

A Short Reflection on today's Gospel Luke 23:35-43

Today's heartbreakingly beautiful Gospel witnesses Jesus, our Saviour, dying as he had lived: loving, forgiving; humbly accepting his agony, silent in the face of the cruel jibes and jeers spat on him by his enemies, refusing to put God to the test in order to satisfy their disbelief. I believe that life is being lived at its fullest, its most intense, when human beings reach out to each other in forgiveness, when they refuse to contaminate their souls with hatred and choose love instead. Jesus was only moments from death, and he was still reaching out to others in forgiveness. He was only moments from death and, gloriously, he was living life at its fullest! He had spent his time on earth teaching and living out the truth of the unconditional love and boundless mercy of God. Now he was dying bathed in the light of that truth. The good thief recognised this when he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom," for which he was rewarded with Jesus' beautiful promise, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Today's Gospel begs the questions, how do I live my life? Will I be borne up at my death by having lived my life centred on the teachings of Jesus? Have I ranted and raved at life's vicissitudes, or have I leant into suffering as Jesus did. Have I seen my sufferings as redemptive and borne them with unshakeable faith in the unconditional love and boundless mercy of our Heavenly Father? Or has my faith faltered in a sea of confusion and doubt?

Lord Jesus, teach me to live as you lived, in the light of faith and truth, and teach me to die as you died, in the light of that faith and truth.

Thank you - This weekend we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. It is the last weekend in the Church's year. Next weekend we begin the season of Advent and look forward to Christmas. During the Church Year that is coming to an end I had the joy of celebrating my Silver Jubilee of Priesthood. It seems such a short time ago since July when we had the Mass to celebrate. Today I want to thank all of you who were so kind and thoughtful to me for my Jubilee. I want to thank those who came to the Mass, who prayed for me, who gave me gifts and who celebrated the gift of priesthood.

I am very blessed and very grateful for the gift of priesthood. Together as we prepare to enter a new Church Year, I pray that together God will draw us in his footsteps and we will run together, praising God, adoring God, serving God and loving God.

Fr Paul

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Carolann McLaughlin
Joy McMenamin
William McCauley
Willie McLaughlin
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Martin Gillespie
Daniel Cullen
Martin McGonagle
May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Cillian Andrew Harkin
Lilia Rewa Kaur Matharu
Freyja Catherine Doherty

To book a Baptism phone
02871262894.

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

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,823
Parish Development: £1,017

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

SVDP: £200
Cathedral Funds: £20, £10
Somalia: £40
Smile Train: £160
Foyle Food Bank: £100
Concern: £100

Readers for 26th/27th November

06.15 pm	Helen Sweeney
07.30 pm	Barry McDaid
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	St Joseph's School
12.30 pm	Niamh Kehoe
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

There will be a Concelebrated Mass here in St Eugene's Cathedral on Saturday 26th November 2022 at 7.30pm for the deceased members of the parish who died in 2020. Anyone who has lost a close relative who was buried from another church during that year please leave the deceased's name in the Sacristy or Parochial House so that they can be remembered in the Mass and nominate someone to receive a candle in their memory.

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 address on a request slip and place it in the box at the back of the Cathedral before 27th November 2022.

St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets will be available for purchase at the Parochial House from Monday 21st November. Cost £2.

St Columba's Church, Long Tower - Annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - continues this Sunday 20th November at 6.00pm in St Columba's Church, Long Tower. The guest speaker this week is Michael Kelly. Michael is an award-winning writer and broadcaster specialising in religious and social affairs. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mary's Meals is keeping the promise of a daily school meal to 2.2 million children in 20 countries. Our Double the Love Campaign has launched, and all donations made to Mary's Meals until 31st January 2023 will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5million. To learn more or to browse our range of Christmas cards and gifts, visit www.marysmeals.org.uk or contact Caoimhe McCann on 07394564065.

THE IOSAS CENTRE CAFÉ- Adjacent to White Oaks, is now serving meals on a Sunday from 12.30pm to 3pm. Delicious starters, mains and desserts, using our own organic vegetables. Booking is recommended and take away is available. Phone 0749384866. Why not finish your afternoon with a walk in our beautiful Celtic Prayer Garden. (1 course €12.50/2 courses €15.50/3 courses €19.50).

Adoration Chapel, Pump Street will be open Monday- Friday from 9am-5pm. Everyone welcome.

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.watchmenmedia 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