

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 6:7-13

Jesus has been rejected by his people in Nazareth on the grounds of his 'ordinariness' which, they argue, is in direct conflict with the wisdom and great learning he exhibits, rendering it suspicious in their eyes. Astonished and shocked by their ignorance and prejudice, Jesus leaves Nazareth and goes into the neighbouring villages of Galilee to continue his ministry of repentance and healing.

He sends out the Twelve to do his work, arming them with the authority to preach in his name, to heal and to banish unclean spirits: ordinary people, fishermen mainly, doing extraordinary things! Can the message be any clearer that it is the power of God, not worldly power, which renders us extraordinary! It is that we are all His sons and daughters, equal in His eyes, which enables us to do extraordinary things in His name.

Jesus sends the Twelve out in pairs, an important act in its emphasis on communities, however tiny, rather than a single voice. He instructs them clearly and succinctly before they set off on how to conduct themselves while fulfilling the mission he has entrusted to them. They are to take nothing with them: they must depend totally on the hospitality of others for food and shelter, and if they are rejected by a village they are to shake the dust of that place off their shoes as they leave, thus making it clear that those who have refused God's message have nobody but themselves to blame.

The Twelve go out armed with nothing but the truth which, Jesus knows, is all they need.

The Twelve go out and by the manner of their going out extol the virtues of hospitality, community, sharing, and acceptance of the excluded.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray that those called to become priests of the diocese of Derry will, like the disciples in today's gospel, preach a message of repentance from the God of love and mercy. May they bring the peace and healing power of the Lord to the people they will serve.

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Derry, on Wednesday 17th July at 8:00pm. The Holy Hour can be joined by webcam: www.youtube.com/c/WatersideParish. All are welcome.

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 16th July at 7.30pm. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive mental health and to pray for those who are struggling with mental health issues and those who care for them.

Diocese of Derry Three Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2024. The Diocese of Derry Three Day Pilgrimage led by Bishop Donal McKeown starts on Friday, 26th and concludes on Sunday, the 28th July. Bus will depart after 10.00am Mass from St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Friday 26th July, going via Strabane, Lifford and Ballybofey. Cost £80 including transport. Cost without transport £70. Prebooking is required. Please contact Tony Brennan, Pastoral Coordinator on tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocesan Office on 0044 28 7126 2302 for booking form. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Bernard Gillen
May he rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
William (Billy) Boyce
May he rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:
Sophia Ruby Hegarty
Niamhá Connolly

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 the couples who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

Erin McGilloway & Niall Shannon
Janice Gurney & Ciaran Noble
Rioghnaich Moore & Gerard Doherty

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,748
Parish Development: £931

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:
Mary's Meals: £20
Smile Train: £10
Cathedral Funds: £50
Trocaire: £50
SVdP: £20

Readers 20th / 21st July

6.15 pm	Ursula Doherty
7.30 pm	Liz McMonagle
09.30 am	Michael McCaul
11.00 am	Kay McGinn
12.30 pm	Jackie Tyre
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.

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

ACCORD Derry - Marriage Preparation Courses. The following dates are available online for booking at www.accordni.com: September 20th & 21st 2024 and October 18th & 19th 2024. Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

Providing compassionate care at the end of life - To address the sensitive issue of compassionate care at the end of life, and in response to the need to inform the faithful of Catholic teaching on this important life issue that affects so many families, the Bishops of Ireland have published the pastoral letter: *Freedom to Live Fully, Until Death Comes*. You are invited to read this letter and view the accompanying video *Through the Valley*, which offers personal testimonies by carers and people with terminal illness. The key message of both letter and video asserts that every person possesses inherent, infinite dignity that remains intact regardless of their circumstances. To read *Freedom to Live Fully, Until Death Comes* and to watch *Through the Valley*, visit the following link :

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/06/24/bishops-statement-on-end-of-life-care-freedom-to-live-fully-until-death-comes/>

The Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday 21st July. Mass will be celebrated at 3.00pm and will be followed by Eucharistic Blessing and Procession to the Shrine. Pioneers along with friends and relations of people who are living “one day at a time” with addiction are welcome.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage Knock Shrine Sunday 28th July 2024. Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, Papal Nuncio of Ireland will lead the pilgrimage and the celebration of the fourth World Day for Grandparents in Knock Shrine. Schedule for the day : 2.30pm Anointing of the Sick in the Basilica with Pilgrimage Mass at 3.00pm followed by the Rosary procession. Those unable to join in person can take part online at www.knockshrine.ie/watch

Mary's Meals are organising a 'Two Bridges Walk' on Sunday 11th August over the Foyle Bridge and Peace Bridge in Derry. Meet in Sainsbury's car park at 11.45 am to begin the walk. The distance is approx. 5 miles. The walk is part of a series of walks taking place across Ireland in early August to raise awareness of Mary's Meals and the work they do. You can register for the walk at [Bit.ly/stepbystepwalk](https://bit.ly/stepbystepwalk). If you have any queries please contact Helen Quinn, telephone 07814441701. To find out more about Mary's Meals please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty