

Gospel Reflection Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

In today's Gospel according to Luke, Jesus lists the signs which will herald the end of the world. 'That day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap,' Jesus warns us. He warns us to watch, to stay awake. It is significant that the Church begins the new liturgical year with a Gospel reading which describes the calamitous ending of the world. Endings, we should remember, are often the birthing places of new beginnings. The ending described in today's Gospel promises, according to Jesus himself, the beginning of a new world of eternal bliss for all who are faithful to his truth. But if we are to share in his Father's world of eternal bliss we must listen to Jesus and follow his teachings; we must walk to Calvary with him; we must carry his cross and suffer with him; we must die to this world with him; and none of this can happen if we do not stay awake, always awake and alert to the world's attempts to distract us from God's perfect plan for us.

We are created by God for love. Our souls yearn to be united with the perfect Love which breathed life into us. There is no rest for us until we rest in that perfect Love. Distracted by this world, we think we need material proof for everything that exists, but in truth, it is the promise of eternity to which our souls respond; it has been said that it is dreams which drive us and it is hopes which make things happen. It is the mystery which calls to us. God knows us better than we know ourselves, and in the purity of His knowledge of us he draws us to him by His promise of eternity, by the ineffable mystery of His being and by His presence, pregnant with silence, deep in our contemplative souls.

Jesus, may we waste no time but be forever vigilant, forever alert, forever faithful to your truth, so that when you finally come for us we are ready for you to gather us in your arms and wrap us in the warm cloak of your love. Amen

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – For those considering a vocation to serve the Church as priests of the Derry diocese we pray in the words of St Paul in our second reading, that they "...will make more and more progress in the kind of life [they] are meant to live, the life that God wants..."

The season of Advent begins this weekend. Take some time out from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas to pray and meditate on the true meaning of Advent.

Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed in the Cathedral each morning at 7.45am, Monday to Friday beginning Monday 2nd December.

On the Way Home - In preparation for Christmas, there will be an opportunity for Confession and Adoration each Monday during Advent (2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd) from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Eucharistic Adoration: every Sunday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and every Tuesday from 10.30am until 7.20pm

St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00pm on Sunday 22nd December. St Eugene's Cathedral Choir will lead the carols. We invite children to bring presents of new unwrapped toys and adults to donate sweets, biscuits, vouchers or cash. St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute the gifts.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are now available to buy at the Parish Office. Cost £2.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Mick Knights
Ellen Campbell
Ann Joyce
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Chris Francis
Manus (Nassie) McCaul
Patrick McGeehan
Lorraine Moran
Patrick McCool
Michael McGeady
Lily Duffy
Bridget & Bobby McAnaney
Frank Nugent
May they rest in peace

Readers 7th/8th December

06.15 pm Karen O'Brien
07.30 pm Liz McMonagle
09.30 am Eva Marie Mallon/
Rua Sweeney
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Michael McCaul
07.00 pm Marian Boyle

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,922
Parish Development: £916

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

SVdP: £40
Trócaire: £20, £200, £20
Daughters of Charity: £100
Cathedral Funds: £20

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Lee Jay Turner
Jaya Elizabeth Turner
Evelyn Hoang
Ché Thomas Doherty

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

On Monday 2nd December at the 7.30pm monthly Matt Talbot Prayer Society Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, there will be relics of Venerable Matt Talbot present and available for veneration. The relics are coming from the Church in Sean McDermott Street in Dublin where the body of Matt Talbot reposes. The relics are visiting the Cathedral as preparation for the celebration of the centenary of Matt Talbot's death. Matt Talbot is a powerful intercessor for those suffering from addiction. This Mass will be offered for all those enrolled in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society, all those recovering from addiction and all those affected by addiction. If you, or someone you know is struggling with alcohol or drugs, or just want to stop taking them, after Mass you will have the opportunity to sign up to commit to abstain from taking them. You can do this for yourself or offer it for someone else. Everyone is welcome to this Mass.

St Eugene's Conference of St Vincent de Paul will take up their annual collection at all Masses next weekend (7th & 8th December). During the past year the total dispensed by St Eugene's Conference was £45,970 as follows: financial assistance £25,500, beds £7,040, white goods £7,310 and heating £6,120. Your generosity throughout the year and to the Christmas Collection is very much appreciated.

*Vol 51 No.48
First Sunday of Advent
1st December 2024*

Christmas Afternoon Tea - Saturday 7th December at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall - Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for a Festive Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Cost £25.

Parish Advent Pilgrimage on Thursday 12th December. Price £40 includes - Transport, Morning Tea & Lunch.

For more information or to book a place call into the Parish Office or call 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025 led by Bishop Donal McKeown, from Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July, leaving from City of Derry Airport. Price £849 plus insurance and single supplement if required. Gift Vouchers are now available from the Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Enquiries can be made by email to derrypilgrim@outlook.com.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty will take place on Tuesday 3rd December 2024. Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic. Everyone is welcome.

St Eugene's Primary School – Annual Rickety Wheel takes place on Thursday 5th December at 7.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Proceeds to St Eugene's Primary School Funds. Everyone is welcome!

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal – Blessed Sacrament Guadalupe Procession following 11am Mass on Thursday 12th December at St Joseph's Church. Everyone is welcome.

Mary's Meals – Double The Love. All donations made to Mary's Meals are being doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £900,000. Please keep us in your prayers during this Advent season that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. Find out more at marysmeals.org.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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty