29th Sunday in Ordinary Time A Short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 18:1-8

"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Luke 18:1-8

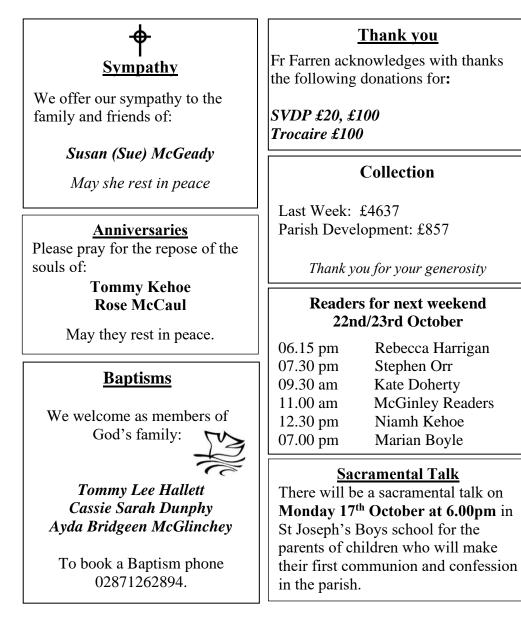
The teaching in today's Gospel is clearly stated: Pray always. Don't lose heart. As with all of Jesus' parables, we mustn't settle for literalism; the deeper our reading is the more the parables reveal their powerful truths, and the parable Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel is no exception. I believe we are meant to admire the courage, persistence and perseverance the widow shows in her exhortations to the godless judge to grant her justice. We applaud her when she finally wears him down and he reluctantly grants her a just decision.

The parable reveals a truth which is powerful indeed: unlike the dishonest judge God is a proper judge who grants justice not from a desire to 'shut us up', but in order that justice might be done.

"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them?"

All that we go through in this life has been shared with us by Jesus: pain, humiliation, abandonment – who can forget his dark night of the soul, his excruciating agony in the Garden? But to the end his courage never failed him: with his dying breath his heart was still beating strongly with faith, forgiveness and love. Jesus, may grace inspire us to join the company of the persistent widow and all the faithful who hope for deliverance. May we remember your words when our hearts threaten to fail us.

Job Title: Pastoral Youth Ministry Co-ordinator (St Eugene's and St Columba's) & Cathedral Hall Manager (1-year Fixed Term contract with possibility of extension) Reporting to: Parish Pastoral Development Coordinator for Templemore Parish. Hours of work: 35 hours per week (Evening and Weekend work required) Place of work: Templemore Parish: St Eugene's & St Columba's & Cathedral Hall For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: payroll@derrydiocese.org. Closing date is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30pm.



**The Matt Talbot Prayer Society** prays daily and specifically for those enrolled to be freed from addictions including alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling, eating and smoking through Matt Talbots intercession. Mass is celebrated on the first Monday of each month for those enrolled. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please contact 02871262894. **ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS' SOCIETY** - A meeting of St Joseph's Young Priests' Society will be held in St Eugene's Cathedral Choir Room following 10.00am Mass on Wednesday 19 October. We need people to join us for one hour per month (not January, July or August) to pray for and help students in formation. The Society assists Irish and Overseas students.

**The Irish Pilgrimage Trust- Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Easter 2023**: now accepting applications from young people of all religious denominations with: A medical condition, physical disability or illness (aged 9-18), learning disability (aged 11-21), very seriously ill children under the age of 9, accompanied by a parent or close relative, young adults between the age of 19 and 30 with a disability or illness. The young person travels without their family but accompanied by experienced adult carers in the group. The Irish Pilgrimage Trust covers the cost of those young people selected to travel. If there is a young person that you feel would be eligible and would benefit from a trip to Lourdes please contact Mary Dunnion on 0877962047 or Aileen Henry on 0872063183.

**Have you ever wanted to volunteer and help others?** If you are interested in volunteering with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust to travel to Lourdes as a carer for a week next Easter please contact Mary on 00353877962047.

**There will be a free Community Concert in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall** - On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30pm - as part of the City of Derry International Choir festival. Local dementia friendly choir Cathedral Voices will be joined by visiting internal choir, Embla from Norway, for a one off performance. The performance will also be live streamed. Parking is available in the Cathedral grounds, and there will be tea in the hall after the performance. Everyone welcome.

**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 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.

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