

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 8: 27-35

'Who do you say I am?' Jesus asks his disciples in today's Gospel, and Peter, his face probably alight with love, responds, 'You are the Christ.' And Peter is right: Jesus is the Christ. But Jesus knows that, as yet, neither Peter nor the rest of his disciples understand the full implications of his question: they are suffering a failure of understanding because they are thinking exclusively in human terms. When Peter objects to his beloved Master's insistence that he, Jesus, is destined to suffer grievously, Jesus rebukes him with the words: 'Get thee behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

If Jesus were to ask us today who we think he is, what would our answer be? Would our answer be, 'Jesus, you are God's active presence in our lives. You are unconditional love. You are the forgiveness which forgives over and over. You are the one who brought us the transforming, non-violent, loving message of the Gospels which we so often miss. In the agony of the Cross which you bore uncomplainingly, you taught us that to live lives which are ego-centred is not the way of God: but lives which have you at their centre light our way to eternal life.

Or, would our answer to Jesus' question, 'Who do you say I am?' be: 'You are whatever it suits me to believe you are!'

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray for those whom Jesus is calling to serve Him and His Church as priests of the diocese of Derry, that they will have the courage to take up His invitation and follow Him, trusting that in losing their life for His sake they will discover a much richer life as His disciples, serving His people, embracing whatever challenges (crosses) priesthood may bring, but with faith and hope in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 17th September 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.

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 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:

Brendan Duffy

May he rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Tommy McDowell
Willie & Margaret Harkin
Elizabeth (Lily) Gillespie
Nora Griffin
John Carlin***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

***Rome William Dunnion
Annie Jarvis***

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Readers 21st / 22nd September

06.15 pm Karen O'Brien
07.30pm Caitlin Horner McLaughlin/
Cadi McHugh
09.30 am Barry McDaid
11.00 am St Eugene's PS
12.30 pm Marie Canning
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,822
Parish Development: £ 1,002

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Admin's choice: £5
Sightsavers: £20
Smile Train: £20, £50
Cathedral Funds: £50
Mary's Meals: £50
Trócaire: £20, £500, £100

Sacrament of Marriage

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

***Michaela McMacken &
Aaron Proctor***

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Sick Visitation

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

Tuesday: Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Chamberlain Street, Cable Street, Lower Road, Abbey House.

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

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.

‘The Net’ September 2024 - Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese, the latest edition of *‘The Net’* is available in print as well as on the Diocesan website. For coverage of faith related stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.com.

St Eugene’s Beavers and Cubs are starting back next Monday night. Beavers (6–8-year old) meet from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and Cubs (8-11 year olds) meet from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. New members are welcome. We are looking for new leaders (must be over 18 years old). Full training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Maria on 07955549818.

Trócaire is looking for people to join our team of Christmas fundraisers to help respond to the urgent need of poor communities around the world, including the millions of children and families caught in conflict in Sudan and Gaza. You can take action and make a difference through a range of activities, including the promotion of our Gifts of Change – training and support will be provided. If you would like to find out more about what you can do to help now or over the Advent and Christmas period, then please email Mark McMahon at infony@trocaire.org or call 028 9080 8030.

The Climate Crisis – what can we do? The Sisters of Mercy have invited Jane Mellett from Trócaire to facilitate a webinar on The Climate Crisis: Thursday 19th September, 7.30 pm. To register for this webinar, click the link <https://bit.ly/3XDKJct> and enter your name and address.

‘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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Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
15th September 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty