

A short reflection on today's Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus pays his disciples a huge compliment when he describes them as both 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world'. Humankind needs salt to live. Salt is also a preservative: it keeps things fresh. And it brings out and enhances flavours hidden in our food.

The light is coming back to our world right now, and we can see this fact reflected in the faces around us. The joy of rebirth which the brightening light heralds awakens the hope that lies sleeping in our hearts. The cycle of life, death, life, opens out before us, gentling our spirits, taking the sting out of mortality. We know that 'God's in His heaven, All's right with the world' as the poet puts it.

In today's Gospel Jesus addresses his disciples as a community, not as individuals. By using the rich images of salt and light to describe them, he is instructing all of us on how to live as a Christian community. We do this by striving each day to preserve and protect the word of God, and to bring out its richness and beauty. We do it by allowing our light to shine and illuminate the greatness and goodness of God.

Jesus, help us towards the awareness of the quiet happiness our souls harbour when we live our lives for others: when we reach out to comfort and console those who are suffering; when we share what we have with those who have less.

Jesus, may we live in a way which illuminates the goodness of God. May we allow our light to shine, so that we are the beacon by which others may see and glorify God.

Upcoming events in the Cathedral Hall

Tea Dance- We will be holding monthly Tea Dances starting on Friday 24th February, from 2-4pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall. There will be live music, great craic and dancing for everyone followed by tea and light refreshments. Places are limited and booking is required. Please contact the parish office on 028 71262894 (Monday-Friday).

Flower Arranging - Create and learn the principles of flower arranging and take home a floral bouquet. Some spaces available for the 7.00 pm evening class on Wednesday 22nd March and Wednesday 29th March. Booking is required. Please contact the parish office on 028 71262894 (Monday-Friday).

Cathedral Voices - A singing group for people living with dementia and older members of the community. The singing club takes place every Thursday from 1.30pm-3.00pm. A great chance to socialise, listen to music, have a cup of tea and a chat and a bit of craic. If you are interested in attending, please contact the parish office on 028 71262894.

These projects have been supported by the Public Health Agency and CLEAR

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Fiona Noble
John Daly
Margaret McCafferty
Marian Quigley

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Nora McCafferty
Daniel Griffin
Derrik Tucker
Tracey Hamilton Kelly
Gerald McCaughey
Nora McCafferty
Danny Griffin
Danny Gillespie
Jenny Moran
Kitty Doherty

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Molly Frances Casey
Miles Paul McKay

To book a Baptism telephone 028 71262894

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Missions: £500
SVDP: £25, £220
Children in Crossfire: €50
Mary's Meals: £25, £100
Trocaire: £280

Thank You

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,993
Parish Development: £946

Thank you for your generosity

Readers for 11th/12th February

06.15 pm	Piaras O Meallain
07.30 pm	Helen Sweeney
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Sophia Mason
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

16th Annual Award Ceremony of the Pope John Paul II Award will take place on Monday, 6th February at 2.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. Melany Francisco-Lawless, Formation Leader at Emmaus Youth Village, Newcastle Upon Tyne, will present the Awards. Please pray for all the young people receiving Awards at this Ceremony.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 6th February at 7.30 pm. The Matt Talbot Prayer Society was created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction, to pray for those recovering from addiction, and to pray for all those affected by addiction, especially family members. 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. Mass will also be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30 pm. 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 next monthly Holy Hour for Vocations will take place in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, at 8pm on Friday 10 February, and will be led by Deacon Stephen Ward.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 3rd to 7th July 2023. The Pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ will be open to the public on Saturdays only from 11.00am until 1.00pm commencing on Saturday 11 February. Contact the office by telephone at 028 7126 0293 and leave a message with full postal address and the number of booking forms required or email this information to derrypilgrim@outlook.com or write to us at the above address. We very much regret that once more we are not able to provide medical, nursing and personal care as was customary in the past. It is our earnest hope and prayer that we will be able to restore these services in 2024.

Foyle Hospice are asking for your help. Volunteers are an important part of enabling Foyle Hospice to keep delivering a range of services and specialist palliative care to the community. Applications for volunteering opened on the 30th of January and will close on 28th February. You can access the application form via the Foyle Hospice website at www.foylehospice.com. Alternatively, you can contact rachaeldobbins@foylehospice.com or telephone and ask for Rachael at 02871 351010.

An Older Peoples Forum, organised by The Resource Centre Derry, is being held at St Brigid's Hall, Carnhill on Thursday 9th February from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Speakers include Martin Gallagher (NHS Campaigner) Mayor Sandra Duffy and Eddie Lynch (Commissioner for Older People NI). The event is free, and refreshments will be provided.

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 with regard to 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 Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias