

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 24:46-53

In Luke's Gospel, we have the story of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. While Luke reminds us that this is the completion of Jesus's mission, it is not the end of the story. In fact, it marks the beginning of another.

The Ascension of the Lord also points to the development of the faith of the disciples. They would no longer have Jesus physically present to look at or converse with, but they would encounter Him in a new and deeper way. They would engage with Jesus in the place prepared for Him by the Father—at His right hand.

This could have been a devastating experience for His followers. But rather than weeping, we are told that they left feeling joy. Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait. In other words, they were not yet ready to fully witness to the Lord—something was still missing. That “something” was the Holy Spirit, the Consoler and Guide who would be poured out upon them at Pentecost.

If the disciples had gone out on their own, relying on their own strength to evangelize, they would have failed. None of us, despite our good intentions, can preach or teach about Jesus unless we are enlightened by the Holy Spirit. This is why the upcoming feast of Pentecost is so important—not only for the early followers of Christ but also for us today.

Jesus had to leave His earthly dwelling in order for the Holy Spirit to come. His going meant the coming of the Holy Spirit. The public ministry of Jesus began only after His baptism in the Jordan, when the Father filled Him with the Holy Spirit. Likewise, our lives as Christians are a constant journey of conversion—a series of new moments and opportunities. But we must always wait on the Lord and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This week, as we await the great feast of Pentecost, we are encouraged to pray in silence for discernment, for strength, and for growth in our journey of faith. Let us open our hearts and wait for the power of the Spirit to come anew into our lives.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: Jesus sends His disciples as His witnesses to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. We pray for those who will be ordained as priests to witness to the loving and merciful presence of Jesus in our diocese.

The monthly Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on Monday 2nd June at 7:30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. 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. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025 to Knock Shrine, led by Bishop McKeown, will take place on Sunday 15th June, commencing with Rosary at 2.00pm, followed by Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm and concluding with Mass and Eucharistic Procession at 3.00pm. Confessions available throughout the day. Bus departs St Eugene's Cathedral at 8.30am. Evening meal included. Cost £50 per person and places confirmed on receipt of completed form. For further information please contact the parish office, St Eugene's Cathedral on 02871262894 or email the parish office at cathedral@derrydiocese.org

The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 22nd June 2025 at 3.00 pm.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Liam Melaugh

May he rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Kerry Crocker

Tommy Strawbridge

Edward Patrick Doherty

Jenny Mullan

Sophia (Fia) Friel

Sadie Wells

Alan Roberts

James Caldwell

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Charlie Gerard O'Hagan-Morrow

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Diocesan Purposes Collection: £5,732

Parish Development: £1,137

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Gaza Appeal: £50, £50

Mary's Meals: £30, £50, £200

Water Aid: £20

Flowers for Altar: £20

Cathedral Funds: £200, €100

Readers for 7th /8th June

06.15 pm Helen Sweeney

07.30 pm Liz McMonagle

09.30 am Barry McDaid

11.00 am Rosemount PS

12.30 pm Roisin McGarrigle

07.00 pm Anna Begley

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

Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2025: starts on Friday 25th July and concludes on Sunday 27th July. For those wishing to avail of transport, a bus will depart after 10:00am Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on the Friday; it will travel via Lifford and Ballybofey. Cost: £95/€110 (including transport). Pre-booking is required. Please contact Tony Brennan on tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocese Office on 0044 28 7126 2302 for a booking form.

St Columba's Church, Long Tower: Celebrating the Jubilee Year, 2025 as 'Pilgrims of Hope': **Sunday 8th June** Pentecost Sunday: All-Night Vigil of Adoration beginning after 12 noon Mass, until Monday 9th before 7am Mass. **Monday 9th June:** 7.00am: Mass at the Hawthorn Tree (beside Fr Lynch's Grave at the Grotto), concluding all-night Adoration. 7.30pm: Mass of St Columba celebrated by Bishop Philip Boyce, retired Bishop of Raphoe, followed by procession to St Columba's Well, led by St Colmcille's Pipe Band. Refreshments and Traditional Music Session in Lower Long Tower Primary School Hall with Parish Draw.

Parish of Culmore – Parishioners from Culmore Parish are invited to join in a time of prayer to discern our Parish needs and how the Lord invites us to respond. We will gather to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in Hollybush Primary School on Wednesday 4th, Tuesday 10th and 17th June at 7pm. This gathering in prayer is open to everyone. If you're uncertain about how to pray or spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, rest assured that you will receive gentle guidance and support along the way. This is a welcoming space where all are encouraged to come as they are and grow in faith together. “At this time, Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God.” Luke 6:12.

*Vol 53 No 22
The Ascension of the Lord
1st June 2025*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Job opportunity - Derry Diocesan Trust: Administrative & Financial Officer, Greenlough Parish Office, Greenlough, Co Derry. Ten hours per week (working each Friday with remaining hours worked another day/s to be agreed with the successful candidate). Permanent post. Reporting to the Parish Priest, the role entails provision of administrative and financial support. For application pack, 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 12noon Thursday 12 June 2025. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer.*

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty will take place on Tuesday 3rd June 2025. Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm followed by the celebration of Holy Mass at 7.15pm. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic of St Pio while closing prayers are recited. Everyone is welcome.

First Saturday Rosary takes place on Saturday 7th June at 1pm in Market Square, Letterkenny. Everyone is welcome.

All Ireland Rosary Rally at Knock Shrine on Saturday, 7th June. Events begin at 9:30am and concludes with a Pentecost Vigil and Healing Service from 8–10pm. Full schedule and bus info: www.allirelandrosaryrally.com.

“Dare to Hope” Young Adult (18-35) Faith Gathering, at Knock Shrine on Saturday 14th June. The day will feature Fr. Conor McDonough OP as principal speaker, along with a variety of enriching workshops. It will culminate in the celebration of Mass where all participants will come together in faith and fellowship. Bookings can be made directly on Eventbrite by searching “Dare to Hope”.

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 Ireland**) **101** or **Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090** and ask for the **Duty Social Worker**.