

Bishop Donal McKeown, Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty, Fr Colum Clerkin and Fr Frank McLaughlin wish you every blessing, joy and peace this Christmas time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being part of the faith community of Saint Eugene's Cathedral and for your ongoing support and prayers.

**A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 1:39-45**

Mary, the spiritually beautiful, innocent young girl who accepted the full enormity of God's will for her with humility and grace, in today's Gospel displays an awe-inspiring humanity. Vulnerable in her own early pregnancy, she nevertheless braves the long and potentially dangerous journey from Nazareth to the mountain of Judah to be with her elderly, miraculously pregnant, kinswoman, Elizabeth. In an extraordinary example of love and compassion in action she puts her own needs and fears to one side and faces with equanimity an experience which would have daunted older hearts.

When the kinswomen embrace we are immediately in a world which is quintessentially female: a world of mutual recognition of the awesome miracle of childbirth. Elizabeth's words to Mary show that she has been made aware of the great honour God has granted to her cousin. Her awe in Mary's presence is palpable. Mary's humanity in today's Gospel is truly beautiful in the selflessness, compassionate love and generosity it displays.

Jesus, teach us how to be truly human in today's world which seems to be riven with fear and anger. Teach us, Jesus, to till the patch of earth we have being given and leave it a better place for our children. Jesus, may we respond to the world's fear and anger with your blessed mother's beautiful humanity: with love, compassion; with faith, humility and courage. Amen

**Confession and Christmas Mass Times**

**Morning Prayer of the Church** – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.45am.

**Confession and Adoration on the Way Home** – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

<b>Christmas Eve -</b>	Confessions 11.30am to 5.30pm Vigil Masses 6.00pm & 12 midnight
<b>Christmas Day</b>	7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am & 12.30pm
<b>St Stephen's Day</b>	12 noon
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	12 noon
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	12 noon Vigil Masses 6.15pm and 7.30pm
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm & 7.00pm
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	12 noon
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	12 noon & 7.30pm

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately after the 7.30pm Mass on New Year's Eve concluding with Roary and Benediction at 11.45pm to welcome in the New Year.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January** 12 noon

**Normal weekday Mass times will resume on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** – 8.00am, 10.00am & 7.30pm.

**Anniversaries**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

- Paddy McFadden*
- Hugh Bell*
- Kitty Hegarty*
- Molly Callan*
- Esther Cauley*
- Mard McCourt*
- Johnny Coyle*
- Maureen Coyle*
- Peter Griffin*
- Hugh McLaughlin*
- Mona McLaughlin*
- Dan Cullen*
- Mary O'Kane*
- Peter O'Hagan*
- Peter Toland*
- Bernadette Skelton*
- Sarah Jane Brady*
- Kathleen & M Columba McColgan*
- Mary Brady*
- Maryrose Cox*
- Catherine Gallacher*
- Janie Gallacher*

May they rest in peace

**Sacrament of Marriage**

We congratulate the couples who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

- Aisling McBrearty & Niall Duffy*
- Amy Magee & Connor Collins*

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

**Collection**

Last week's collection: £ 5,192  
Parish Development: £1,087

**Thank you**

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

- Smile Train:** £35, £40, £60, £45
- Gaza:** £35
- SVdP:** £20, £100, £50, £50, £5, £50, £40, £250
- Trócaire:** £50, £200, £50, £100, £40, £100
- Sight Savers:** £40
- Palestine:** £50
- Admin's Choice:** £100
- Mary's Meals:** £100, £50, £40, £50, £100, £10, £50, £100
- Cathedral Funds:** £200, £100
- UNICEF:** £20
- Water Aid:** £40
- Altar Flowers:** £20

**Readers 24<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> December**

- 06.00 pm Kate Doherty/  
Anna Begley
- Midnight Marian Boyle/  
Barry McDaid
- 09.30 am Claire O'Kane
- 11.00 am Piaras O Meallain
- 12.30 pm Eilish Friel
- 07.00 pm Anna Begley

**Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** – We pray for our seminarians and for those considering a vocation to serve as priests in this diocese that, like Mary and Elizabeth, they will be attentive to the power and movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**Joy to the World – Concert.** Join a host of wonderful, gifted singers and musicians for a lunchtime Concert on Saturday 28th December at 1.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. Joy to the World - Concert celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this special time of the year.

**Invitation to 33 Days of Family Prayer:** Bishop McKeown will lead the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, as part of a diocesan programme for the Jubilee Year of 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*. It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening at 7.00pm, starting on Thursday 9 January 2025 and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tuesday 11 February 2025. Bishop McKeown explains, “*It is a journey I set out to make to entrust myself and my priesthood to Christ through the Mother of God. I extend an invitation to you and your families from the parishes of the diocese to join me*”. Details and times of the prayer programme with a video message from Bishop McKeown can be viewed at [derrydiocese.org/consecration](http://derrydiocese.org/consecration).

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Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
22nd December 2024*

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

**St. Eugene’s Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th - 24th October 2025.** Cost £795 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £155 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on [amhickey@derrydiocese.org](mailto:amhickey@derrydiocese.org) or phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894.

**The annual Derry City GOAL Mile Walk will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December leaving from Sainsbury’s car park at 12 noon.** The GOAL Mile is an opportunity for local people to walk in solidarity and show support for those struggling to survive in countries ravaged by war, famine, disease and the effects of climate change. There are no administrative costs associated with the GOAL Mile so every penny raised will go directly to supporting the charity's work with the poorest of the poor. Irish humanitarian charity GOAL is currently working in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Niger, Uganda, Sudan, Colombia, Haiti and Honduras.

**Mary’s Meals – Double The Love.** All donations made to Mary’s Meals are being doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £900,000 Find out more at [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)

**Accord Derry - Marriage Preparation Workshops 2025.** The following dates available: January 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> February 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> May 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>. All courses are now online for booking at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com). Please note that all these courses are in person and not virtual.

**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 regarding the Safeguarding of children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596500793 or at [mariegormley@derrydiocese.org](mailto:mariegormley@derrydiocese.org) or contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.