

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 6:24-35

Today's Gospel according to John witnesses Jesus making a solemn claim for the first time.

'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Jesus uses the simple, accessible image of bread to help his listeners understand the powerful truth that it is only through him, through our full-hearted embrace of his life, death, and resurrection that we can finally come to eat at the table of his Father and taste the food of eternal life.

This truth leaves no room for narcissism in the individual; it leaves no room for the exclusive pursuit of this world's power or status; it leaves no room for notions of superiority or self-righteousness, because these leave no room for God. All we need is hunger for God, God, who is the only food which endures.

Jesus, you are the bread of life, the bread which endures; you are the true bread from heaven. May we, in order to feed our souls, turn away from material things which will inevitably fade and die, and turn instead to the true nourishment of eternal life, 'the true bread from heaven.'

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – That those the Lord is calling to serve the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry will be renewed in the ways of God - in goodness, holiness, and truth - and nourished every day in the Eucharist, in Jesus who is "the bread of life."

There will be a Vocations Day (for those considering diocesan priesthood) in Buncrana on Sunday 8th September. Anyone interested should please contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan by email: pgoh2111@gmail.com

The monthly Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on Monday 5th August 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.

A prayer for those battling addiction

Loving God, help me to submit myself to you, resisting the devil and his corrupt ways. Lead me not into temptation and deliver me from evil, show me the way to freedom from this addiction and give me the strength to endure whatever may come my way.

Fill me with the wisdom and faith to trust you, so you may be my rock to stand upon when I am weak, because through you anything is possible.

Each day that I rise, I will rejoice and be glad knowing this is the day you have made for me. A day where I can show love, hope and compassion to myself and others struggling with addiction. So I ask you God, to bless me and guide me to new ways in which all Glory and Honour is given to you. Amen.

Venerable Matt Talbot pray for us

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Anne Lane
Lucy O'Reilly
Christopher McLaughlin
Daniel Kievit
Teena-Marie Court*
May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

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

*Martina Hegarty & Liam Doherty
Lauren Quigley & Callum France
Niamh Gallagher & Jack Roddy
Niamh Desmond & Paul Morrison*

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,018
Parish Development: £862

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Admin's Choice: £5, £5
Trócaire: £20, £5
Hungry Children: £20
Gaza Appeal: £20, £50, £5
Mary's Meals: £50, £30, £50
Smile Train: £50
Flowers for Altar: £50

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Susie McLaughlin
Jeanette McCaul
Richard (Dick) Gillespie
Helen McCloskey
Kathleen Doherty
Br Gabriel McKinney SJ (Zambia)*
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Conlán Thomas Pádraig Purse
Julia Margaret Shortall*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Readers 10th / 11th August

6.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
7.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	Megan Dallat
12.30 pm	Niamh Kehoe
7.00 pm	Anna Begley

Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons - 2024 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly. The exhibition opens on Thursday 8th August at 10.30am. Exhibition times are Mondays - Saturdays from 10.30am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. The Exhibition will run until 31st August. Everyone is welcome.

Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Parish Mission Appeal - The Daughters of Charity will visit Saint Eugene's Cathedral on the 24th & 25th of August and will speak at all Masses about their work in Africa. More information can be found on their website at www.daughtersofcharity.ie

We congratulate John and Margaret Kelly on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

May God, who has given you fifty years together, continue to bless you and your union.

ACCORD Derry - Marriage Preparation Courses. The following dates are available online for booking at www.accordni.com: September 20th & 21st 2024 and October 18th & 19th 2024. Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 6th August at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. Starting with the holy Rosary at 6.45pm, Mass at 7.15pm, followed by novena to St. Pio. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic of St Pio after the Mass.

Upcoming events at Knock Shrine:

Family Day Sunday 18th August 2024. Blessing of the Families take place at 11am in the Apparition Chapel. We invite all families to attend. Family Day at Knock Shrine is a lovely opportunity for families to get together to enjoy a range of fun activities. All events and activities are free of charge and take place on the beautiful grounds of Knock Shrine

National Novena 2024: 'Whispering with God'....How Do You Pray? The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place from 14th to 22nd August. Daily ceremonies take place at 3.00pm and 8.00pm. Workshops take place at 12.45pm each day. For more information about the above please visit www.knockshrine.ie

Our Lady of Montligeon, monthly prayer meeting will be held in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on Monday 12th August at 7.30pm. There are also weekly prayer meetings on Wednesdays after 9.15am Mass at St Brigid's Church, Carnhill in the Kildare Room. All are welcome.

Mary's Meals are organising a 'Two Bridges Walk' on Sunday 11th August over the Foyle Bridge and Peace Bridge in Derry. Meet in Sainsbury's car park at 11.45 am to begin the walk. The distance is approx. 5 miles. The walk is part of a series of walks taking place across Ireland in early August to raise awareness of Mary's Meals and the work they do. You can register for the walk at [Bit.ly/stepbystepwalk](https://bit.ly/stepbystepwalk). If you have any queries please contact Helen Quinn, telephone 07814441701. To find out more about Mary's Meals please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.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, 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.

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Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
4th August 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty