

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees a hungry crowd and responds with compassion. Rather than sending the people away, he invites the disciples to bring him the little they have: five loaves and two fish. In his hands, this humble offering becomes more than enough for everyone. Not only are the people fed, but there are even baskets of leftovers, revealing the abundance of God's love and care for his people.

This miracle reminds us that God often works through ordinary gifts offered with faith. We may feel that our time, talents, or resources are too limited to make a difference, yet Christ asks only that we place them in his hands. He is the one who multiplies what is given in love, bringing hope where there is discouragement, healing where there is pain, and generosity where there seems to be scarcity.

As we gather around the Lord's table each Sunday, we too come with our needs, our hopes, and our small offerings. Here we are nourished by the Bread of Life, strengthened by God's grace, and reminded that no gift offered in love is ever wasted. Having been fed by Christ, we are sent out to feed others through acts of charity, kindness, forgiveness, and hope. May we trust in God's abundant generosity, share freely with those in need, and become instruments of his compassion in our families, our parish, and our wider community.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray for the men called to priesthood. Like Jesus in today's gospel, may they never turn away from the poor, the hungry, the most vulnerable, or those in need, but always reflect the love of Christ for them as they nourish and strengthen them with the Word of God.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated here in St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 3rd August at 7.30 pm. 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. Those enrolled will be prayed for specifically every day. Mass will also be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30pm. 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.

The Perfect Plan

Jesus I love you. Thank you for the perfect plan you have for me and every person. Help those who cannot see your perfect plan for them because of their addiction to drugs. Free them from this dangerous imprisonment to live life to the full. Help them to realise that all wisdom comes from you and the strongest and wisest person is the one who knows how much they need you.

Bless with faith and courage parents, family and friends of anyone addicted to drugs. Let them know the loving presence of your mother, Mary, in their time of torment.

Reveal your perfect plan more clearly every day for each one of us. Thank you for the trust you place in me. Help me to trust you more and more. Amen.

“Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons” 2026 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly opens on Saturday 8th August at 11.00am. Exhibition times are 11.00am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Creggan Street, Derry, BT48 9AP. The Exhibition will run until 18th August and everyone is welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Ann Messenger
Patrick McFadden
Cathal Logue

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Kathleen Sheerin
Gerald Doherty
Helen McCloskey
Kathleen Doherty
Jeanette McCaul
Thomas (Dusty) Breslin
Mary McCallion
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Zenaiya Siobhan Doherty
Hugo Gabriel Gill
Rocky Michael Jarvis
Fionn Butler

To book a Baptism contact the
Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Priests' Collection: £5,996
Parish Development: £1,041

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £100, £150, £50

Sight Savers: £100, £150, £50

Precious Life: £100

Mary's Meals: £200, £500, £100

Trócaire: £100

Water Aid: £100

MSF: £100

UNICEF: £100

SVdP: £100, £60, £100

Gaza Appeal: £20, £100

Flowers for Altar: £40, £90

Earthquake Appeal: £115

Readers for 8th /9th August

6.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
7.30 pm	Amulya George
9.30 am	Rosemary Finan/ Caragh McSheffrey
11.00 am	Piaras O Meallain
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
7.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord - On Thursday 6th August, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. On the mountain, Peter, James and John were given a glimpse of Christ's divine glory as His face shone with heavenly light and the Father's voice declared, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." The Transfiguration strengthened the disciples before the events of the Passion and reminds us that the Cross always leads to the glory of the Resurrection.

As we celebrate this feast, may we listen more attentively to the voice of Christ, be renewed in faith and hope, and strive each day to reflect His light and love in our homes, our parish, and our community.

Mary's Meals – Step by Step Walk - Mary's Meals is currently feeding over 3 million children a daily school meal across 16 countries. Our Annual Step by Step to Feed the Next Child 2 Bridges Walk (Foyle and Peace Bridges Derry) takes place on Sunday 9th August. Starting Point is at Sainsbury's Car Park, Strand Road at 12 noon. All Welcome to participate even for a mile or two. For further details and to register online visit www.marysmeals.org.uk/step or contact Caoimhe on 07394564065. Please do keep all our walkers in your prayers.

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Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
2nd August 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Accord Derry – Marriage Preparation Workshops 2026 - Accord Derry is pleased to announce upcoming Marriage Preparation Workshops taking place in 2026. These courses are designed to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. The remaining available dates for 2026 are as follows:

- **September:** 25th–26th 2026
- **November:** 20th–21st 2026

All courses are now available for online booking at: www.accordni.com.

Please note that **Accord Derry will not be facilitating Marriage Preparation Courses during October or December 2026**. Couples are encouraged to book early to secure a place on their preferred date.

ATU St Angela's is now accepting applications for the Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education for Primary School (online delivery), beginning in Autumn 2026.

The programme is open to qualified primary school teachers, qualified post-primary teachers wishing to transfer to primary teaching, and parents, sacramental preparation teams, and parish catechists with an interest in primary religious education. The closing date for applications is **Friday, 14th August 2026**. For further information, contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, Education Department, ATU St Angela's, Lough Gill, Sligo, at mary.kearns@atu.ie, or visit www.atu.ie.

Cancer Focus NI – Pink Colour Fun Run - Why not take part in the Cancer Focus NI Pink Colour Fun Run at Ebrington Square on Sunday 18th October? This fun-filled event is a great way to support the vital work of Cancer Focus NI while enjoying a colourful day out with family and friends. For registration and further details, visit www.cancerfocusni.org/foyle-pink-run.

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 with regard to the Safeguarding of children within the Church please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +447596500793 or email: dlp@derrydiocese.org

Northern Ireland emergency services: PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland): 101 Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust: 028 7131 4090 (and ask for the Duty Social Worker), Gateway Services, Northern HSC Trust: 028 9442 4459, Regional Emergency Social Work Services: 0800 1979 995. Republic of Ireland emergency services: Garda Síochána Buncrana: 00353 749 320 540 Letterkenny: 00353 749 167 100, TUSLA (ROI) Child and Family Agency: 00353 749 102 23