

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 1:12-15

Mark's account of the temptation of Jesus in the desert is short, but it focuses on the essentials: the location of Jesus' trial, its duration, and the identity of the tempter. Jesus went into the desert, a barren place apart, to prepare himself spiritually for the ministry on which he was about to embark. He was there for forty days and during that time, we know that Satan regularly attempted to lure him away from God with false promises. Jesus, notwithstanding terrible hunger and weakness, withstood all of Satan's temptations, finally banishing him from his sight. Angels came and cared for Jesus after which he left the desert to begin his ministry.

Jesus was in the desert, a barren place abandoned except for wild beasts, because it was God's will that he should face Satan's temptations alone, thereby manifesting his total fidelity to his heavenly Father and his awareness that, although alone, he had never been abandoned. He had been held in God's loving gaze at all times throughout his forty days.

On his return from the desert his victory over Satan is demonstrated by the power and clarity of his proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Strengthened and purified by his ordeal, he is ready to preach repentance and salvation to the world; he is ready to face whatever the world chooses to inflict on him. He has been tested and has not been found wanting.

Jesus, may we, too, be willing at times to draw apart from the world to pray, thereby purifying and strengthening our fidelity to God and the task He has given us to proclaim His Kingdom. Amen.

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

Live life to the full: A series of evenings of reflection on the sacraments will run each Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in Lent. We will consider how the sacraments help us to live life to the full. During each session, we will reflect on a brief scripture passage linked with the relevant sacrament, together with a short video. There will be an opportunity for discussion/comment on the key message of the week, followed by a closing prayer.

Trócaire Lenten Appeal – Trócaire boxes are available for collection at the back of the Cathedral.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - "Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour." These lines from today's Psalm are our prayer for our diocesan seminarians and for those currently discerning a vocation to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry.

The annual inter-diocesan Vocations Retreat will take place in Drumalis, Larne, from 8th - 10th March. Anyone aged 18 or older, interested in attending should contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgo2111@gmail.com or on (028) 79386259.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Siobhan McLaughlin

Sheila Quinn

Rosemary O'Doherty

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Sean McMahon

Anne Marie McFadden

Ann Campbell

Harry & Emma O'Connor

Michael Cullen

Marie Canning

John Gill

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Blaine Hugh McCann

Emerson Paul McCay-McLaughlin

Theodore Alexander Singh Matharu

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: £5,018

Parish Development: £1,176

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Flowers for the Altar: £40, £60, £20, £40, £40, £15, £10, £20, £20

Admin's Choice: £20, £20

Hungry Children: £5, £100

Medical Missionaries: £10

Sight Savers: £10

Smile Train: £60

Homeless: £20

Trócaire: £85, £50

Syria: £50

Palestine: £50

Mary's Meals: £100

Concern Worldwide: £60

Readers for 24th /25th February

06.15 pm Roisin Rice-Cutter

07.30 pm Caitlin Horner McLaughlin

09.30 am Kay McGinn

11.00 am McGinley Readers

12.30 pm Marie Canning

07.00 pm Marian Boyle

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 20th February 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 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.

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

ACCORD Derry Marriage Preparation Courses. Following dates are available April 19th & 20th, May 17th & 18th and June 14th & 15th. Please note that all courses are now in person and not virtual. Courses can be booked online at www.accordni.com

Living Disciples – Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Derry - Healing Nights every First Friday in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, from 7.00pm – 10.00pm. All are welcome.

Lent: Season of Well-Being weekend Retreat at Ards Friary, 23rd to 25th February, led by Philip McParland. To book contact Ards Friary at by telephone 074 91 38909 or email: info@ardsfriary.ie

The National Vocations Office in collaboration with The Hook of Faith are running an online (Zoom) Webinar Tuesday 5th March 8.00pm to 9.00pm. Keynote speaker – Breda O'Brien. To register for this webinar simply email: thehookoffaith@gmail.com. All are welcome

Our Lady of Montligeon prayer meeting for the Holy Souls takes place in Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, on the following dates, starting at 7.30pm: Monday 19th February, 25th March, 15th April and 20th May. Everyone welcome.

Meeting in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry, every Sunday at 3.00pm, for adult children of families living with alcoholism or other serious challenges. This is an anonymous programme for ages 18 years and over.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo 10th March 2024. £799.00 per person sharing. Price includes return bus from NI, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with dinner, bed & breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on enquiry. Contact Patricia on 07740 175557 or 087 1890 236 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 9 nights from 30th July to 8th August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with peers from around the world, in a faith context. Cost is £800 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

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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Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty