

### A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 3:20-35

Today's Gospel is challenging, even disturbing, with its account of the terrible accusation levelled at Jesus by the incensed scribes: they accuse him of being an instrument of Satan. They have witnessed his miracles of healing, the banishment of unclean spirits, and other manifestations of his divine agency, and yet, in their blind resentment of what they see as a threat to their hitherto unquestioned religious authority, they insist his power comes from Satan. Jesus points out the contradiction, the illogicality of their accusation: "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that household cannot stand."

And there was more to come. The family of Jesus have also arrived to see him, concerned and confused, maybe even embarrassed by their relative's prominence in the community, his fame. It's obvious they want to take him home and hide him away, convinced 'he was out of his mind'. Jesus is crystal-clear in his response to their efforts to take charge of him:

"And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother."

Jesus, may we follow your guidance in all things. You never sought to 'fit in'! You never deviated from the truth, and you were fearless in your defence of that truth. May we, too, never care whether or not we 'fit in' with a world which is hostile to our faith, which seeks to blind us to the truth of the God of love to whom nothing is outside the scope of His divine grace.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** - When Jesus is told, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are asking for you,' he replies, 'Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.' We pray for those hoping to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry, that they will do the will of God.

**Bishop McKeown will join ministers of our Christian denominations at what is believed to be the city's first inter-faith celebration of St Columba's Day.** The service starts at 4.00pm today (Sunday), gathering outside St Augustine's Church of Ireland on the Walls. Incorporating a sung version of the prayer attributed to St Columba, Alone With None But Thee My God, and excerpts from the Amrah Cholm Cille, the celebratory event will take no more than one hour. Everyone is welcome.

**St Eugene's Cathedral proudly presents Afternoon Tea with Daniel O'Donnell** on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00pm in St Mary's College. Tickets cost £35 and are available to buy at the Parish Office.

**St Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.** Cost £770 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £150 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894.

#### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Angela McCafferty**

May she rest in peace

#### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**John McCay  
Grainne Maguire  
George Page  
Mary Morrow**

May they rest in peace

#### Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

**Sophia Rae Ogden  
Angelina Caoimhe McFadden  
Saoirse-Gerí Mellon  
Joseph Joshua Carlo Mullan**

#### Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate **Carleen Porteous and Andrew Crossan** who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

#### Collection

Last week's collection: £4,471  
Parish Development: £942

#### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Smile Train:** £50, £40, £25  
**Carlo Acutis Statute:** £200  
**Matt Talbot:** £200  
**Cathedral Funds:** £100, £100  
**Trócaire:** £50  
**SVdP:** £25, £100  
**Hungry Children:** £5  
**Mary's Meals:** £50, £40, £25  
**Gaza:** £40  
**Altar Flowers:** £20

#### Readers 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> June

6.15 pm Claire O'Kane  
7.30 pm Caitlin Horner-McLaughlin/  
Cadi Hugh  
09.30 am Barry McDaid  
11.00 am St Mary's College  
12.30 pm Ursula Doherty  
07.00 pm Anna Begley

**Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2024** led by Bishop Donal McKeown starts on **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, and concludes on Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> July.** Bus will leave St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am and will travel via, Strabane, Lifford and Ballybofey. Cost £80 including transport. Cost for those making their own way to Lough Derg, £70. Pre-booking is required for those travelling by bus. Please contact Tony Brennan on tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocese Office on 0044 28 7126 2302 for booking form. Lough Derg is a sacred place apart to bring burdens and leave them behind, to seek healing for wounds and to ask for them to be healed. The Lough Derg Pilgrimage provides a kind of breathing space in which people can calmly explore and reflect on where they find themselves in their lives at that moment in time. We look forward to welcoming you!

**A Day Retreat in honour of Saint Anthony** will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Cost for the day including light lunch £20. Please bring along some lilies to have blessed in honour of St. Anthony on the day. For bookings, Telephone 71 262512.

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9<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

**Our Lady of Montligeon monthly prayer** meeting will take place in Termonbacca on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

**Catechism/YouCat Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

Do you want to learn more about your Catholic faith? Do you want to know and share the catechism of the Catholic Church with your children?

YouCat (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church) is a faith training programme of the Christian faith for anyone who wants to learn more about what Catholics believe. YouCat is not just for young people but for anyone who wants to explore the Christian faith. To help you learn more about YouCat and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, you are invited to the Catechism/YouCat Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on Saturday, 15 June. The Catechism/YouCat Pilgrimage Holy Mass will be celebrated by the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Most Reverend Luis Mariano Montemayor with homilist, Bishop of Ossory, Niall Coll. Choir music by the Mullingar Cathedral Choristers. No need to book. Details of the pilgrimage can be found at: [derrydiocese.org/news/youcat-pilgrimage](http://derrydiocese.org/news/youcat-pilgrimage) or contact Máirín Ní Shúilleabháin, National Co-Ordinator for Adult Catechism Studies in Ireland on 00353 (0)87 795 0325.

**Cemetery Sunday** - The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 3.00pm.

**Pilgrimage to Shrines of Italy** - 8 Days, including San Giovanni, Shrine of St. Michael the Archangel, Lanciano, Assisi (inc. Tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis), Loreto, St. Rita of Cascia, Our Lady of Revelations etc. Depart 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Ex Dublin. Cost £1,090. Limited places. For further details contact: Anita 07769744836.

**Sean Davis “4 Day Outdoor Summer Fun Soccer Academy” takes place at Templemore Sports Complex on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024.** Boys and girls aged 5 to 18 years are welcome. Times: 10:00 am to 3.00 pm. For further details Tel. Sean Davis FAI, IFA, FA European A Licence Coach on 028 71263044.

**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.

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