

#### **Good Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> April)**

We meditate on the Passion and the death of Jesus. We focus on the cross-the crude instrument that took the life of our saviour- the key that opened eternal life for us all. This is a day of fast and abstinence – there is an obligation to fast (one main meal, two light meals in the day) and to abstain from meat. The Law of Fasting obliges all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (except the sick). The Law of Abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14 years.

**10.00am Morning Prayer**

**3.00pm Celebration of the Passion**

*We walk with Jesus on the path to Calvary*

**7.30pm Celebration of the Passion**

#### **Holy Saturday (4<sup>th</sup> April)**

*On this day we wait as the body of our saviour lies dead in the tomb*

**10.00am Morning Prayer**

*We wait at the tomb*

**Confessions from 11.30am to 6.00pm**

**10.00pm Easter Vigil**

**Tonight is the high point of the Church's year as we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour**

**The Easter Vigil** – In the words of St Augustine “this is the mother of all vigils”. The Easter Triduum reaches its high point on this most holy night. On this night we tell our story. It is not just a distant memory; it is not only historical fact-it is living reality. It is the story of salvation. We are a saved people. Through his cross and resurrection Christ has set us free. We symbolise our salvation and freedom with fire and the single flame of the paschal candle. We have been called out of darkness into the wonderful life of Christ.

#### **Easter Sunday**

*We are a resurrected people and alleluia is our song*

**Masses: 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.00pm**

**No devotions**

#### **A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 26:14-27:66**

Today Church celebrates Palm Sunday, marking the beginning of Holy Week. The Gospel invites us to walk with Jesus both in the joy of His entry into Jerusalem and in the sorrow of His Passion.

We see a striking contrast: the crowds who shout “Hosanna” are not far from those who will later cry out for His crucifixion. This reminds us how fragile human faithfulness can be. It is easy to follow Christ when it is joyful and uplifting, but much harder when the path leads to sacrifice, silence, and the cross.

Jesus, however, remains steadfast. He does not turn away from suffering but embraces it with love and obedience. In His Passion, we see not defeat, but the deepest expression of God's mercy. Every betrayal, denial, and act of violence is met with forgiveness.

This Gospel invites us to reflect honestly: Where do I stand in the crowd? Am I only a follower in moments of comfort, or do I remain with Christ even in difficulty?

As Holy Week begins, we are called not just to observe but to enter into the mystery. Walk closely with Jesus - through the palms, through the cross, and toward the hope of the Resurrection.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** – We pray for an increase in vocations, and for the future priests of our diocese, that they will follow the example of Jesus, the humble, faithful, and suffering Servant who gave His life for God's people.

**The Annual Mass for the Deceased Members of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women** will be held here in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on Easter Monday (6<sup>th</sup> April) at 11.30am. All are welcome.

**Sympathy**

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Bernadette Kelly***  
May she rest in peace

**Collection**

Last week's collection: £5,737

Parish Development: £1,116

***Thank you for your generosity***

**Anniversaries**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Dolly Breslin***  
***Lila & Ken Crocker***  
***Frank Peters***  
***Lily O'Connor***  
***Bridie Ferguson***  
***Mary Frew***  
***Anna McDonnell***  
***Hugh & Mona McLaughlin***  
***Sean Carr***  
***George McLaughlin***  
May they rest in peace

**Thank you**

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Trocaire:** £30, £20, £100

**Water Aid:** £100

**Mary's Meals:** £60, £20, £10

**Smile Train:** £100

**Baptisms**

We welcome as members of God's family:

***Georgia-Mae Bruce***  
***Leo Gerard Sheerin***  
***Croia Jane Hutton***  
***Seanán Rua McDaid***

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894

**Readers Easter Sunday**

09.30am Barry McDaid  
11.00am Karen O'Brien  
12.30pm Anna Begley  
07.00pm Amulya George

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty**

**This Easter, the Walled City Passion returns to Derry from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April (12.30pm and 3.30pm daily).** This outdoor production presents the Passion story from the perspective of Judas. Beginning at the Diocesan Centre on London Street, the performance unfolds along the city walls. Tickets available from millenniumforum.co.uk

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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](mailto: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