

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 12:28-34

'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

The clarity and simplicity of Jesus' response to the question posed by the scribe reduces the crowd to silence. As human beings we are often silenced when we find ourselves in the presence of awe-inspiring, irrefutable truth.

Jesus treats both commandments as one. Love God with all that you are. Love your neighbour (who is all mankind) as you love yourself. To truly love God who is Love itself, we must truly love all of mankind as we truly love ourselves. All is love.

So we must love others as we truly love ourselves! And do we truly love ourselves, or do our inevitable flaws and failures, the depressing regularity of our lapses from grace, blind us to the compassionate forgiveness of God who sees, as his beloved Son did, the grief and the remorse surging blindly around in our hearts!

Are we truly open to the forgiveness of our loving Father? Are we open to the prompting of our loving Father to follow His example and to forgive ourselves? Does our reluctance to truly love ourselves as God loves us prevent us from truly loving others? Do we confuse brands of narcissism or vanity with true love of ourselves as children of a loving God?

Humbly recognising our connections with others rather than our differences is a good place to start as we embark on our journey to eternity through God's two great commandments of love.

Jesus, may we always 'look again'. May we seek to see beyond the superficial, the readily available, to the deeper meanings in the lives of others, just as you taught us to do.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray that those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry will reflect, in their words and actions, the holiness, innocence, purity, and sinlessness of Jesus Christ, the High Priest.

There will be a Concelebrated Mass here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Saturday, 9th November at 7.30pm for the deceased members of each home in the parish.

Anyone who has lost a close relative who was buried from another Church during the past year, please leave the deceased's name in the Sacristy or the Parochial House so that they can be remembered in the Mass and a candle can be lit in their memory.

The Annual Mass for Deceased Children & Young People's will take place in St Eugene's Cathedral, on Sunday 10th November, at 7:00pm. There will be an opportunity to write down the name of your deceased loved one before Mass. All are welcome to attend. You can also join this Mass live on the St Eugene's Cathedral webcam. If you are unable to attend this Mass in person but would like to have a child or young person remembered at it, please email the name to lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org by Friday 8 November.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*John James Meenan
Shéa McSheffrey
Ciara Harkin
Carmel Doherty
Paul Boyle
Caragh Lyttle*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Molly Gallagher
Margaret Gallagher
Rosaleen McCallion
Eddie McKinney
Sally Hegarty
Michael (Mickey) Harkin
Gillian Keaveney
Pat McCaul
Majella Martin*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Mary-Kate O'Connor
Lucas Eoin Campbell
Dara Shea McLaughlin*

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,457
Parish Development: £1,142

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £10 £10 £15 £50 £100
Save the Children: £20
Sight Savers: £15 £50
Mary's Meals: £50 £100
Altar Flowers: £30
St Bernadette Relic: £50
St Pio Fund: £200
Matt Talbot Prayer Society: £5
Trócaire: £100

Readers 9th /10th November

06.15 pm Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm Liz McMonagle
09.30 am Kay McGinn
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Megan Dallat
07.00 pm Kate Doherty/
Caitlin Horner McLaughlin

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from addiction Mass takes place on Monday 4th November at 7.30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena continues after 7.30pm Mass on Thursdays finishing on 28th November. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady; that Christ gave His Mother to be our Mother, the Untier of Knots.

The deceased members of our families and friends will be remembered at each Mass throughout November at St Eugene's Cathedral. Please take a Remembrance Card from the back of the Cathedral, write down the names of your loved ones and place it in the basket on the Sanctuary.

Christmas Afternoon Tea - Saturday 7th December at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for a Festive Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Cost £25. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 028 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Christmas Floral Workshop - Saturday 14th December at 12.00noon in the Cathedral Hall. Cost £20 which includes all flowers, sundries & refreshments. Pre booking required. Call into the Parish Office or phone, 028 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Parish Advent Pilgrimage on Thursday 12th December. Bus leaves the Cathedral at 9.30am and returns at approx. 4.45pm. Morning Prayer in the IOSAS Centre followed by refreshments, Mass in the Chapel of Ease in Fahan and lunch in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel. Price £40 Includes Transport, Morning Tea & Lunch. For more information or to book a place call into the Parish Office or call 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Thornhill Ministries: 'Sourcing the Hope Retreat' led by Philip McParland - an oasis day to nourish the soul. Saturday 16th November from 10.00 am - 1:30 pm in An Grianan Hotel, Burt. For details/to register: Please contact Erin on E: thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org or P: 07736832458

Trócaire School Volunteers: Are you a retired teacher or someone who has experience presenting to groups of school children? Do you have a passion for making this world a better place, especially for the most vulnerable? Trócaire is looking for volunteers to support our 2025 Lent Appeal in the Derry Diocese. If you think you have the right skills and experience and will be available to help during school hours over Lent, then we would love to hear from you. Full training and ongoing support will be provided. For more information, please call Naomi Purnell on 028 9080 8033 or email naomi.purnell@trocaire.org.

St Mary's College Christmas Craft Fair (Northland Road, Derry) - Saturday 30th November 2024 from 11.00am – 4.00pm. £1 Entry – Over 70 stalls - Café - Santa – Great family day out!

Al-Anon Day of Gratitude will be held in the City Hotel, Derry, on Saturday 16th November: Registration from 10.00am. Admission £7 / €8.

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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty