

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 4: 26-34

Today's enlightening Gospel witnesses Jesus using the medium of the parable to convey a sense of the kingdom of God.

The farmer puts the seed into the ground and waits. The seed quietly embraces the process of growth: first the green sprout, then the leaf, then the spike, and finally, the grain. The process is complete and the seed is now ready for harvesting.

The mustard seed is tiny, but again, embracing the process of growth, it becomes the largest of trees, its spreading branches offering shelter to the birds.

Today's Gospel offers us hope in an age which is crying out for hope, an age which seems to invite hopelessness. Today's Gospel tells us that the kingdom of God will prevail and will triumph despite the fact that to the unseeing eye, nothing good appears to be happening on earth; all seems stagnant; but the truth is that the seed sown by God and nourished into growth by his beloved Son will manifest in a gloriously rich harvest. The tiny, insignificant- looking mustard seed may invite no interest, but it will quietly grow into a mighty protective tree. We are attracted to what is big, to what appears to be important, powerful, to what we see celebrated by the world. The parable of the mustard seed invites us to look at 'smallness' differently. If we gravitate only towards what appears powerful in the eyes of the world, would we have listened to Jesus had we been alive in his time on earth?

Jesus, may we never lose hope that the kingdom of God is alive and flourishing if we but look for it with eyes new-washed in your grace and your wisdom. May we turn those same eyes away from worldly notions of greatness and look with wonder and awe on the tiny mustard seed and marvel at what it is already becoming.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray for an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood, that the seed of vocation which the Lord has planted in the hearts of the men of the diocese of Derry will be nourished and promoted, and bear fruit in abundance.

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 18th June 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.

Prayer to Our Lady of Mental Peace

Mother of tranquillity, Mother of hope, Our Lady of Mental Peace.

We reach out to you for what is needful in our weakness. Teach a searching heart that God's love is unchanging, that human love begins and grows by touching God's love.

St Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th -24th 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.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Tommy (Sonny) McCourt
Bridie Sharkey
Elizabeth (Betty Sherard) Doherty
Franco Hickey
Mary Hughes
Patricia Hughes
Pat Hughes
William Coyle
Mary Ellen Coyle
Bobby Coyle

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Khaison Boucher

To book a Baptism contact the
Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,956
Parish Development: £1,007

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks
the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £100
Gaza: £20
Children in Crossfire: £40
Hungry Children: £5, £5
SVdP: £100

Readers 22nd / 23rd June

6.15 pm Michael McCaul
7.30 pm Karen Harkin
09.30 am Kate Doherty
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Anne McDaid
07.00 pm Marian Boyle

Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2024 led by Bishop Donal McKeown starts on **Friday, 26th July, and concludes on Sunday, the 28th July.** Bus will leave St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Friday 26th 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!

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

The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead takes place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 30th June at 3.00 pm. Please be in position at 2.30 pm. Families are asked to bring their own holy water to the Cemetery for the blessing of the graves. At the appropriate time Bishop McKeown will ask a representative of each family to sprinkle their family grave (and neighbouring grave if there is no-one present). There will be no holy water in the Cemetery.

130 car parking spaces will be made available for Blue Badge holders within the Cemetery. The places will be allocated on a first come first served basis to current Blue Badge holders and can be booked at www.derrystrabane.com/cemeterysunday.

There will be no vehicle access to the cemetery from 12pm to facilitate preparations for the service. Access will only be given to those who have registered with gates remaining open until 2pm. Those who have secured a space must be in place by 2pm, as there will be no access for vehicles after this time.

Other car parking will be available for blue badge holders at St Mary's Church, Creggan, St Cecilia's College and Celtic Park. Booking is not required, and access will only be given to vehicles that display a current Disability Blue Badge Permit on arrival.

For visitors parking outside the cemetery, we ask that you please park in appropriate areas and be considerate of people living in the area. Do not block roadways, footpaths, or gateways when parking. This is an important time of prayer for families who are remembering loved ones, and we ask that everyone is respectful and mindful of other visitors during the service. We encourage those attending to arrive in good time, and to adhere to the advice of the stewards. We would greatly appreciate cooperation with staff to ensure everyone can have safe and easy access to this time of prayer.

The Service will also be live streamed and available to view at <https://youtube.com/live/9ZS-utqxlfo?feature=share>

All-Ireland Rally for Life takes place in Dublin on Saturday 6th July. Coaches will be travelling from towns across Northern Ireland. To book your seat contact 028 90278484/ 07592280522 or email info@preciouslife.com

Sean Davis "4 Day Outdoor Summer Fun Soccer Academy" takes place at Templemore Sports Complex on Monday 1st to Thursday 4th 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, 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.

*Vol 51 No.24
Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
16th June 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty