

A short reflection on today's Gospel

Today's Gospel witnesses Jesus going into the desert, a barren place apart, to prepare himself spiritually for the ministry on which he was about to embark. He fasted there for forty days and forty nights at the end of which he was famished and weak with hunger. Satan, seizing what he hopes is an opportunity to lure Jesus away from his allegiance to his Heavenly Father, makes three attempts to do so, all of which fail in the face of Jesus' pure heart, indomitable soul, and unshakeable fidelity to God.

The temptations Jesus faces are temptations we all face as we journey through life. We are tempted to turn away from the truth that what we want is not necessarily what we need, and so we gorge on 'bread' instead of living 'on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'

Self-love often masquerades as love of God. Under the guise of love of God, we can act against God in the name of God, convincing ourselves of our moral superiority and religious elitism, as well as our right to be saved. Jesus teaches us that, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'

We are tempted to make worldly control, worldly power and importance, into a faith. Jesus tells us, 'You must worship the Lord, your God, and serve God alone.'

Jesus, may we, too, be willing at times to draw apart from the world to pray, thereby purifying and strengthening our fidelity to God and the task He has given us to proclaim His Kingdom.

The Forty Hours Adoration begins today (Sunday) after the 12.30 pm Mass until Devotions at 6.00 pm. The Forty Hours Adoration will continue on Monday finishing with Benediction at 9.45 pm.

St Eugene's Cathedral Lenten Programme

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am Monday to Friday.

1.00pm Lunch time Mass (Monday – Friday).

Late openings on Mondays, beginning Monday, 27th February – To celebrate the Sacrament of Confession and spend some quiet time in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament from 8.00 to 10.00 pm.

Tuesdays: Why is my presence at Mass important? Fr Paul Farren will lead a series of talks in St Eugene's Cathedral starting on Tuesday, 28th February, from 7.00 pm to 7.20 pm.

Trócaire Lenten Appeal – Trócaire boxes are available for collection at the back of the Cathedral.

Trócaire Earthquake Appeal: Tea dance in An Grianan Hotel on Sunday, 19th March 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm. Admission £10.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Patricia Doherty
Marty McCallion
John Murphy*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Mickey Carlin
Noel McDowell
Joseph McCauley
John Daly
Kathleen Friel
Catherine Friel*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Fionn Alexander Webber
Ollie Mackey-Quigley
David Darán Deery-Browse*

To book a Baptism telephone 028 71262894

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Turkish & Syria Earthquake Appeal: £100, £1,000, £500, £50, £200, £400, £40, £500, €100
Cathedral Funds: £1,000, £40
Smile Train: £50
Flowers for Altar: £20, £10, £20, £20, £10, £180
Admin's Choice: £10, £20

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,584.
Parish Development: £992.

Thank you for your generosity

Readers for 4th/5th March

06.15 pm	Carmel Devenney
07.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	St Anne's PS
12.30 pm	Niamh Kehoe
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Come along and sing with us! At the 7.30 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 4th March, music will be provided by St Eugene's Cathedral Folk Group and Cathedral Voices. Cathedral Voices are a dementia friendly choir that meet in the Cathedral Hall every Thursday. They have been benefiting from collaborative workshops with St Eugene's Folk Group for the past number of weeks. This is sure to be a very enjoyable service, focusing on hymns from the past and raising the subject of dementia awareness and inclusion for all in our community.

A Temperance Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's Church, Creggan on Tuesday, 28th February at 7.30 pm. This Mass will highlight the virtue of Temperance, focusing on the Pioneer promises of moderation in all things, particularly in the use of alcohol. All, especially Pioneers, are invited to attend.

The Matt Talbot Prayer Society – Praying for those suffering from Addiction: This Prayer Society has been created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction, to pray for those recovering from addiction, and to pray for all those affected by addiction, especially family members. As we know addiction takes many forms from alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, to other less acknowledged addictions.

To join the Matt Talbot Prayer Society, you are invited to enrol the name of the person to be prayed for and the addiction we are praying that they will be freed from. Those enrolled will be prayed for specifically every day by members of the Matt Talbot Prayer Society. Mass will be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30 pm. You will also receive an enrolment card to enable you to join in the prayer.

To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea on Saturday, 18th March at 1.00 pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for an Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Tickets £20 available in the parish office. Telephone 71262894.

Accord NI Catholic Marriage Care Service is recruiting Marriage Education Facilitators to provide Sacramental Marriage Preparation for couples in the Diocese. They are seeking individuals who are good communicators and have an enthusiasm for supporting couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and future family life. This is an opportunity to formally train within a supportive, nurturing and inspiring community. For further details and an application form, please contact Brenda at 028 9023 3002 or email info@accordni.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 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