

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

The parable Jesus relates to his disciples in today's Gospel does not, as has sometimes been suggested, justify a gospel of economic prosperity. Like all the parables Jesus relates, the parable of the man who goes abroad and entrusts his property to his servants merits deep and careful reading. What it emphasises is the certainty of the Lord's return and the crucial importance of emulating the ministry of Jesus while we wait. It is not a flag-waving celebration of capitalism.

What did Jesus do when he was on earth?

He healed the sick. He comforted the despised and the marginalised. He forgave his enemies. He refused to conform to human commandments masquerading as divine commandments. He endured agonising suffering without a word of complaint. He fed the hungry. He cherished the beauty and innocence of children and set them before us as models to emulate. This is the message of today's Gospel: to rise to the challenge of emulating Jesus using whatever God has given us; to endure through the hard times; to love, to forgive time and time again; to heal rather than to inflict pain; to cherish children; to till the patch of earth we have been given and leave it in a better state for those precious children.

Jesus, may we follow your way of light and love always.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray that our present seminarians and those discerning their vocation will use wisely the gifts and talents with which the Lord has blessed them. There will be a Mass followed by a Holy Hour for Vocations on Friday 24th November at 7.30pm Mass in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road. All are welcome.

Holy Hour for Peace – Bishop McKeown will lead a Holy Hour for Peace in the World from 8.00pm to 9.00pm on Monday 20th November in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Derry. Everyone is welcome to attend. You can also join in this time prayer for peace via the St Eugene's Cathedral webcam.

The St Dymphna Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st November. 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.

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena continues after 7.30pm Mass each Thursday until 30th November. Do you have some "knots" in your life? We pray and entrust our specific "knots" to Her loving hands, learning how to let go of that which binds us.

A Week of Witness begins this weekend to highlight the work of ACN Ireland (Aid to the Church in Need) which supports around 6,000 projects in 150 countries dedicated to the service of Christians who are persecuted or oppressed because of their faith. Information packs are available at the back of the Cathedral. For more information about ACN please visit their website at www.acnireland.org

Christmas Afternoon Tea - Saturday 2nd December at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for an Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Entry £25 - Pre booking only. Call into Parish Office or Tel: 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Eamon Cassidy
Brian Harkin*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Sarah Page
Martin McGonagle
Willie Cullen
Declan Gallagher
David Holly
Frank Nugent*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Arthur-Joseph McClements
Balaneie Marla Reid*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,670
Parish Development: £1,299

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £10
Trócaire: £100, £10
SVdP: £200
Hungry Children: £5

Readers 25th / 26th November

06.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm	Amulya George
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	Model PS
12.30 pm	Eilish Friel
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

If you have family away from home this Christmas and would like them to receive a Christmas Card from the parish, please write their names and full postal addresses on a card available at the back of the Cathedral and place it in the box before 26th November.

Saint Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets are available for purchase from the Parochial House. Cost £2.

Parish Advent Pilgrimage on Tuesday 12th December. Bus leaves Cathedral at 9.30am and returning at approx 4.00pm. Price £40 - includes Transport, Morning Tea & Lunch. For more information or to book call into the Parish Office or call 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

Christmas Floral Workshops – 14th December – 11am or 7pm. Join our experienced Church florists in the Cathedral Hall for a workshop to create your own floral arrangement. Watch the florists demonstrate the design and then make your own to take home. Spaces are limited so book early. A great opportunity to come together as a community to chat, have a cuppa and learn a new skill. Pre-Booking only - £25 – please contact the Parish Office on 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org or call into the Parish Office.

ACCORD Derry Marriage Preparation Courses – following dates available for 2024 - 19th/20th January, 23rd/24th February and 22nd/23rd March. Venue: The Everglades Hotel, Prehen Road, Derry. Please note that these courses are NOT Virtual and are in person. Bookings are now being taken on www.accordni.com

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Thirty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
19th November 2023*

Saint Mary's College annual Mass of Remembrance for deceased pupils, staff and governors will take place on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 7.00pm in the school multi-purpose hall. If you would like to add a name to the list of those to be remembered, please contact Caitlin at the school office on 02871362154, or by email at ckelly192@c2ken.net. All are welcome, refreshments will be served after the Mass.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Courage It is I - Knowing and Understanding our Mental Health continues this coming week in An Chroi Community Hub, Trench Road, beginning at 7.00pm and finishing at 8.15pm. For further information please contact the Waterside Parochial House, Chapel Road on 028 7134 2303 or An Chroi. All welcome.

Lectio Divina - Please join us for Lectio Divina each Thursday evening at 8.15pm in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, for a weekly meditation on the Sunday Gospel Readings. All welcome, for further information, please contact Waterside Parochial House on 028 7134 2303.

Totus Tuus Scripture Conference 2023 is live on Radio Maria on Saturday 18th November from 2.00pm. Speakers include Fr. John Ryan (Cloyne Diocese), Fr Luke Demasi (Home of the Mother), Fr John McEneaney (Waterford & Lismore Diocese) and Frances Hogan (Scripture Scholar). Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by downloading the Radio Maria Ireland App, Saorview Channel 210 or listen live at 00353 (01) 4373277.

The 2024 Pioneer calendar is available from Pioneer centres and from Central Office tel. 00353 (01) 805 4226. The calendar is designed to offer spiritual support and encouragement to families which are being impacted by alcohol and addiction. The calendar is priced at €5. www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar.

The next Rosary on the Coast will be on Sunday 19th November at 3.00pm on Benone Strand, Magilligan. Everyone welcome. For details contact 07730330028.

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 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.**