

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Today's Gospel delivers a salutary warning from Jesus to humankind of how our relationship with God can be distorted, clouded, by an obsessive focus on rules and regulations purporting to come from our Creator, but in reality composed by humans. The subject of the frequent discrepancy between appearance and reality has preoccupied contemplatives, philosophers, poets and playwrights, since the beginning of time. Jesus deals with the phenomenon in his usual succinct manner:

'For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge.'

It is what comes from our hearts that really counts because it is what comes from our hearts which contains the truth of who we really are. It is what comes from our hearts which either opens us up to the presence of God, or drives us away, closes us off, from God. Jesus always knew the truth of people's hearts, and treated them accordingly, never fooled by outward appearances.

We need to question our relationship with rules and regulations and outward shows of religious fervour. Does our preoccupation erect a barrier between ourselves and God? Do we accept that it is our genuine kindness with its core of compassion which is significant of our pure and undefiled relationship with God. And it is our loving care for others, our generosity, our words to others around us, which spells out our truth, the real truth which resides in our hearts.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – For those hoping to serve the diocese as priests, that they will do what the word of God tells them (St James, 2nd reading), and that they will honour the Lord and serve His people with hearts that are pure.

Vocations Day for those interested in the diocesan priesthood, Sunday 8th September, beginning with Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Buncrana, at 12.30pm, ending with a Holy Hour for Vocations, from 5-6pm. Anyone hoping to attend should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com or by calling (028) 79386259.

The monthly Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on Monday 2nd September at 7.30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. To join the Matt Talbot Prayer Society, you are invited to enrol the name of the person to be prayed for and the addiction we are praying that they will be freed from. Those enrolled will be prayed for specifically every day by members of the Matt Talbot Prayer Society. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

The Cathedral Club will meet after the 10.00am Mass on Thursday 5th September, in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group. Refreshments will be served.

Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy recommences on Friday 6th September at 11.00am in the Cathedral Hall. You are most welcome to join in person or via the online platform www.steugenescathedral.com/webcamhall.html

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Leonard (Len) Johnson
Marian Gill

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Bridie McDaid
John Duffy
Maureen Duffy
Martin Crowley
May Doherty
Pete Rooney

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Hugo James McKinley

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Please remember: Godparents (1 male and 1 female over the age of 16)

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,356
Parish Development: £801

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Gaza Appeal: £10
Sight Savers: £20
Trócaire: £20

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Cara Mellon & James Taylor-Feeney

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Readers 7th / 8th September

06.15 pm	Thérèse Ferry
07.30pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Michael McCaul
11.00 am	Kay McGinn
12.30 pm	Niamh Kehoe
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Singers Wanted: St Eugene's Cathedral Choir is looking for male voices (tenor and bass) to sing with the cathedral choir. The choir practice on Wednesday evenings and sing at 12.30pm Mass on Sundays and at other special events during the year. If you are interested, please contact the choir director, Maghnus Monaghan on 00353863728443 or after 12.30pm Mass.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock – Bishop McKeown will lead the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday 28th September 2024. Mass with Anointing of the Sick will take place at 3.00pm in the main Basilica, accompanied by the Long Tower Parish Folk Group. Save the date!

St Vincent de Paul Society is looking for volunteers to help with daily van deliveries. If you have a few spare hours and are willing to help us help others, please telephone 028 71 265489, or email svp.derry@svpni.co.uk

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 3rd September at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. Starting with the Rosary at 6.45pm followed by Mass at 7.15pm, and the novena to St Pio directly afterward. There will be an opportunity after Mass to be blessed with a first-class relic of St Pio. All are welcome.

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal – Healing Night led by Fr Antonio Maria, Friday 6th September at 7.00pm in St Joseph’s Church, Derry. Refreshments provided. All are welcome.

First Saturday Rosary will be held on Saturday 7th September at 1.00pm in Market Square, Letterkenny. The Men’s Travelling Rosary will also be there. All are welcome.

125 Years Pioneer Total Abstinence Association Mass: This year we are celebrating 125 years of the foundation of Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart. Ulster Provincial Pioneer Council will hold their Mass on Sunday 8th September 2024 at 12.00 noon in St Micheal’s Church, Darling Street, Enniskillen. All Pioneers, friends & families are very welcome.

Blessing of Motorcycles: All are very welcome to the blessing of motorcycles on Sunday 15th September at 1.30pm in St Aengus’ Church, Burt, Co. Donegal. Then bike ride to RNLI Station, Ned’s Point Buncrana for refreshments. Donations on the day in aid of RNLI. Fr Gerry Sweeney will be celebrating Mass in St. Patrick’s Church, Dungiven, at 11:30am that Sunday morning: all bikers are welcome to come along to that Mass and then travel to Burt straight after the brief blessing service.

Could you ‘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. Whether it’s at home, work or in your local community, get your friends together and get the kettle on, it’s a piece of cake!! To request your free host pack or for more info, please call Ailbhe McDaid, Community Fundraiser on 028 71359888 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 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 or contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of Northern) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

*Vol 51 No.35
Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1st September 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty