

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 6:1-15

Today's much-loved Gospel witnesses the superabundance of the God of Love; the compassionate concern for the physical well-being of others shown by his son, Jesus; the willingness of a small boy to share what he had with others, and the proof for us that little will always be enough with love and heartfelt faith that God will take our individual efforts, however small, and gloriously multiply them.

The disciples, faced with the vastness of the crowd who had come to hear Jesus, immediately began to apply the time-bound and the finite to the problem of feeding that same crowd. Where was the money going to come from to supply the food? Who was going to travel to the nearest town to buy the food? And so on. Jesus, on the other hand, wasn't concerned with the problems of the finite and the time-bound. Jesus was aware of the infinite close by. He was aware of the superabundance of his loving Father who always responds magnanimously to our efforts to share what we have, however little, with others.

Jesus, today we learn generosity from a small child. May we always know that children, so beloved of you, are much closer than we are to innocence, to purity of heart and to the concept of unconditional love. May we treasure our children always, and look to them to inform us in the way of truth and innocence of heart.

Jesus, may we learn to share abundantly with each other in the knowledge that there will always be more than enough for need, never enough for greed.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – We pray that those called to serve the Church as Priests of the Diocese of Derry will share the compassion of Jesus in this weekend's gospel, nourishing the people of God both physically and spiritually.

There will be a Vocations Day (for those considering diocesan priesthood) in Buncrana on Sunday 8 September, from 12 - 6pm. Anyone interested should please contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan by email: pgoh2111@gmail.com

Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons - 2024 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly. The exhibition opens on Thursday 8 August at 10.30am. Exhibition Times are Mondays - Saturdays from 10.30am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. The Exhibition will run until 31 August. Everyone is welcome.

Pilgrimage to Lough Derg, St Patrick's Purgatory - We pray for all those who have gone on pilgrimage to Lough Derg this weekend. We pray that it will be a time of renewal and peace - a sacred time when they bring the prayers of the diocese to St Patrick asking for his intercession.

Prayer for Summertime

Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts during these months of summer holidays. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Ellen Hastings
Margaret Boyle
James Doyle
Margaret Porter*

May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couples who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

*Niamh O'Neill & Mark Healey
Nicole Ross & Darrell Doherty*

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Patrick Boyle
Charlie Healy
Kathleen Sheerin*

May they rest in peace

Collection

Last week's collection: £4257
Parish Development: £930

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Sight Savers: £5, £40
Smile Train: £5, £40,
Gaza Appeal: £10, £20, £50

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Thomas Patrick Emelio Port
Eoin Seamus Bradley*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Please remember: Godparents (1 male and 1 female over the age of 16)

Readers 3rd / 4th August

06.15 pm	Megan Dallat
07.30pm	Mary Morrison
09.30 am	Kevin Finan
11.00 am	Geraldine Ui Meallain
12.30 pm	Marie Canning
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine - Sunday, July 28th 2024

Ceremonies in the Basilica will commence with Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm, with Pilgrimage Mass at 3pm followed by an outdoor Rosary Procession (weather permitting). The Principal Celebrant of the Mass will be Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, Papal Nuncio of Ireland. Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor will lead the pilgrimage and the celebration of the fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly at Knock Shrine. For those who are unable to join the pilgrimage in person, the ceremonies will be streamed live on the Knock Shrine website. www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live/

Prayer for Grandparents

Bless all Grandparents and keep them in Your care. Bless them with peace, health and healing. Reward them for their faith and fidelity, for their work and goodness, for their love and thoughtfulness, for their gifts and prayers. Give them a long and happy life together. May old age come to them in the company of family and friends. And when life is over, unite them again, where parting will be no more, in the Kingdom of Your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Upcoming events at Knock Shrine:

Ignatian Week Retreat 2024 commences on Sunday 28th July at 7.30pm in the Parish Church and concludes on Sunday 4th August with 12 noon Mass in the Basilica. The week can serve as a retreat with spiritual direction available on request. Parts of each day will be live streamed and there will be an opportunity for online discussion and sharing each day via Zoom.

Family Day Sunday 18th August 2024. Blessing of the Families take place at 11am in the Apparition Chapel. We invite all families to attend. Family Day at Knock Shrine is a lovely opportunity for families to get together to enjoy a range of fun activities. All events and activities are free of charge and take place on the beautiful grounds of Knock Shrine

National Novena 2024: 'Whispering with God'...How Do You Pray? The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place from 14th to 22nd August. Daily ceremonies take place at 3.00pm and 8.00pm. Workshops take place at 12.45pm each day. For more information about the above please visit www.knockshrine.ie

ACCORD Derry - Marriage Preparation Courses. The following dates are available online for booking at www.accordni.com: September 20th & 21st 2024 and October 18th & 19th 2024. Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

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.