

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink

What we learn in today's Gospel is at the heart of our faith: Christ is the life-giving bread awaiting our hunger. St Augustine echoes what Jesus tells us in today's Gospel: God is the food and all we have to do is to provide the hunger. We know that God is in Jesus and Jesus promised that he would never leave us, that he would be with us forever. This is made manifest when, as a community of faith, we submit ourselves fully to the miracle of the Eucharist, to its constant and completely unearned grace. When we give ourselves over fully to the unearned grace of the Eucharist we experience profound gratitude and transformative joy. Someone once stated that sinners are, more often than not, more hungry than 'saints', a statement which is at once comforting, provocative and challenging, a statement which comforts our guilty selves, challenges our spiritual inertia, and provokes us into opening ourselves fully to our hunger for God and the appeasement of that hunger in the Eucharist.

Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of pride, egotism and self-righteousness, all of which leave no room for our hunger for God.

Jesus, may we always remember that when we receive the unearned grace of the Eucharist, we take into ourselves your life, your death, your surrender to the will of your Father. In other words we take into ourselves your great gift of yourself. Help us to take the time to sit with you and meditate on this truth with humble gratitude. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray that those called to serve the diocese of Derry as priests in the 21st century will find the strength and encouragement they need in Jesus, the Bread of Life, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist, and that they will be filled with wisdom, joy, and faith.

Vocations Day for those interested in the diocesan priesthood, Sunday 8 September, beginning with Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Buncrana, at 12:30pm, ending with a Holy Hour for Vocations, from 5-6pm. Anyone hoping to attend should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com or by calling (028) 79386259.

Feast of St. Eugene - Friday 23 August

To celebrate the Feast of St. Eugene on Friday there will be a cup of tea after the 10am Mass in the upstairs sacristy and everyone is welcome. St. Eugene we ask you to look upon your parish and its parishioners as we gather as Generations of Faith to worship the Lord as you did. Amen.

Sacred Heart Church, Drumragh - 125th Anniversary

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church, Drumragh Parish is excited to announce the reproduction of a special edition of Five Years Tour In America by Father J J Mc Glade. To support this project and secure your copy, visit www.ciar.ie/2024/08/09/sacredheartbookpreorder/

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Patricia (Sally) Baker
May she rest in peace

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,313
Parish Development: £945

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Majella Quigley
Philomena Duffy
Sibeal Sharkey

May they rest in peace

Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to your people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering His promise:

Readers 24th / 25th August

Readers for 24th / 25th August

06.15 pm	Roisin Rice Cutter
07.30pm	Caitlin Horner McLaughlin/ Cadi McHugh
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	Mary Morrison
12.30 pm	Michael Wilson
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train

£10, £10, £25, £20, £50, £25

Water Aid

£25, £40

Cathedral Funds

£20, £100

Mary's Meals

€10, £50

Gaza Appeal

£30

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Caroline Yvonne Callan
Loki Kieran Mc Closkey
Logan-Quinn Ace Mc Closkey

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons - 2024 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly. The exhibition opened on Thursday 8th August at 10.30am. Exhibition times are Mondays - Saturdays from 10.30am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. The Exhibition will run until 31st August. Everyone is welcome.

Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Parish Mission Appeal - The Daughters of Charity will visit Saint Eugene's Cathedral on the 24th & 25th of August and will speak at all Masses about their work in Africa. More information can be found on their website at www.daughtersofcharity.ie

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. Save the date!

Job Opportunities with Derry Diocesan Trust:

Derry Diocesan Advisor in Religious Education (Post Primary) Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, Gate Lodge, St Eugene's Cathedral. Part time permanent 17 hours per week.

To register your interest please contact the Diocesan Office on 71262302 or email recruitment@derrydiocese.org by 5.00pm on Friday 23rd August

Grounds Maintenance Person in the Parish of Templemore, St Eugene's Cathedral. 1-year fixed term contract to 31st July 2025 with possible extension. 36 hours per week.

To register your interest please contact the Diocesan Office on 71262302 or email recruitment@derrydiocese.org by 4.30pm on Friday 23rd August 2024.

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty