

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 6:60-69

Today's powerful, challenging Gospel witnesses the unflinching gaze of Jesus on the failure of faith of some of his erstwhile followers. Earth-bound, time-bound and utterly closed to the gloriously liberating Holy Spirit, they melt away into the shadows of unbelief following Jesus' teaching on the true bread of eternal life: his very own body and blood; his life, his death, his resurrection. It takes Peter, flawed, fallible Peter, informed, not by privilege or great learning, but by humility, purity of heart, and a deep love of Jesus, to respond to his Master when he asks of the Twelve, 'What about you! Do you want to go away too?' with the beautiful, moving words: 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe, we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Peter's assertion that not only does he 'believe' in Jesus as the true bread of eternal life, he 'knows' that Jesus is the true bread of eternal life, makes clear that this humble man with the pure, passionate heart is flooded with the light of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, may our hearts be humble, pure and passionate like Peter's, so that we too are open to the freedom and enlightenment which can only come from the Holy Spirit.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray for those whom the Lord is calling to serve the parish communities of this diocese that, like Joshua in the first reading, they will choose to serve the Lord as priests, and encourage the people of God to do likewise and that, like St Peter in the gospel, they will lead others to know Jesus as the One to follow, as the Holy One of God who offers us the message and the gift of everlasting life.

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Derry, in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Derry, on Wednesday 28th August 2024 at 8.00pm. All are welcome to come and pray for this special intention.

Vocations Day for those interested in the diocesan priesthood, Sunday 8th September, beginning with Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Buncrana, at 12.30pm, ending with a Holy Hour for Vocations, from 5-6pm. Anyone hoping to attend should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com or by calling (028) 79386259.

We extend a warm welcome to Sr Geraldine and Sr Christina, Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. Sr Geraldine and Sr Christina will be speaking at all Masses this weekend about their work in Africa. More information can be found on their website at www.daughtersofcharity.ie

Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons - 2024 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly. Exhibition times are Mondays - Saturdays from 10.30am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. The Exhibition will run until 31st August. Everyone is welcome.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock – Bishop McKeown will lead the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday 28th September 2024. Mass with Anointing of the Sick will take place at 3.00pm in the main Basilica, accompanied by the Long Tower Parish Folk Group. Save the date!

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Celia McAnaney
Mary Gallagher
Nell McCafferty**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Nancé Gallagher
George McCafferty
Margaret Lewis
Nellie Kerlin
Jeanie Gallacher
John Feeney**

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Cillian Andrew Doherty

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Ciara Dunleavy & Conor Murphy

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Readers 31st August / 1st September

06.15 pm	Helen Sweeney
07.30pm	Liz McMonagle
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	Piaras O Meallain
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,892
Parish Development: £1,047

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Gaza: £5
Sight Savers: £5
Smile Train: £5
Medical Missionaries: £5
Cathedral Funds: £25
Mary's Meals: £40
Trócaire: £40**

Sick Visitation

Fr Shaun Doherty will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Tuesday: Academy Terrace, Tutor Close, Northland Parade, Northland Crescent, Edenmore Street, Glenbank Road, Glenbank Gardens, Glenside Gardens, Marlborough Road, Marlborough Avenue, Marlborough Street, Creggan Road, Helen Street, Oakfield Crescent

Friday: Glenowen Park, Cashelmore Park, Hatmore Park, Turasmore Park, Ardglen, Nassau Crescent, Rosemount Gardens, Osborne Street, Lawrence Hill, Joseph Place, Beechwood Avenue

Could you 'Host for Hospice'? October is officially Foyle Hospice 'Coffee Morning Month'. We are calling on supporters to help us raise vital funds by hosting a Coffee Morning. Whether it's at home, work or in your local community, get your friends together and get the kettle on, it's a piece of cake!! To request your free host pack or for more info, please call Ailbhe McDaid, Community Fundraiser on 028 71359888 or email: ailbhe@foylehospice.com

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in Ordinary Time
25th August 2024*

St Vincent de Paul is looking for volunteers to help with daily van deliveries. If you have a few spare hours and are willing to help us help others, please telephone 028 71 265489, or email svp.derry@svpni.co.uk

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Praying for the Holy Souls: Our Lady of Montligeon Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 10.00am in the Kildare Room, adjacent to St Brigid's Parochial House, Carnhill, Derry, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The Group also meets monthly in the Carmelite Centre, Termonbacca, for the intercession of priests. The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 9th September at 7.30pm.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church, Drumragh Parish is excited to announce the reproduction of a special edition of Five Years Tour in America by Father JJ Mc Glade. We invite you to pre-order your copy today. To support this project and secure your copy, please pre-order filling out the online order form by Friday, 6 September 2024. Further information & Online Order Form are available via the following link: Sacred Heart Church - Five Years in America book pre-order

A relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be brought to St Mary's Church, Bellaghy, on Friday 30th August 2024, for veneration from 3-9pm. An exhibition on the devotions and writings of Blessed Carlo is currently on display in the Church. Blessed Carlo Acutis is due to be canonised next year. He will be the first Saint of the 21st century. His faith and goodness as a teenager of the early years of the present millennium, and as someone who used the internet and digital communication for the good of others and the spreading of devotion to the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist should be an inspiration to us all and especially to the young people of our own day.

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 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 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.