

A short reflection on today's Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Today's Gospel witnesses Jesus early on in his ministry astounding his listeners in the synagogue with his authoritative teaching. They were accustomed to the scribes quoting from authority, but Jesus taught as authority itself.

Reminding us that evil often hides in plain sight, a man present in the synagogue who was possessed by an unclean spirit, began to shout and rave at Jesus, recognising him as 'the Holy One of God' promised by the prophets. 'Have you come to destroy us?' the unclean spirit shouts. 'I know who you are. The Holy One of God.' Jesus responds by performing the first miracle of his public life: he commands the unclean spirit to leave the man, which it does with a loud cry, throwing the man into convulsions.

It is a dramatic beginning to the public life of Jesus, and it conveys much of significance: it conveys the extraordinary effect of the power and truth of Jesus' teaching on those with ears to hear and eyes to see; it also encourages us to look at how easily addictions to the questionable can take possession of us.

Jesus, may we never forget that you move among us today and every day as you did when you were on earth, teaching us your saving truth. May we have the ears to hear your powerful voice and the eyes to meet your steady, uncompromising, gaze.

Jesus, may we always be aware of how easily we can become possessed by worldly ambition: ambition for power, for status, for inordinate wealth. May we turn our minds and our hearts to the things of your Father instead: to prayer, to love, to kindness, to goodness, to humility.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - In this weekend's first reading the Lord tells Moses that He will raise up prophets for the people from among their own brothers. We pray for the men from our parish communities being called by God to serve as priests in the diocese of Derry.

Anyone interested in attending a Vocations (to priesthood) weekend in Drumalis Retreat House, Larne, 8th -10th March, should contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

A Saint Brigid's Cross Workshop will be held in the Cathedral Hall on Thursday 1st February after the 10am Mass. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome.

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

Children's Liturgy continues at 11.00am Mass on Sundays and is open to all children in Primaries 1 to 4. It involves proclaiming the Gospel in an accessible way to the Children, reflecting on its meaning and responding in prayer with an activity related to the Gospel story.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024: Monday 1st to Friday 5th July, ex City of Derry Airport. Led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Full board £799, single room supplement £150. The pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry, will open to the public 11am to 1pm on Thursdays and Saturdays, starting Saturday 10th February. Telephone number 028 71260293, email derrypilgrim@outlook.com

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Margaret Quigley

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Morgan Walsh

Jimmy McKendrick

John Doherty

May they rest in peace

Readers for 3rd /4th February

06.15 pm Angela McCallion
07.30 pm Caitlin Horner McLaughlin
09.30 am Kate Doherty
11.00 am St Anne's PS
12.30 pm Michael Wilson
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Collection

Last week's collection: **£ 4,442**

Parish Development: **£ 986**

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Mary's Meals: £50

SVdP: £100

Flowers for Altar: £40

Trócaire: £60

Cathedral Funds: £20

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 9 nights from 30th July to 8th August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with peers from around the world, in a faith context. Up to 50,000 young people attend the Medjugorje Youth Festival each year. Cost is £800 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as **possible to secure a place**. For more information or to book in please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

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.

St Vincent de Paul is appealing for suites in good condition and bedroom furniture. All donations would be greatly appreciated. Please telephone 02871265489 to arrange collection.

First Saturday Rosary will take place on Saturday 3rd February at 1.00pm in Market Square, Letterkenny. Everyone is welcome.

2024 is Lepra's Centenary Year. Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life changing disabilities and even blindness, as well as moderate to severe depression and anxiety due to the prejudice and discrimination associated with the disease. Today 600 people will be diagnosed with leprosy, more than 50 will be children. **It is curable** - for 100 years Lepra's research has led to improved healthcare programmes and systems, as well as better detection, treatment, and support. To learn more about Lepra's work please visit www.lepra.org.uk or contact lauricej@lepra.org.uk.

Job Opportunity: School Liaison Coordinator 1-year Fixed Term contract 35 Hours Per Week. The Parishes of Banagher & Claudy are seeking to recruit an individual to fulfil the role of School Liaison Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Parish Priest/Administrator the successful candidate will work in the two parishes that presently have four primary schools and one post primary school. This is a full-time role for one year. 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. 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 no later than 4.30pm on 2nd February 2024.

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

Energy of Light Kids & Junior Discos - a disco for Kids & Juniors who are experiencing limited physical, sensory and or learning ability. Carers and parents go free! Saturday 10th February in the Studio Theatre, Millennium Forum. Kids (0 – 6 years) is at 4pm – 5pm and Juniors (6 – 14 years) is at 5pm – 6pm. Age is just a guidance book the disco most suited to the child. Tickets for these performances are on-sale through our box office (02871 264455 choose option 1) or on our website www.millenniumforum.co.uk

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.