

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

Why be envious because I am generous?

The story that Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel turns humanity's obsession with entitlement on its head. Human beings are forever keeping score, forever counting and checking. Who is deserving of more than someone else! Who has got away with more than they deserve! The concept of undeserved kindness and generosity, the concept of undeserved mercy, appals those who don't recognise God's world as a world of grace, a world in which there is no such thing as entitlement, a world in which everything is free. Today's Gospel throws out the rules we insist are so important.

A sense of entitlement, a sense of special rights, is an indication of love of ourselves rather than love of God; it may nourish the ego but it surely starves the soul.

Jesus, may we remind ourselves daily that the kingdom of heaven runs on grace. May we accept humbly that in this kingdom of grace God's undeserved mercy and love reigns supreme.

Jesus, may we be alive to the undeserved love of God we experience time after time in our lives, and put aside any sense of entitlement and special rights we may be harbouring. May we express instead profound gratitude, humility, wonder and awe in the light of God's amazing grace.

During National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood and as the Church prepares for the Synod due to begin in Rome on 4th October we ask our loving, merciful, and generous God to send the Holy Spirit down powerfully on all of us that we will walk together in faith, renewing the Church here in the diocese of Derry, each one fulfilling our baptismal promises as lay, religious, and ordained members of the Body of Christ, and that the Lord will bless our diocese with an abundance of priestly vocations

St Eugene's Cathedral Choir is welcoming new singers to its ranks in all voice parts. The choir sings at 12.30pm Mass each Sunday. If you have some experience of singing and would like to get involved, please contact the director of music Maghnus Monaghan on maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com or by text on 0863728443.

Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy continues on Fridays at 11.00am in the Cathedral Hall. You are most welcome to join via the online platforms or in person.

St Eugene's Scout Group meet on Mondays in St Anne's Primary School, Rosemount. Beavers and Cubs only. Beavers (Ages 6- 7½ years old) 6.30 to 7.30pm. Cubs (Ages 8 – 11 years old) 7.00pm to 8.30pm. New members welcome . Any enquiries please contact Maria at 07955549818 or Elisha at 07724400081.

SVP: One day pop up clearance event on Saturday 30th September from 10.00am – 4.00pm in St Pio's Centre, Fairview Rd, Galliagh, Derry. All stock £1 includes clothing, footwear and accessories. All Welcome!

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Dorothy Doherty
Sally Devine
Frank Kivlehan
Fr John Downey
Msgr Brian Devlin*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Margaret McMahon
Emmett Dillon
Charlie O'Donnell
Ciara Devine*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Lana Patricia Cassidy-Porteous
Luca Connor Kevin Fisher*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,492
Parish Development: £997

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Libya/Morocco Appeal: £100

Concern: £20

Hungry Children: £5

Cathedral Funds: £10, £5

Readers for 30th September / 1st October

06.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm	Amulya George
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	St Eugene's PS
12.30 pm	Marie Canning
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

A Masters in Catholic School Leadership - The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. There is still time to sign up for the Academic Year 2023/2024. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

In sunshine and in shadow - A book of poetry written by the late Fr Paddy O'Kane has been reprinted. It is available to buy at the Holy Family parish office any morning Mon-Friday or at Veritas Bookshop, Shipquay Street. Cost £10. All proceeds will go the Foyle Hospice.

Saint Thérèse Triduum will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca from Friday 29th September until Sunday 1st October, beginning at 7.30pm each evening. All are welcome.

A Day Retreat in honour of Saint Michael the Archangel will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca on Friday 29th September from 10.00am to 3.00pm. This is a donation only event. Please bring a packed lunch.

Rosary on the Coast - The next Rosaries on the Coast take place on Sunday 1st October at 3.00pm on Lisfannon Strand, Buncrana, and Sunday 15th October at 3pm on Benone Strand, Limavady.

Ulster Project Derry/Londonderry - Applications are now open for Ulster Project 2024. Teens who are eligible must be: 15 on or before 1st July 2024 and be a regular Church attender. A written reference from a priest/minister on attendance together with a written reference from form teacher to be included with application form. Must be available for all meetings. USA dates are provisionally from 26th June to 18th July. For an application form please email: ulsterprojectderrylondonderry@outlook.com. Cost £700. Closing date is Sunday 15th October 2023. Due to the high demand for the limited number of places available we will be holding interviews.

Trócaire is looking for people to join its team of Christmas fundraisers to help respond to the urgent need of poor communities around the world, including the millions of children and families caught in conflict across Ethiopia, South Sudan and Ukraine. You can take action and make a difference through a range of activities, including the promotion of its *Gifts of Change* – training and support will be provided. If you would like to find out more about what you can do to help now or over the Advent and Christmas period, please email Mark McMahon on infoni@trocaire.org or call 028 9080 8030.

‘Host for Hospice’ - October is Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning Month: Can you ‘Host for Hospice’ and organise a Coffee Morning? For more information or to sign up to become a host, please call Ailbhe, Community Fundraising Officer, Foyle Hospice, on 028 71359888 or email: ailbhe@foylehospice.com

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.**