

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 16 : 13-20

You are Peter and on this Rock I will build my Church

Despite his sometimes failures of courage and faith, Peter is passionately devoted to Jesus, fierce and unswerving in his love for his beloved Master; now he has been chosen and touched by the loving hand of God who has revealed to him His Son's identity as the Christ. As flawed members of humanity there is comfort for us in this: it is the passionate faith and truth in our hearts which renders us lovable to God. Peter will betray his beloved Master again after his arrest by denying him three times, but when the cock crows his mighty heart will almost burst with the weight of his remorse and grief. Knowing all of this, Jesus chooses his passionate, loving, flawed friend to be the Rock on which he will build his Church; he knows that Peter, open to the Holy Spirit, will grow in strength and power, in courage and knowledge. He will become the rightful heir to his beloved Jesus.

'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. is his answer to Jesus' question,' Who do you say I am?' Thomas Merton describes the Christ as 'the Blinding One.....who speaks to us gently on 10,000 things.....who shines not on them but on us from deep within them.'

In his birth, in his living, his teaching, his dying, Jesus reveals the nature of Divine love. Our experience of Christ is our experience of the light of the Divine that we experience in all things we see and feel and love and touch.

Jesus, may our hearts burn, like Peter's, with the truth of Divine love. May we always experience remorse for the ways we offend against the beauty and purity of that Divine love, striving to be more deserving of God's free-flowing mercy and forgiveness.

Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - This weekend's readings invite us to pray for those called to positions of service in the Church that, as St Paul says, they will trust the Lord's wisdom, knowledge, motives, and methods, and strive always to give glory to God.

'Building Parish Life' – a talk by Mr David Wells in St Columb's College, Buncrana Road, Derry on Tuesday 29th August 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm. An international speaker and author, David Wells has worked with parishes and dioceses internationally, encouraging and inspiring people to share the Joy of the Gospel, through the lens of building parish life. This is a free event. Booking not required. You are invited to attend this talk, to be inspired and equipped for the work of building parish and discerning the way forward in changing times in our parishes. For more information on the event, contact Tony Brennan, Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator, on 028 7126 2302 or email tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Catherine Nixon
Susan Steinfurth
Isabella O'Neill***

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Rose Nelis
Nancé Gallagher
Anne Celine Taylor
James Taylor
George McCafferty
Nellie Kerlin***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

***Luca Miles Brown
Éanna Colm Doherty
Lorcan Lynn Gomez
Daniel Patrick Vance***

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

Niamh Barr & Matthew Saunders

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,808
Parish Development: £936

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Sight Savers: £10
Smile Train: £10, £25
Mary's Meals: £20
SVdP: £20, £25
Concern: £20
Cathedral Funds: £40, £50
Hungry Children: £25
Trócaire: £25
Flowers: £25**

Readers for 2nd/3rd September

06.15 pm	Amulya George
07.30 pm	Roisin McGarrigle
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	Oran Gartland
12.30 pm	Eilish Friel
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Sick Visitation

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

Tuesday: Fairman Place, Academy Terrace, Tutor Close, Northland Parade, Northland Drive, Edenmore Street, Glenbank Road, Glenbank Gardens, Creggan Road, Helen Street, Oakfield Crescent

Friday: Glenowen Park, Cashelmore Park, Hatmore Park, Ardglenn, Nassau Crescent, Rosemount Gardens, Rosemount Avenue, Osborne Street, Montrose Gardens

ACCORD NI Marriage Preparation Courses (6.30pm – 9.30pm Monday and Tuesday) - the following dates are available 25th/26th September, 16th/17th October, 6th/7th November, 27th/28th November, and 11th/12th December. Courses can be booked online at www.accordni.com. All courses are virtual.

Diocesan Religious Education Conference 30th August 2023 - Boards of Governors and Management. Bishop McKeown extends an invitation to all members of Boards of Governors/Management who serve in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Derry, to an evening session on the 30th August at 7.00pm in Saint Columb's College. There will be a presentation by Brendan McGinn, Principal, Saint Mary's College, Derry, on 'Building Communities of Dialogue and Forgiveness', a panel session to allow for discussion/questions on the role of Governors in supporting this, finishing with a prayer of dedication for all Board Members. This is an opportunity also to celebrate and acknowledge the great work done by Board Members in Catholic schools throughout the diocese.

Life in the Spirit Seminars, led by Apostles of Love Missionary Team: St Joseph's Hall, Omagh. Saturday 16th September from 11.00am to 4.00pm & Sunday 17th September from 10.00am to 4.30pm with Mass. Celebrant Bishop Michael Router. Enquiries & Booking: telephone 07876411435 or 0759660904. Cost: Donation only. Open to adults and to children age 12+.

First Saturday Rosary - Saturday 2nd September at 1.00pm, Market Square, Letterkenny.

Mary's Meals: Thanks to everyone who walked or donated or helped in any way with the **Mary's Meals 'Two Bridges' Walk** which took place on Sunday 6th August. A total of £2,011 was raised which is enough to feed 103 children for a whole year. Mary's Meals provide a school meal to over 2 million children every day in 18 of the world's poorest countries. If you would like to find out more, please see: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>.

The Net – July/August 2023 edition is now available in parishes as well as on the Diocesan website. For coverage of faith related stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.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.watchmenmedia 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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty