

## A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

Scripture, in general, tells us little about Joseph, Mary's betrothed. However, careful reading of today's Gospel reveals Joseph to us as an extraordinarily gifted man of faith and truth, well-chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, His only Son.

Joseph knew the law. He knew that the law entitled him to cast off Mary as soon as he realised that she was carrying a child that was not his. It is extraordinary to learn that Joseph's concern was not for the law or his own feelings; his concern was for Mary; his unerring instinct for the truth of his young wife is what lies behind his decision to overlook the law, disobey the law, in fact. Joseph is a man gifted with the ability to see deeply into the heart of the truth; gifted with a deeper knowing of the truth. Even before he is visited by the angel in his dream (always a sign of deep spiritual knowing) his attitude towards Mary is tender, respectful, loving. He is truly the hero of today's Gospel.

'When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.'

**Advent Programme – Morning Prayer** (Monday-Friday at 7.45am). **Special Prayer during Advent** (Monday after the 10.00am Mass) – everyone welcome & tea provided. **Late Opening** (Monday 8.00pm – 10.00pm) with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession.

**St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service** will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm

**St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets** are available to buy at the Parochial House. Price £2.

### Christmas Confessions & Mass Times:

**Christmas Eve:** Confessions 11.30am to 5pm

**Christmas Vigil Masses:** 6.00pm and Midnight

**Christmas Day:** 7am, 9.30am, 11am and 12.30pm

**St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference)** would like to acknowledge with thanks a contribution of £150.

### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Annetta (Anita) Peoples**

May she rest in peace

### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Harry Francis**

**Dan Cullen**

**Fr Patrick McGoldrick**

**Hugh Duffy**

**Mona & Hugh McLaughlin**

**Jim Monaghan**

**Robert Lewis**

May they rest in peace.



### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Altar Flowers:** £20

**Trocaire:** £60, £50

**Somalia:** £40

**SVDP:** £300, £40

**Church Funds:** £119, £50

**Smile Train:** £50

### Collection

Last week's collection: £3,884

Parish Development: £842

*Thank you for your generosity*

### **Readers for 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

06.00 pm Claire O'Kane

Midnight Mary Feeney

### **Christmas Day**

09.30 am Barry McDaid

11.00 am Piaras O Meallain

12.30 pm Eilish Friel

**Children in Crossfire** wish to extend a happy a peaceful Christmas to everyone here in St Eugene's Cathedral Parish, thank you so much for your support to the Advent Appeal this year. If you have an advent box at home they can be returned here after Christmas, or you can send your donation directly to the charity. Thank you.

**The Foyle Hospice Lights of Love Service**, lighting up the Christmas tree in memory of loved ones who have died, will take place this year on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Foyle Hospice are asking attendants to park at Thornhill College and the Reddin's shuttle bus will start transporting people from there at 6.30pm to the Hospice grounds. The shuttle bus will return you to your car after the service and shuttles will end at 8:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**At Christmas we celebrate the gift of Jesus, our hope and peace, Jesus, the light of the world.** We pray this Christmas that each of us will rediscover the meaning of Our Lord's Nativity and the great hope that it proclaims for the world. You are invited to spend time with scripture, reflection and prayer. A Christmas prayer resource is available to download on the Diocese of Derry website for private prayer at the church or home, to share with a neighbour who may have no online access or for a time to gather each day with your family. The booklet can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/12-days-of-christmas-2022>

**The Rosary Coasters** will meet on Sunday 18 December at 3pm on Benone Strand, left hand side as usual. There may be a Christmas cupcake or two for afters. Everyone welcome, bring a friend and wrap up warm! Details 07730330028.

**The annual GOAL Mile Walk** will take place on St Stephen's Day, Monday 26 December. Meeting at Sainsbury's car park anytime between 11 am and 1 pm for a walk along the river, over the Peace Bridge to Ebrington Square and back to Sainsbury's. Everyone welcome.

**Pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome:** As part of St Eugene's Cathedral 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, Bishop Donal McKeown will lead a pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome from 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Price is £879pps (Single room supplement £150). For more details, email [info@marian.ie](mailto:info@marian.ie) or call Belfast on (028) 956 80005 or Dublin on (01) 878 8159

**Life in the Spirit Seminars:** Saturday 7 January and Sunday 8 January 2023, led by the Apostles of Love, in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca. Finishing with Mass on Sunday celebrated by Bishop McKeown. Enquiries to Mark on 07895003022 or Jenny on 07761248975.

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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.

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