

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 6:41-51

Today's powerful Gospel issues us with the awe-inspiring invitation to take God into ourselves and to become one with Him: we are invited to the Eucharistic table to take into ourselves the good bread, the living bread, the bread of love, the bread of forgiveness, the bread of compassion.

The Gospel opens with the Jews complaining among themselves about what they consider to be Jesus' temerity in claiming to be 'the bread that came down from heaven.' 'Isn't he only the son of Joseph the carpenter and Mary, his wife', they murmur, 'ordinary people we know well!' Once again, they display their earth-bound prejudices. Once again their sense of awe is blunted by their stubborn insistence that greatness cannot possibly reside in the person of the ordinary and the familiar.

Jesus dismisses their murmurings with more than a degree of impatience at their lack of openness of mind and heart. He goes on to state that God, his Father, draws us to Him because He loves us, and He draws us to Him only through His beloved Son, Jesus. It is only through our commitment to the teachings of Jesus, to taking into ourselves his life, death and resurrection that we can sit at the Eucharistic table and eat the good bread of eternal life.

Jesus, may our hearts and minds be open always to the wonder of the extraordinary present in the lives of the ordinary, the humble and the familiar. May our sense of awe before the miraculous never be blunted by our exclusive, earth-bound reverence for the possessors of worldly power and status.

Jesus, may our ability to discern the bad food from the good food grow daily. May we always feel the need to eat better food and so take into our souls the food of love, forgiveness, and compassion.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday 15th August 2024 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass times are as follows:

Wednesday 14th August – 6.15pm and 7.30pm

Thursday 15th August – 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm

The Collection on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be for Parish Youth Ministry.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – In this weekend's gospel Jesus says, "No one can come to me unless they are drawn by the Father who sent me." We pray for those drawn by the Father to know, love, and serve Jesus as priests of the diocese of Derry.

Vocations Day for those interested in the diocesan priesthood, Sunday 8 September, beginning with Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Buncrana, at 12:30pm, ending with a Holy Hour for Vocations, from 5-6pm. Anyone hoping to attend should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com or by calling (028) 79386259.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Annie McCloskey

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Cissie McLaughlin

Kathleen Bierwas

Seamus Mullan

Brian O'Reilly

Joan Quigley

John Madden

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Ember Eileen Cullen

Fiachra Francis Gerard McGarrity

Káison Martin McShane

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate **Jacqueline Shiels & Ryan McAllister** who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,306

Parish Development: £952

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Admin's Choice: £5

Gaza Appeal: £40, £20

SVdP: £40, £25

Flowers for Altar: £30

Blessed Carlo Acutis: £30

Smile Train: £80

Sight Savers: £50

Water Aid: £50

Trócaire: £100

Cathedral Funds: £200

Mary's Meals: £25

Faith Formation: £5

Readers 17th / 18th August

6.15 pm Piaras O Meallain

7.30 pm Helen Sweeney

09.30 am Geraldine Ui Meallain

11.00 am Kay McGinn

12.30 pm Ursula Doherty

7.00 pm Anna Begley

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Monday (pm): Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Chamberlain Street, Cable Street, Lower Road, Abbey House.

Wednesday (pm): Mulvey Park, Elmwood Terrace, Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor, Grangemore, Northland Road.

Lunchtime Concert on Wednesday 14th August at 1pm in The Cathedral Hall. Featuring, Anne Marie Hickey, Roisin Rice and Maria Hickey. Entry is Free. Come and enjoy a lunchtime of beautiful music.

Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons - 2024 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly. The exhibition opened 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

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. Save the date!

Job Opportunities with Derry Diocesan Trust:

Derry Diocesan Advisor in Religious Education (Post Primary) Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, Gate Lodge, St Eugene's Cathedral. Part time permanent 17 hours per week.

To register your interest please contact the Diocesan Office on 71262302 or email recruitment@derrydiocese.org by 5.00pm on Friday 23rd August

Grounds Maintenance Person in the Parish of Templemore, St Eugene's Cathedral. 1-year fixed term contract to 31st July 2025 with possible extension. 36 hours per week.

To register your interest please contact the Diocesan Office on 71262302 or email recruitment@derrydiocese.org by 4.30pm on Friday 23rd August 2024.

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

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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Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
11th August 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty