

### A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 10:2-16

Once more Jesus places love at the centre of his teaching, as his enemies try to trap him within the meshes of the law. They ask him whether or not he approves of the law which allows a man to divorce his wife. God had created man and woman equal, but humankind had decreed differently. Jesus' response to his enemies' sly question is beautiful in its unequivocal clarity. Moses' permission for a man to divorce his wife, Jesus states, was his reluctant response to man's sinfulness. In other words, divorce happened as a concomitant of the fallen world. God had created man and woman equal and beautiful and it was His desire that they should live together in mutual love and harmony. The fall of humankind had sundered apart God's desire, and only the restoration of pure love could heal the resultant brokenness.

Later, when the little children came flocking to Jesus, his disciples wanted to send them away but Jesus forbade them to, insisting as he had done before that only with the trusting innocence of the child, only with the unconditional love a child offers, can we attain the kingdom of God. For Jesus, that pure heart, that unquestioning sense of wonder and awe and that complete acceptance of the miraculous which is the daily experience of the child, is the key which opens the door to eternal life for all of us.

Jesus, may we cultivate within us the pure heart of the child. May we be filled with the child's wonder and awe at the miracles of this created world, and may we unquestioningly open ourselves to the eternal truth of God's existence.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** – Whilst this weekend's readings speak to us about the vocation of marriage and invite us to pray for engaged and married couples, we pray also for those called to serve as priests of this diocese, thinking particularly of the four men to be interviewed next weekend as they hope to begin seminary studies in January.

**Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena continues after 7.30pm Mass on Thursdays** finishing on 28th November. Do you have some "knots" in your life? Knots of discord in your family, the knots of deep hurts in relationships, the absence of peace and joy in the home. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady; that Christ gave His Mother to be our Mother, the Untier of Knots. We pray and entrust our specific "knots" to Her loving hands, learning how to let go of that which binds us.

**Visit of the Relics of St. Bernadette** - We need volunteers to help us steward for the Visit of the Relics of St. Bernadette on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. If you can spare some time, please sign the sheets available at the back of the Cathedral or contact the Parish Office on 028 71262894 or email [cathedral@derrydiocese.org](mailto:cathedral@derrydiocese.org)

**Are you enrolled in the Pope John Paul II Award in St Eugene's this year?** If so, you are invited to attend an Information Session on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30pm in the Upper Sacristy. There will be a short presentation and discussion on how we can help you find suitable tasks that you will enjoy taking part in. Any questions email [lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org)

#### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Carita Kerr  
Niall Gormley  
Edward (Eddie) Harkin  
Vincent Coyle*

May they rest in peace

#### Sacrament of Marriage

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

*Christine McDevitt &  
Oluf Marshall*

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

#### Collection

Last week's collection: £5,197

Parish Development: £996

#### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Admin's Choice:** £5, £5, £5

**Carlo Acutis:** £20

**Foreign Missions:** £100, £500

**Hungry Children:** £20

**Trócaire:** £60, £20, £50

**Smile Train:** £50, £60

**Gaza:** £50, £20

**SVdP:** £40

**Mary's Meals:** £60

**Altar Flowers:** £20, £40

#### Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Brody-Lee Wray  
Lila-Rose Nixon  
Saorla Meabh Brolly-Gallagher*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

#### Readers 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> October

06.15 pm Roisin Rice Cutter

07.30pm Liz McMonagle

09.30 am Barry McDaid

11.00 am McGinley Readers

12.30 pm Ursula Doherty

07.00 pm Anna Begley

Marian Boyle

Kate Doherty

**The Daughters of Charity wish to thank St Eugene's Parish for the warm welcome they received in August during their Mission Appeal.** The appeal was very successful, and the total raised to date is £12,143. The Daughters of Charity offers their sincere gratitude, and their assurance that all money donated will go directly to the Sisters in Africa for people who are poor and marginalised.

**Visit of the Relics of St Bernadette to the Diocese of Derry:** The Holy Relics of St Bernadette are currently on pilgrimage from Lourdes to Ireland for the very first time, visiting every diocese in Ireland during September and October. The relics will visit St Eugene's Cathedral from 2.00pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. This very special, once-in-a-lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in their own diocese. The programme for the visit is as follows:

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October:**

2.00pm Ceremony of Welcome  
3.00pm Rosary  
4.00pm Rosary  
5.00pm Rosary  
6.00pm Rosary and Devotions  
7.00pm Mass  
9.00pm Candlelight Procession  
***Confessions 3.00pm – 6.00pm***

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October:**

8.00am Mass of our Lady of Lourdes  
10.00am Mass of St Bernadette  
12 noon Angelus and Rosary  
2.00pm Rosary  
3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet  
4.00pm Rosary  
5.00pm Stations of the Cross  
6.00pm Rosary  
7.30pm Mass of the Immaculate Conception with anointing of the sick  
9.00pm Holy Hour  
***Confessions 11.00am – 7.00pm***

**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) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

*Vol 51 No.40  
Twenty-seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2024*

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