

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

A mountain can be awe-inspiring to behold. Its might and majesty, its cloud-capped mystery can animate a spiritual yearning for transcendence, for the glory which transcends the material world; a yearning for God, for Love. It is significant that it is to the mountain Jesus calls his disciples to deliver his final words to them, powerful words, words weighty with the authority and responsibility invested in him by his Father at the start of his ministry and which he is now passing on to his chosen faithful ones. To eleven ordinary, unlettered individuals, utterly lacking in the sophisticated wiles of the political world, Jesus entrusts his sacred mission: the evangelization of all nations. And he does this with the confident knowledge that their faith will carry them aloft; their acceptance of him as the Way, the Truth, and the Life will set their hearts and souls on fire with the passion of their belief. He assures them once again that they will never be alone. He will be with them always. They are one with him, now and forever.

Jesus, let us never forget that to know you are the Way, the Truth and the Life is never to be alone, never to feel lost or abandoned, always to feel at one with you.

Jesus, as we ascend the mountain of our earthly existence towards you may our oneness with you set our hearts on fire like the hearts of those first evangelists, filling us with the desire to proclaim your word always. And when our steps falter and darkness seems to threaten us and our hearts begin to quail, let us feel your warm hand holding ours, and hear your gentle voice saying: 'Be not afraid; I am with you always.'

A 150th Anniversary Celebration Concert will be held in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on this evening (Sunday) at 8.30pm and will include the Cathedral Choir and Altnagelvin Hospital Choir. All are welcome.

Laudato Si' Week 2023 will be celebrated globally from 21st – 28th May with the film 'The Letter' – A Message for Our Earth", marking the 8th anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, addressed to all of us, on Care for Creation. This year's theme, "Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity" focuses on the connectedness of all things and the need for a renewed commitment to environmental justice. The film aims to highlight the power of humanity united in action to stop the ecological crisis and its devastating effects on all creation; it shows *Laudato Si'* in action. **A showing of "The Letter" will take place on Tuesday 23rd May, at 7.00pm, in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road, Derry. Please pre-book by calling the Parish Office on (+4428) 71262894, as spaces are limited.**

Healing Mass at Columba House, 11 Queen St, Derry, will be on Thursday 25th May at 7.30pm. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Michael Sweeney, followed by individual prayer for healing with blessed oil. All welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Paddy Bonner
Jimmy Friel***

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Georgie McLaughlin
Dermot Francis
Eileen Kyle
Grace Moran
William McGeehan
Mary McGeehan
John Ferguson
Maggie Ferguson
Gertrude Hegarty
Mary Kelly***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Valentina Belmonte

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couple who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

Dearbhla Hillick & Conor Waters

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,777
Parish Development: £1,177

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Blessed Carlo Acutis Statue: £100, £100
Cathedral Funds: £20, £20, £20
Trocaire: £100, £25, £100
SVdP: £100
Smile Train: £20
Foyle Food Bank: £100
Mary's Meals: £50

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Monday: Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Fahan Street, Westland Street, Cable Street, Lower Road

Tuesday: Mulvey Park, Eglinton Terrace, Beechwood Street, Elmwood Road, Gartan Square, Elmwood Terrace, Little Diamond, Clarendon Manor

Readers for 28th /29th May

06.15 pm	Roisin Rice-Cutter
07.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	St Mary's College
12.30 pm	Sean Hickey
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Come to the Water: Derry Diocesan Youth Ministry is hosting a four-week programme in June 2023, for parish volunteers, of all ages. The programme is aimed at building inter-generational collaboration and faith community amongst parish volunteers involved in parish ministry in the parishes of the Diocese of Derry. During three online and one in-person session we will come together in prayer, learning and support, sharing best practice. The programme will explore: Different ways to pray; Themed talks: ‘Where have the young people gone?’; ‘How well do we welcome?’; and practical ideas on what help and programmes are on offer in the diocese, including an in-depth look at best safeguarding practices for both online and in-person gatherings in our parishes. The first three sessions will be via Zoom; for the last session, we will come together in-person for an intergenerational gathering of prayer and food. *Come to the Water* will begin on Monday 5 June, 7:30pm-9:00pm and continue each Monday over four weeks. It will be delivered via Zoom. The last session will be held in person. To participate, please contact Lizzie Rea at lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org. Closing date for registration is Thursday 25th of May.

Music for A Summer's Evening Concert: Join International Chart-topping singers Fr Eugene O'Hagan from the multi-platinum selling classical group "The Priests" and International award winning singer Margaret Keys at Christ Church, Derry on the 17th June at 7.30pm, together with the stunning Scala Strings Orchestra and guest choir for what promises to be a night of uplifting and much loved music. Performing a wide range of music from much loved classical favourites, songs from the shows, Irish favourites and popular ballads this is an evening not to be missed! Tickets are £20. You can book via Eventbrite.ie or call 07812588010.

The Centre Social Supermarket is a wrap around project which helps residents in need through weekly check-ins and referrals. We can assist with food poverty, money management, education and training, mental health support, volunteering opportunities, social interaction and much more. Meet the team, call in for a chat to Pilots Row Centre, Rossville Street or give us a call on 02871 261916.

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 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