

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Donal McKeown - This weekend, Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry publishes a Pastoral Letter to the people of the Diocese of Derry '*God has plans for His people. Join in the Mission of Prayer, Exploration and Renewal.*'

Bishop McKeown invites "all our local parishes to have prayerful discussions about how each can explore and review our way of being Church so that we:

- Build an open and welcoming community, reaching those who feel like outsiders in our churches;
- Grow in faith together throughout our lives; and
- Make Jesus known and loved.

The full pastoral letter and a video message will be available at: www.derrydiocese.org/pastoral-letter. Copies of letter are available at the back of the Cathedral and at the Parochial House.

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 1: 29-34

One of the many satisfying things about John the Baptist is that despite the vast crowds flocking to him, drawn to his powerful, unconventional presence and his passionate beautiful ministry, he always remains true to who he is in God's eyes: he is the one who is preparing the way for his Lord and Master, whose sandal, he insists in his humility, he is not fit to tie. He, John, baptises with water but the Son of God will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. And now, in today's Gospel, God reveals to John that Jesus is His Son; Jesus is the new Paschal Lamb; he is the living, breathing joy of God's love for humankind.

Jesus, John, like you taught us that repentance is our path to forgiveness. The word 'repent' means 'to change direction;' in other words, to turn away from one's sinfulness, and to turn one's face to the light of God's forgiveness. Let us accept this as a challenge to spiritual torpor, self-satisfaction, and attachment to worldly power and repent of our sinfulness with truth and courage.

Let us embrace with the passionate conviction of John, our baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

The St Dymphna Mass will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 17th January 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.

As a parish community we look forward to the ordination of Deacon Michael McCaul to the Priesthood here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Sunday 29th January at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome. *We ask you Lord Jesus, to fill Michael with the fire of your love, that his ministry may reveal your presence in the Church.*

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Evelyn Gillen
John Hagan
Garvin McAteer
Lawrence Green
Christine Doherty
Michael Cowley
Dorette Gillen*

May they rest in peace

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trocaire: £500, £200, £100, £100, £100, £50, £5

Matt Talbot: £10

Mary's Meals: £100

Smile Train: £100, £60, £55, £10

Cathedral Funds: £20

Ukraine: €50

SVDP: £20

Readers for 21st/22nd January

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| 06.15 pm | Carmel Devenney |
| 07.30 pm | Helen Sweeney |
| 09.30 am | Kate Doherty |
| 11.00 am | St Mary's College |
| 12.30 pm | Niamh Kehoe |
| 07.00 pm | Anna Begley |

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,917

Parish Development: £1,002

Thank you for your generosity

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Thomas Hugh McIlroy
Helaena Carolyn-Mairie Sharkey*

To book a Baptism telephone
028 71262894

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Patricia Monaghan
Manny Carlin
Tommy & Bella Molloy
Joe Stevenson
Patrick Gill
Laurence Brown
Michael Murphy
Jackie Dunne
Denis Doherty
Breege McCaul
Edward Doherty*

May they rest in peace

Colmcille Ladies Choir is recruiting new members for the 2023 season. For more information contact Anne at 07913383475.

Pre-School or Primary One place for September 2023. There are three excellent Catholic schools in the parish, which take both boys and girls. The three schools are St Anne's Primary School (Tel no 71 263046) St Eugene's Primary School (Tel no. 71 261601) and Rosemount Primary School (Tel no. 71 265605). Nursery class places are available in St Eugene's and Rosemount Primary Schools.

If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2023, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 27th January 2023.

The next Rosary on the Coast will be held at 3pm on Sunday 15th January at Benone Strand, Limavady, left hand side as usual. All Rosary Coasters and new members welcome. For details telephone 077 303 30028.

Be still and know that I Am God: Adults silent retreat at Ards Friary, Donegal, from Friday 3rd to Monday 6th February 2023. The Servant Brothers from the Home of the Mother will lead a series of Spiritual Exercises each day along with Confession, Rosary, Adoration and Holy Mass. Cost £190 and includes private room accommodation in the Friary and all meals and drinks. To book or for more information contact Rory on 00353 86 8231717.

Lourdes 2023 The Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage from 3rd to 7th July led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Flights direct from City of Derry Airport. Four nights full board. Cost £745 sharing, £35 single supplement. Travel insurance available - £39 up to age 79, £78 for ages 80-94. Pilgrims may use their own insurance. Further details and payment arrangements will be available shortly via the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Email derrypilgrim@outlook.com Telephone 02871 260 293

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 with regard to 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 Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias, Deacon: Rev Michael McCaul