

A short reflection on today's Gospel

Today's Gospel teaches us a fundamental Christian truth which gloriously liberates the soul but may strike fear in the timorous heart: death is a prerequisite of life. If there is no Good Friday, there is no Easter Sunday. Death of any kind is a subject from which most of us shy away. We know that we are mortal creatures, but we often live as though our time on earth is unlimited, as though we will live forever. We may know that there are aspects of our lives to which we must die if we are to thrive and prosper in the light of God and bear good fruit, but we procrastinate over and over, telling ourselves that we have plenty of time before letting those aspects fall into the earth and die.

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks to us in the knowledge that he is standing in the shadow of his forthcoming Passion and death. He is the grain of wheat which will fall on the ground and die in order to yield the rich harvest of humanity's salvation; in order to open the door to eternal life for all who believe in him. His death will call us to eternal life. Good Friday lights the way to Easter Sunday.

Jesus, as we stand in the light of your Passion and death may we have the courage to face and let fall to the ground to die those aspects of ourselves which prevent us from yielding good fruit.

In the light of our knowledge that final death calls us to eternal life, may we live our lives fully, gratefully and bravely, and may we develop and share with others the gifts of compassion and genuine kindness as we sojourn through our allotted span.

St Eugene's Cathedral – Lenten Programme

Confession and Adoration on the way home – Mondays from 5.00pm to 7.20pm

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45am Monday to Friday

Lunch-time Mass 1.00pm each weekday (Monday to Friday)

Lenten Holy Hour of prayer led by Fr Shaun, Thursday evenings from 8.00pm with adoration, reflection and music.

The Seven Last Words of Christ, Palm Sunday 24th March at 8.00pm - Prepare for Holy Week by sharing your time, in the presence of Jesus, contemplating his final words with reflections and music.

Palms will be blessed at all Masses next weekend.

Lenten talk Tuesday 19th March at 8.00pm – The Easter Vigil – “the Mother of all Vigils” Why does the Church call the Easter Vigil, “the mother of all Vigils”? Join us for a talk by Fr Paul Farren, St Eugene's Cathedral explaining what happens during the Easter Vigil and why it is the most important event in the whole year.

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 19th March 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.

Easter Mass Bouquets are now available to buy at the Parish Office. Cost £2.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Carmel Mulrine
Bridget Cooley***

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Catherine Friel
Frank McMahan
Peggy Quigley
Catherine Donaghey
Rev Fr Connell Harkin
Christine Cullen***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

***Donnacha Seán Óg Flynn
Keely Sarah McFadden
Kayla Patsy Rudd***

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Readers for 23rd / 24th March

06.15 pm Helen Sweeney
07.30 pm Caitlin Horner McLaughlin/
Cadi McHugh
09.30 am Kate Doherty
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Eilish Friel
07.00 pm Philip Wilson
Readers for The Passion have been contacted

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,102
Parish Development: £1,036

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trócaire: £100, £20, £20, £50
Gaza Appeal: £30,
Cathedral Funds: £200, £10, £10
St Padre Pio Fund: £500
Altar Flowers: £50, £20
SVdP: £20
Missions: £200

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – The gospel for St Patrick's Day challenges the future priests of our diocese to die to themselves and their own desires and ambitions; to give up their "life in this world" for the sake of the Kingdom; to love and follow Jesus; to stay close to the Lord, standing with Him wherever He is, particularly in His closeness to, and love for, the poor, the needy, the oppressed, and the most vulnerable. We pray for those already answering that call, and for those who will serve the people of this diocese as priests for many years to come.

LIFE Camp 2024 – Calling all pupils currently in Primary 3 – 7. Week 1– Monday 1st – Friday 5th July and Week 2– Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July. Cost for each week is £40. To register go to www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Life%20Summer%20Camp

The Cathedral Club meets after the 10.00am Mass each Thursday in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group. Refreshments will be served.

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.

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Solemnity of St Patrick –
Fifth Sunday of Lent
17th March 2024*

Derry Diocesan Youth Synod Gathering: Lizzie and Niamh of the Diocese of Derry Youth Team are inviting all young people or those who work with young people in parishes and schools in the diocese to an evening of sharing faith along with Tea, Chat and Prayer. This event will be held in Maghera Pastoral Centre on Wednesday, 20th March 6:30pm-8:00pm. If you would like to register for this event, please email Lizzie on lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or phone 028 71264087.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Parents and Grandparents of boys in St Joseph's Boys' School are invited to a Mass in the school to celebrate the feast of St Joseph on Wednesday 20th March at 1.30pm. Please ring the school office on 02871262923 to confirm your attendance.

St Vincent de Paul have now opened a Pop-up preloved Furniture Shop. Open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10.00am – 2.00pm at 4 Elagh Business Park, Buncrana Road, Derry. We are looking for quality suites, bedroom furniture and bric-a-brac. To arrange collection please call 02871 265489.

Ladies Weekend Retreat - Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March. Conducted by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Cost £90 residential. £70 non-residential. For bookings e-mail: termonbaccaderry@gmail.com or call 71 262512.

Sean Davis 3 Day Indoor “Easter” 2024 Fun Soccer Academy takes place at Templemore Sports Complex from Wednesday 3rd April to Friday 5th April 2024 for boys and girls aged 5 to 18 years. Times: 10:00 am to 3.00 pm daily. For bookings and further details Tel. Sean Davis FAI, IFA, FA European A Licence Coach on 028 71263044.

Gala Concert in St Columb's Hall Sunday 24th March at 7.30pm. The Priests and soprano Margaret Keys will be performing. Tickets cost £30.00. Tickets can be purchased by going onto the Long Tower website www.longtowerchurch.org via the donate button. Alternatively, tickets will be sold after 6.00pm Saturday Vigil & 12 Noon Sunday Masses, at the rear of the Long Tower Church and from the Long Tower Parish Office on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2.30pm-4.00pm. For further details email darinaghboyle15@gmail.com or longtower@derrydiocese.org.

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.