

## A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 6:30-34

Today's Gospel witnesses Jesus as solicitous, selfless, compassionate; a loving, caring shepherd who puts the needs of his flock before his own.

His beloved disciples have returned exhausted from the mission entrusted to them by their master. Recognising their weariness and moved by it, Jesus suggests that they go to an isolated place, far away from the crowds, where they can rest and recover their strength. But the people in their desperate need to hear Jesus and experience his healing are relentless. They follow him. Jesus understands the desperate yearning for truth and healing overflowing in the hearts of the people and his response is one of compassion. He sees them as sheep without a shepherd, and despite his own fatigue, he rouses himself and ministers generously to their needs.

Jesus, through your response to your beloved disciples' exhaustion, you remind us of our need to find a 'lonely place' in times of unbearable stress, a place in which we can rest and recover our strength through quiet, deep communion with our Heavenly Father.

Jesus, may we fully appreciate your compassionate response to those people in need, a response which overrode your fatigue and caused you to reach out with love and care for those you saw as 'sheep without a shepherd'. May we, too, find that same compassionate care for others; may we recognise their need as greater than our often weary disinclination to help.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** – We pray that those called to be priests of the Derry diocese will be faithful shepherds who will feed their people with the Eucharist and the Word of God.

There will be a Vocations Day (for those considering diocesan priesthood) in Buncrana on Sunday 8 September, from 12 - 6pm. Anyone interested should please contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan by email: [pgoh2111@gmail.com](mailto:pgoh2111@gmail.com)

**Would you like to be a Tour Guide for St. Eugene's Cathedral?** We are seeking expressions of interest for provision of a Tourism Engagement Service at the Cathedral. The provision of this service will be offered as contract from 29<sup>th</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. It is anticipated that this service will require approximately 30 hours per week. Expressions of interest to be emailed to [amhickey@derrydiocese.org](mailto:amhickey@derrydiocese.org) by 5.00pm on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**Diocese of Derry Three Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2024.** The Diocese of Derry Three Day Pilgrimage led by Bishop Donal McKeown starts on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> and concludes on Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> July. Bus will depart after 10.00am Mass from St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July, going via Strabane, Lifford and Ballybofey. Cost £80 including transport. Cost without transport £70. Prebooking is required. Please contact Tony Brennan, Pastoral Coordinator on [tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org)

### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Ella Webb  
Bernard Ward  
Patrick (PK) Kelly  
Anne Hickey  
Mary Cullen*

May they rest in peace

### Sacrament of Marriage

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

*Denise Dunleavy & Seamus McCrossan  
Emma McGowan & Seán Hutton*

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

### Collection

Last week's collection: £4,991  
Parish Development: £936

### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Cathedral Funds:** £20, £30, £200  
**Mary's Meals:** £40, £50  
**Hungry Children:** £5  
**Smile Train:** £50, £100  
**Gaza Appeal:** £50, £40

### Readers 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> July

6.15 pm Piaras O Meallain  
7.30 pm Caitlin Horner McLaughlin  
09.30 am Rosemary Finan  
11.00 am Angela McCallion  
12.30 pm Niamh Kehoe  
7.00 pm Anna Begley

### Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Ida Mary Kelly  
Riley Tyler Gillespie  
Téodóir Cahir Donal Bowen*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

**ACCORD Derry - Marriage Preparation Courses.** The following dates are available online for booking at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com): September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 and October 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2024. Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

**Job opportunity: Derry Diocesan Trust, Sacristan Parish of Melmount.**

Part time - Average 17.5 hours per week (evening and alternate weekend work a requirement). The Sacristan will ensure effective security of the church and associated maintenance and cleaning whilst organising all associated liturgical requirements in line with diocesan guidelines. For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org).

Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org) no later than 4.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

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

**Upcoming events at Knock Shrine:**

**National Grandparents Pilgrimage Knock Shrine Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024.** Schedule for the day : 2.30pm Anointing of the Sick in the Basilica with Pilgrimage Mass at 3.00pm followed by the Rosary procession. Those unable to join in person can take part online at [www.knockshrine.ie/watch](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch)

**Ignatian Week Retreat 2024 commences on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Parish Church and concludes on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August with 12 noon Mass in the Basilica.** The week can serve as a retreat with spiritual direction available on request. Parts of each day will be live streamed and there will be an opportunity for online discussion and sharing each day via Zoom.

**Family Day Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Blessing of the Families take place at 11am in the Apparition Chapel.** We invite all families to attend. Family Day at Knock Shrine is a lovely opportunity for families to get together to enjoy a range of fun activities. All events and activities are free of charge and take place on the beautiful grounds of Knock Shrine

**National Novena 2024: 'Whispering with God'....How Do You Pray?** The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Daily ceremonies take place at 3.00pm and 8.00pm. Workshops take place at 12.45pm each day. For more information about the above please visit [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)

**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 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](mailto: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**