

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 7:31-37

Today's Gospel witnesses Jesus, once again moved to pity by human suffering, restore the hearing and speech of a deaf mute. He takes the man away from the crowd to a quiet place and after performing the miraculous healing, enjoins the man to tell nobody about it. We may wonder why Jesus should ask the man to keep quiet. On reflection, it seems clear that he does this to deflect obsessive attention away from himself and on to the reason he is here on earth, which is to do the will of his Heavenly Father: to proclaim his Father's message of love to all mankind which is to place love at the centre of everything we do. This love, this love of God and love of others, allows all the gifts of that love to flow freely outwards from our hearts and souls to those around us: gifts of compassion, forgiveness, understanding and kindness. Jesus shies away from the cult of personality. He will not allow anyone to make it all about him, Jesus; he insists we focus on the message at the heart of his ministry. He knows that those he heals are changed forever: the miracle of his healing is imprinted on their souls, and it is this change that is important to Jesus, not the physical healing. He often reminds his followers that the source of all healing is God, his heavenly Father.

Jesus, may we open ourselves to the healing change for good offered to us every day by our encounters with you in the Eucharist. May we shy away from the modern obsession with the cult of personality and celebrity, and make all we do and say be about your ministry of love and true healing.

Jesus, the people said in today's Gospel that all you did was good. Let us look deeply into our hearts and discover there whether or not all that we do is good. Are we careless with other people's lives? Is what we do all about us or about God? Help us, Jesus, in our discerning.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – Fr Pat O'Hagan, diocesan Vocations Director, will celebrate the 12.30pm Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Buncrana, this Sunday, 8th September, as part of a Day of Prayer for Vocations to the diocesan priesthood. Fr Patrick Lagan will lead a Holy Hour for Vocations from 5.00 – 6.00pm. Both celebrations may be followed on the Buncrana parish webcam at: www.buncranaparish.com

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

Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy continues on Fridays 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

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. Bus departs St Eugene's Cathedral at 8.30am. Evening meal included. Cost £60 per person and places confirmed on receipt of completed form. For further information please contact the parish office, St Eugene's Cathedral on 02871262894 or email the parish office at cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Catherine Duffy
Baby Vincent Coyle
Eileen Hegarty

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Brian McKeever
Sheila Lewis
Berna Boyle
Susie Crowley
Joan Ferry
Rosaleen Meenan
Rosie Nelis
Marie Hamilton
Isobel Higgins
Edward Higgins

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Kylian Eddie Starrett
Cobhlaith Saoirse Quinn

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: £5,187
Parish Development: £1,036

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trócaire: £20
Mary's Meals: £20, £25
SVdP: £20, £25
Water Aid: £20
Hungry Children: £10
Admin's Choice: £5
Cathedral Funds: £5
Save the Children: £10
Gaza Appeal: £20

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Clare McDaid & Ian Scott

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Readers 14th / 15th September

06.15 pm	Roisin Rice-Cutter
07.30pm	Amulya George
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Megan Dallat
07.00 pm	Philip Wilson

Singers Wanted: St Eugene's Cathedral Choir is looking for male voices (tenor and bass) to sing with the cathedral choir. The choir practise 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.

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

Triduum of St Therese of the Child Jesus Retreat with Fr Dominique Faure will take place on Sunday 29th September in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Cost for the day, including light lunch is £15. For bookings or further information telephone 028 71262512.

Concern Worldwide Derry Group - Charity Golf Classic in aid of Concern will take place at City of Derry Golf Club on Sunday 15th September. Excellent prizes. £100 entrance fee for team of four. Call the Club House on 028 7134 6369 to book your slot.

Adoption – could you be part of a child’s journey? The Western Trust is holding a Virtual Information event about Adoption on **Tuesday 10th September 2024**, from **3.00 – 5.00pm**, via **Microsoft Teams**. If you would like to join the online event, please contact the Adoption & Permanence Team in Omagh on **028 82835114**.

The Bogside & Brandywell Initiative and its partners are pleased to announce the ‘One World North West Cultural Festival’ on Sunday 15th September 2024, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Bishop’s Gate. The Festival is a celebration of the rich cultural diversity within the local community, bringing together people from various backgrounds for a day of unity and festivity, featuring musicians, dancers, performers, cultural workshops and food from across the world. A family-friendly event, the Multicultural Festival offers something for everyone. Admission to the Festival is free and open to the community.

‘Back on Track’ Volunteering opportunity: Can you spare 2/3 hours one morning per week? Back on Track is a primary schools programme that provides support for children needing additional help in Literacy or Numeracy. The programme is delivered, in-person, on a voluntary basis by retired teachers, people who have experience in working in education and people who simply want to give children that little bit of extra help with their learning. The Back on Track volunteer is required to commit to 2/3 hours one morning per week for 15 weeks, but preferably for a full school year. Sessions with the children are done on a 1:1 or small group basis. Induction, support, resources and training will be provided. For further details contact Kate Diamond (programme Coordinator) at Sólás Charity NIC100114 on 028 9024 7600 or 07749 633 243 or email progs@solasbt7.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.

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in Ordinary Time
8th September 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty