

Holy Week Reflections

Palm Sunday

Today, the liturgy invites us to contemplate the face of the suffering Lord. Jesus' mission, purpose, goal and glory are revealed in his Passion. We encounter today the pure and perfect witness of God's love. If you are tempted to doubt God's love, look at Christ crucified. Here the mystery of God's love is revealed. Jesus would have died on the cross if there was only one of us to die for. Only his death, his sacrifice, his laying down of his life for us, could reconcile us with the Father, open heaven to us and secure for us life eternal, which was lost through the fall of Adam.

Monday

All four Evangelists record an account of a woman anointing Jesus. The version found in Luke 7:36-50 stands on its own, offering us the same message but set against a slightly different backdrop (and including Simon the Pharisee's reaction). What all four accounts have in common is that they reveal an incident which captures so beautifully, so powerfully and so movingly a love for Jesus which is difficult to find words to describe. You see, what the Christian life is all about is actually very simple and straightforward. Mary witnessed to love. Her 'waste' of nard and her profound willingness to humble herself and wash the Lord's feet were an expression of her deep, unashamed and uncompromising love for her Saviour.

Tuesday

Judas was one of the twelve apostles. We can sometimes lose sight of this fact. Jesus chose him to be a member of the most dynamic group of men the world has ever known. We are not given the details of how Judas became a follower of Christ, as we are with some of the other apostles. We can be certain, however, that the Lord chose him because he saw in him the necessary qualities. What happened to change him can really only be the subject of conjecture. We just don't know what was going on in his heart to betray the Lord as he did.

Wednesday

The clear indication of scripture is that Judas was motivated by greed and avarice and completely misunderstood Jesus and his mission. What was really going on in his mind we cannot really know. What we do know is that Jesus would have forgiven him. Jesus taught forgiveness and love of one's enemy.

Holy Thursday

Jesus' disciples are offended, even scandalized, by the humility of this gesture of washing their feet. Peter protests strongly, keen to prevent his Lord and Master adopting such a humble and lowly position. Peter was not showing false humility: he was genuinely shocked, horrified even, that Jesus should adopt the position of a slave. Jesus washed his disciples' feet because he wanted to set them an example. In the same way that he had humbled himself and washed their feet, so they should humble themselves and wash one another's feet.

Good Friday

Today a special grace flows through the Church. Today the mystery of the cross shines out. Today, the cross, not the Eucharist, is the highpoint, the focus of our celebration. Our thoughts and prayers are focused on the cross. We adore, worship and venerate the cross by which the world was saved. We will go forward today to venerate the cross. In this gesture we show our love and our dependence on Christ. For Jesus, his glory was his cross. For him his death was not defeat but victory; death was not the end but the beginning.

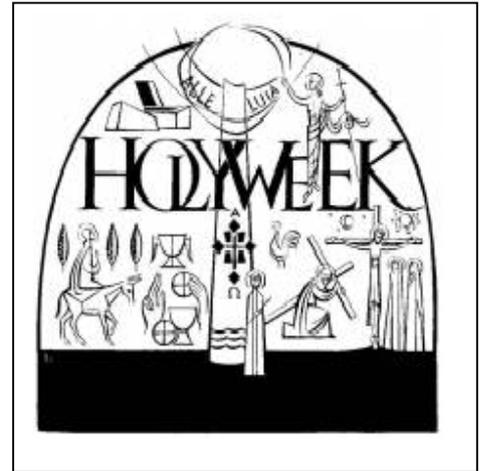
Holy Saturday

We invite you, today, on this most holy and sacred of days, to ponder the rich wisdom offered to us in this ancient homily for Holy Saturday. The early believers had a profound grasp of the drama of our salvation played out before them in the liturgy. 'O Christ, you slept a life-giving sleep in the grave, and didst awaken humankind from the heavy sleep of sin. All-powerful and ever-living God, your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory. In your goodness raise up your faithful people buried with him in baptism, to be one with him in the eternal life of heaven'.

Funeral Masses are not celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

Celebration of Holy Week and Easter

Loving God,
we are the body of your Son in the world today.
As we begin our journey to Calvary give us
the courage to carry our crosses.
Help us to know that when we suffer
we share in the suffering of Christ.
Give us the faith to believe that with Christ our crosses
never end in death
but in the resurrection.
As we await Easter Day fill our hearts with joy.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ who is our
crucified and risen Saviour
for ever and ever.
Amen.



The six weeks of Lent are a preparation for the last three days of this week, **Holy Thursday**, **Good Friday** and the **Easter Vigil**. During them we celebrate the central event of our religion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, the Saviour of the World.

Live streaming from St Eugene's Cathedral via webcam at www.churchservices.tv,
churchmedia.tv/camera/st-eugenes-cathedral or the parish website at
www.steugenescathedral.com.



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

Today the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal mystery. The death and resurrection of Christ cannot be separated and so we have the readings of the Passion to remind us of Christ's death.

Mass Times: Saturday: 6.15 pm and 7.30 pm

Sunday: 7.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm

*Please note: Local Radio Station Drive 105 will broadcast the 12.30 pm
Sunday Mass live.*

Rosary and Benediction at 6.00 pm

A Man of Sorrows and Acquainted with Grief: The Passion of Our Lord presented in Scripture, reflections and sacred music by four young local Derry students here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 8.15 pm this evening (Palm Sunday). In compliance with restrictions this year, we advise only those who cannot watch the production on the webcam to attend the Cathedral.

MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

Morning Prayer at 7.45 am

Mass Times: 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 1.00 pm and 7.30 pm

Angelus and Rosary at 12.00 noon

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3.00 pm

Gospel Encounter at 5.00 pm on Monday and Wednesday

Stations of the Cross at 5.00 pm on Tuesday

Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration and Night Prayer at 8.00 pm

Local Vocal with Margarett McNamee at 4.00 pm on Wednesday livestreamed from the Cathedral Hall and on Facebook.

HOLY THURSDAY

MASS OF CHRISM - 10.00 AM (Booking Required)

Angelus and Rosary at 12.00 noon

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7.30 PM (Booking Required)

Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 11.00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer at 10.00 am

Angelus and Rosary at 12.00 noon

**CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 3.00 PM AND 7.30 PM
(Booking Required)**

HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer: 10.00 am

EASTER VIGIL AT 10.00 PM (Booking Required)

EASTER SUNDAY

**Mass Times: 7.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm
(Booking Required)**

**To book tickets contact the Parish Office between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm from tomorrow
(Monday, 27th March) by phoning 028 71262894 or 71365712.**

Funerals: The Northern Ireland Executive restricts attendance at funerals to only 25 people. In order to adhere to this regulation, funerals will be celebrated at either 9.00 am or 11.00 am Monday to Saturday. Unfortunately, there will be no funeral Masses celebrated on a Sunday.

Face Coverings: St Eugene's Cathedral ask all adults and children aged 14 and over to please wear a face covering at Masses and other liturgical celebrations ie Funerals, Baptisms, First Communion, Weddings (unless they are exempt from wearing mandatory face coverings). Medical advice is that wearing face coverings is first and foremost about protecting others.

Please continue to observe social distancing, to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the Cathedral.

Reflection on today's Gospel

The Passion of our Lord - *Mark 14:1-15:47*

In today's Gospel we walk with Jesus through his Passion and death. We witness his triumphant entry into Jerusalem amidst acclamations and shouts of praise. "Hosanna to the King!" the people cry; at the same time Judas' betrayal of his friend has already been set in motion. We witness Jesus teaching the apostles about true leadership, servant leadership, as he washes their feet. We kneel as he celebrates the first Eucharist. We bow our heads in shame as, with sadness, he announces that one of those present will betray him; our spirits droop as he gently foretells Peter's denial of him.

We move with the man of sorrows into the garden of Gethsemane and witness him sweating blood as he endures his dark endless night of the soul. We long to comfort him as he cries out his terror to his Father in heaven. His loneliness as his three companions sleep pierces our hearts. His apprehension by the Roman soldiers, his mock trial, his cruel scourging and crowning with thorns appal us. We walk beside him as, carrying his cross, he begins his agonizing journey to Calvary. Our hearts are pierced anew as his mother runs to him and tries to hold his bleeding body in her arms, before she is roughly thrust aside by the soldiers.

We are appalled anew as he is stripped of his garments; we are terror-stricken as he is nailed to the cross. As his broken body hangs there, his cruel agony written on his beautiful, ravaged, face, we hear to our astonishment only words of forgiveness issuing from the depth of his being. Moments from death, he begs his Father to forgive those who have inflicted on him the terrible things we have witnessed.

We have walked with Jesus today as, fully human, he willingly endured his agony in order that our sins might be forgiven; in order to open the door to eternal life for us.

How can we repay him? How can we show our gratitude?

How can we be more than spectators at his Passion and death?

We might start by expressing our complicity in his agony?

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Betty Campbell
Roddy O'Carolan
Eddie Lamberton
Bernadette Condren



May they rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Elizabeth McCourt, Nellie Strawbridge and Hugh and Mona McLaughlin
May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family

Ivy Mae Corrine McShane
Evan Liam Quinn
Riley Bernard Parke



Readers for next weekend – Easter Sunday



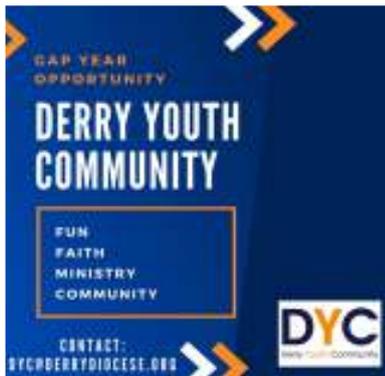
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	Eilish Friel
12.30 pm	Mary Murphy
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

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 steugenes@btconnect.com or private message St Eugene’s Cathedral Facebook page.



Derry Youth Community

- Are you aged between 18-25 years old?
- Deciding what to do in the future (September 2021)?
- Thinking about a Gap Year?
- Want to do something faith based?

Blessed Carlos Acutis



Blessed Carlo Acutis, an Italian Catholic teenager, was beatified in Assisi, Italy on 10th October 2020. He documented Eucharistic miracles around the world and catalogued them all onto a website that he created himself in the months before his death from leukaemia. Carlo was known for his cheerfulness, his care for others, his computer skills and his deep devotion to the Eucharist, saying it was his “highway to heaven”. There is a display in the Cathedral dedicated to Blessed Carlo Acutis and prayer cards which you are welcome to take.



Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks donations for: **Trócaire:** £10, £40, £100, £60. **Sight Savers:** £10. **Cathedral Funds:** £18, £24.

Last Week's Collection amounted to £3,265.

There is a box at the back of the Cathedral for weekly parish envelopes and contributions for the upkeep of the Cathedral. **Please note cheques should be made payable to St Eugene's Cathedral.** If you would like to make your weekly envelope contributions by online banking or standing order, please find St Eugene's Cathedral's bank details below:

Account Name:	St Eugenes Church No 1 A/C
Account Number:	55192935
Sorting Code Number:	90-49-74
IBAN:	GB45 BOFI 9049 7455 1929 35
Branch:	Bank of Ireland, 15 Strand Rd, Derry, BT48 7BT

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support to the parish.

Easter Mass Bouquets are now available from the Parish Office. Cost £2.00 each.

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) wishes to acknowledge with thanks a donation of £50.



This Lent your love can make all the difference to Trócaire. Donations received before 16th May 2021 will be doubled by the UK government up to £2m. These matched funds will help thousands of people in South Sudan to grow enough food to feed their families. It will also support strong

women like Awut and Ajah in having their voices heard in decisions affecting them. Donations can also be made online at www.trocaire.org/donate or via NI freephone number **0800 912 1200** **or via online banking - bank details for Trócaire:** Sort Code: **93.80.92** and Account number **8822 7020.**

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. The next intake will

be Autumn 2021. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org.

Aid for the Children of Yemen: Fr Neal Carlin's new book, *The Eagle, The Tiger and Covid*, is now on sale at €10/£10 and can be purchased by contacting goldenagecentre@hotmail.com. All proceeds are being sent via a direct contact to aid the Children of Yemen.



ACCORD DERRY Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (*limited to 15 couples per course*). Booking now online at www.accordni.com.

Course Dates

July 6th/7th 2021

August 10th/11th 2021

Sept 14th/15th 2021

Oct 12th/13th 2021

Nov 9th/10th 2021

Dec 7th/8th 2021

The Net, the monthly publication sharing the fruits of faith in the Derry Diocese, is now available on the Diocesan website and Facebook Page.

The Messenger: Messenger Publications are offering a free online copy. Please visit: https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger_june_v11.3_low_res. If you have any difficulty accessing the link or if you have any further queries, please email c.henry@messenger.ie.

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 or www.watchmenmedia or the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com.

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.

If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Personnel (DLP) at 07596 500 793 / 07707 311 358 or at 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.