

The Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux

“My peace consists in remaining little.”

“It is not the greatness of our actions that matters, but the love with which we do them.”

(Extract from a Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St Thérèse)



The annual Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux will be take place at St Eugene’s Cathedral from Saturday 9th May until Sunday 17th May 2026. This will be an opportunity to pray for a special intention and to ask St Thérèse to intercede for us. It is a time when many people find great joy and healing. All are very welcome.

The Novena begins with a Mass with the Anointing of the sick at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th May.

The Opening Ceremony will take place at 6.00pm on Sunday 10th May with Bishop Donal McKeown.

Monday 11th to Friday 15th May there will be Novena Masses at 6.30am and 10.00am each morning and an evening service with a guest speaker at 7.30pm.

The speakers each evening at 7.30pm are as follows:

Monday (11th): Fr Bryan Shorthall is a Capuchin. He is Parish Priest in St Francis of Assisi parish, Priorswood, Dublin. He is a custodian of Padre Pio’s mit.

Tuesday (12th) Sr Orla Tracey (IBVM), is a Loreto Sister. She is the Director of a girl’s boarding school, a primary school for boys and girls and a child centre health clinic in South Sudan.

Wednesday (13th) Tommy Canning is the manager of the Northlands Centre and is the assistant manager of Finn Harps.

Thursday (14th) Kevin Hyland was the head of the Human Trafficking Unit in London. He was appointed the first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner in 2014. At the request of Pope Francis he helped establish the Santa Marta Group in the Vatican – an anti-trafficking alliance.

Friday (15th) Eilís Mulroy is the Chief Executive Officer of the Pro Life Campaign. Her mother is from Clonmany!

Saturday (16th) the 10.00am Mass will be celebrated for all those who have died.

The Novena Closing Ceremony will take place on Sunday 17th May at 3.00pm with the blessing of roses and candles.

St Thérèse candles and Mass Bouquets will be on sale at the back of the Cathedral.

At the statue of St Thérèse there is a petition box to place your petitions for this Novena.

A short reflection on today’s Gospel John 14:1-12

Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel are spoken at a moment of deep uncertainty. The disciples sense that something is about to change, and their hearts are troubled. Into that anxiety, Jesus speaks a simple but profound invitation: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.”

Thomas’ question - “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”- echoes our own confusion at times. Jesus’ response is both comforting and challenging: “I am the way and the truth and the life.” The way forward is not a set of directions, but a person to follow. To know Jesus is to know the Father; to walk with Him is to walk toward life itself.

For our parish community, this Gospel is a call to renewed trust. In moments of doubt, change, or grief, we are invited to place our confidence in Christ, who leads us. And as He tells His disciples that they will do His works, we are reminded that faith must become action - expressed in love, service, and witness.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: Our first reading tells the story of the selection of the first seven deacons. We pray for those recently, or soon to be, ordained to the Diaconate. Here in the Diocese of Derry we pray God’s blessing on Deacon Stephen Baxter who will be ordained to the priesthood on 14th June, that the Lord will bless him in his future ministry.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene’s Cathedral on Monday, 4th May at 7.30 pm. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email vita@mattalbotprayersociety.com or private message St Eugene’s Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene’s Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

First Holy Communion – Congratulations to the boys and girls from Rosemount Primary School and 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.

St Eugene’s Cathedral Parish Draw – only 200 tickets available! 10 monthly draws at £20 per draw beginning May 2026. Entry fee for all draws can be paid in full or monthly. Entries paid in full will be entered into a draw for £500. Prizes per month £1,000, £500 and 5 x £100. The draw will raise funds for necessary repair, maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful Cathedral. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine will take place on Saturday 6th June 2026. In conjunction with the All-Ireland Rosary Rally, we will join those gathered to celebrate at our National Eucharistic and Marian Shrine. For those for whom it is convenient, buses will leave St Eugene’s Cathedral, Derry, at 8.00am: cost £50, which includes dinner in Knock House Hotel following the conclusion of the Mass in the Basilica. For further information, please contact Karen in the parish office at St Eugene’s on 028 7126 2894 or by email at cathedral@derrydiocese.org. Full schedule to follow.

St. Eugene’s Cathedral 3 Day Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo 6th – 8th September 2026. Cost £300 per person sharing. For more information and full itinerary contact Anne Marie Hickey, Pastoral Coordinator on amhickey@derrydiocese.org, phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894 or call into the Parish Office.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Martin McCarron

May he rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

John Flood

Mary O'Hagan

Jim Friel

Colm Joyce

Robert (Bobby) McAnaney

Seamus Campbell

Lorraine (Jack) McLaughlin

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Reeba Bradley

Luca Ray Lyttle

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Medical Missions of Mary: £20

SVdP: £100

Hungry Children: £5, £5

Mary's Meals: £15

Trócaire: £100

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,347

Parish Development: £1,131

Thank you for your generosity

Readers for 9th /10th May

06.15 pm Garth Tucker

07.30 pm Stephen Orr/Karl Orr

09.30 am Kay McGinn

11.00 am Rosemount PS

12.30 pm Michael Wilson

07.00 pm Anna Begley

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Sincere thanks from Sister Ann to all who contributed in any way to our Easter Missions Appeal, in aid of the poor in Kenya, India, Nigeria and Haiti. The total amount raised was £11,006 and €935. Thank you so much. May God reward and bless you once again for all your generosity.

Knock Pilgrimage to Pray for Peace in the Holy Land: Saturday 16th May, organised by the papal charity Aid to the Church in Need. All are welcome. More information at www.acnireland.org

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 749 102 233