

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 6:39-45

Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel, if we open ourselves to its truth, reaches into the most hidden part of our being: that part of us which we keep secreted away in the shadows; that part of us which hates in others the very thing we hate in ourselves. Since Adam blamed Eve rather than take responsibility for his own sin, humankind has shown more than a tendency to bury, deep in the shadows of their being, those parts of themselves of which they are ashamed. This is what Jesus, from whom nothing is hidden, meant when he called us hypocrites, condemning in others the very faults of which we ourselves are guilty.

Before we concern ourselves with the 'mote' in the eye of another, we need to have walked the path of truth ourselves: the truth of who we are, the truth of our own transgressions, and the truth of our failure to 'own' the whole of our being, warts and all.

'From the fullness of the heart, the mouth will speak.'

Only when we walk the path of truth will we be able to prostrate ourselves before Jesus and offer thanks for his forgiveness, his compassion and his understanding entering our souls and illuminating our lives; then we can wholeheartedly offer that same compassion, that same forgiveness and understanding, to others. If we walk the path of truth which banishes our hidden shadows with its bright and kindly light, we will never have the temerity to judge others for merely reflecting our own sins back at us. Amen

Ash Wednesday 5th March – A Day of Fast and Abstinence

Masses at 8.00am, 10.00am, 1.00pm and 7.30pm. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses. The Holy Land Collection will be held at all Masses.

Forty Hours Adoration – The Forty Hours Adoration begins next Sunday (9th March) after the 12.30pm Mass. Donations of flowers for the Altar would be much appreciated and can be left in the Sacristy next Thursday and Friday.

Lenten Programme 2025

Monday to Friday: 7.45am Morning Prayer of the Church
1.00pm Lunch-time Mass beginning on Ash Wednesday (5th March)

Mondays: 5.00pm -7.00pm Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays: 7.00pm "Exploration into Theology – *Reading the Signs of the Times*" with Fr Brian Brady in The Cathedral Hall.

Wednesdays: 6.30pm Guided Meditation in the Mother Teresa Chapel
7.00pm "Reasons for Hope" - Talk by Fr Paul Farren in the Cathedral

Thursdays: 1.30pm Stations of the Cross led by Parish Schools
8.00pm Holy Hour of prayer, adoration, reflection and music with Fr Shaun Doherty in the Cathedral

Fridays: 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

'Fish Fridays' - as this is the day when Jesus was crucified you are invited to give up meat on the Fridays in Lent in remembrance of His sacrifice for us.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Noella Hegarty

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Noel McDowell

Joseph McCauley

Sadie Feeney

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Kaia Helps

Elora Ceceilia Helps

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Readers 8th /9th March

06.15 pm Mary Morrison

07.30 pm John Og McNamee/
Liz McMonagle

09.30 am Gerry O'Donnell/
Cara Elliott

11.00 am McGinley Readers

12.30 pm Michael Wilson

07.00 pm Marian Boyle

Collection

Last week's collection: £ 4,972

Parish Development: £ 882

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Lourdes Hospitalité: £20, £50, £20

Admins Choice: £100

Comboni Missions: £150

Mill Hill Missions: £160

Gaza Appeal: £30, £20

Mary's Meals: £30, £20, £100, £500

SVdP: £30

HUDT: £300

Smile Train: £40

Sight Savers: £40

Sick Visitation

Fr Shaun Doherty will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Tuesday: Academy Terrace, Tutor Close, Northland Parade, Northland Crescent, Edenmore Street, Glenbank Road, Glenbank Gardens, Glenside Gardens, Marlborough Road, Marlborough Avenue, Marlborough Street, Creggan Road, Helen Street, Oakfield Crescent

Friday: Glenowen Park, Cashelmore Park, Hatmore Park, Turasmore Park, Ardglenn, Nassau Crescent, Rosemount Gardens, Baldrick Crescent, Osborne Street, Lawrence Hill, Joseph Place, Beechwood Avenue

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – With encouraging words for those contemplating a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, St Paul says in our second reading this weekend, "... keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain."

We pray in particular for those attending the Vocations Weekend in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, this coming weekend.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society will meet on Wednesday 5th March after 10am Mass in the Mother Teresa Chapel. New members welcome to this prayer group who meet once a month.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea, Saturday 29th March at 1.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall. Join a host of singers and musicians for Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Pre Booking required. Price £25 To book call to the Cathedral Parish Office or Tel: 02871262894.

LIFE Camp 2025 (Living - In - Faith – Everywhere) LIFE Camp is a voluntary organisation staffed by teachers, students and experienced volunteers. It takes place in St. Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry. We are calling all pupils currently in P3 – P7. Week 1: Tuesday 1st – Friday 4th July and Week 2: Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July. Cost for Week 1 is £35. Cost for Week 2 is £40. To register go to www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Life%20Summer%20Camp

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty will meet on Tuesday 4th March 2025. Starting with Rosary at 6.45pm followed by 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 welcome.

March is Foyle Hospice Make a Will Month. During the month of March local solicitors very kindly agree to waive their usual Will writing fee in return for a suggested £100 donation to Foyle Hospice. A list of participating solicitors can be found at www.foylehospice.com or by calling Kathleen at the Foyle Hospice on 02871 359888. The purpose of Make a Will Month is to encourage people to write their Wills, whilst also raising much-needed funds for Foyle Hospice. Money raised will ensure Foyle Hospice can continue to deliver high quality specialist palliative care and end of life care to those in our community with life-limiting illness.

Mary's Meals -Emergency in Southern Africa. Southern Africa is experiencing its worst drought in 100 years, with an estimated 21 million children in the region suffering from malnutrition. To help Mary's Meals keep providing life-changing meals and reach more children in need, please keep our work in your prayers and consider donating to this appeal. 10p provides a school meal. Find out more at www.marysmeals.org.uk or freephone 0800 698 1212.

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