

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 15: 1-8

In today's beautiful Gospel, Jesus, using the metaphor of the vine and its branches, instructs us clearly on how to thrive spiritually.

"Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty;

For cut off from me you can do nothing."

Jesus is the vine, the ultimate source from which we derive the meaning of our lives; the energy we depend on to live out the truth. We are the branches which, if we are to thrive spiritually, must remain connected to that ultimate source: Jesus. If we cut ourselves off from Jesus we, like the branch cut off from the vine, will wither and die spiritually.

If we remain connected to Jesus as our ultimate source, we will become one with him; we will, as he directs, make our home in him as he makes his home in us.

"I no longer live, but it is Christ living in me."

Jesus, may we always recognise you as the true source of our spiritual lives; may we always know that you are the energy, the meaning, which directs us and guides us on our journey to your heavenly Father. May we realise that it is only in becoming one with you that we shall experience true joy and peace. Amen

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray, Jesus, may we always recognise you as the true source of our spiritual lives; may we always know that you are the energy, the meaning, which directs us and guides us on our journey to your heavenly Father. May we realise that it is only in becoming one with you that we shall experience true joy and peace. Amen

First Holy Communion - Congratulations to the boys and girls from The Model Primary School who celebrated their First Holy Communion here in St Eugene's Cathedral during the week. May this special day be their first step in a life-long love of the Eucharist.

The Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux will be take place at St Eugene's Cathedral from Saturday 11th May until Sunday 19th May 2024. The Novena begins with a Mass with the Anointing of the sick at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th May. This will be an opportunity to pray for a special intention and to ask St Thérèse to intercede for us. All are very welcome.

St. Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th -24th October 2024. Cost £770 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £150 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894.

St Eugene's Cathedral Choral Scholars scheme will be open for new applications from April 15th until April 30th for the term beginning September 2024. Entrance to the scheme is via audition. Contact the Director of Music at maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com for an application form or more information. Scholars sing with the Cathedral Choir weekly and are paid a stipend for their participation.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Mary (Bebe) Drummond

Patrick Moore

Brian McCloskey

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Colm Joyce

Seamus Campbell

William Lafferty

Charlie Harkin

Nellie Harkin

Mary Ann Hegarty

Mary O'Hagan

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Caoimhe Éire Ward

Elsie Murray

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 **Aoife McCloskey and Stephen Harkin** who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

Collection

Last week's collection: £6,417

Parish Development: £886

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Admin's Choice: £5, £5

Gaza: £20

Sight Savers: £30

Trócaire: £100

Smile Train: £30

Readers for 4th/5th May

06.15 pm Roisin Rice-Cutter

07.30 pm Claire Feeny

09.30 am Kate Doherty

11.00 am St Anne's PS

12.30 pm Jack Tyre

07.00 pm Anna Begley

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Monday (pm): Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Chamberlain Street, Westland Street. Cable Street, Lower Road

Tuesday (pm): Mulvey Park, Beechwood Street, Elmwood Terrace, Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor

LIFE Camp 2024 – Calling all pupils currently in Primary 3 – 7. Week 1– Monday 1st – Friday 5th July and Week 2– Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July. Cost for each week is £40. To register go to www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Life%20Summer%20Camp

Youth of Acutis - A group of young people, aged 16-21, are seeking to explore and develop their faith with other like-minded people, while also making a positive impact on their community. They have chosen the name 'Youth of Acutis'. The group will be launched in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, following 7.30pm Mass on Friday 3rd May 2024, the birthday of Blessed Carlo Acutis. All interested young people in the 16-21 age-bracket are welcome to attend!

Cemetery Sunday - The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 30th June 2024 at 3.00 pm.

A Day Retreat in honour of Saint Peregrine will be held in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca on Thursday 2nd May, from 10.00am – 3.00pm. Cost for the day, including light lunch £20/€25. Please bring along a bottle of olive oil to be blessed in honour of Saint Peregrine. A First Class Relic of Saint Peregrine will also be available for veneration on the day. For bookings telephone 71 262512.

Silent Retreat will be held in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca from 3rd to 9th June. The theme is "If you but knew the gift of God..." and will be preached by Fr Kilian Byrne, Foyer of Charity. Cost is £350 full board. For more information/to book contact Helen at 00353 86 1678027 or email hellywilliams@gmail.com / www.foyerofcharity.ie. This would be a privileged time to come away from noise and distractions, and listen to the Spirit of God, Who is Love.

'Day for Life' in Knock 4th May – Sponsored bus leaving Letterkenny. For details and to book contact: Michael (00353) 087 2922499, Teresa (00353) 086 2647235, Mary (00353) 086 3871487.

You are invited to the "Following Christ as a Catholic in Ireland today" Conference and Gala dinner, Guildhall, Derry, Saturday 11th May 2024. Book at www.humanlife.ie or call Human Life International Ireland 00353 949375993. Don't miss out! Book by 6th May deadline for dinner bookings!

St Vincent de Paul are looking for your second-hand Furniture: Bedroom furniture, Suites, kitchen tables and chairs and small furniture. If you are spring-cleaning, please contact us and we will gladly collect and reuse your pre-loved furniture. Please contact us on 028 71 265489.

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 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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty