

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the vineyard, reminding us that God lovingly entrusts gifts, responsibilities and opportunities to his people. The vineyard is fruitful, carefully prepared and full of promise, yet the tenants forget that it does not truly belong to them. They begin to act as though they are the owners rather than those who have been entrusted with its care.

We too can be tempted to hold tightly to what God has placed in our hands - our time, talents, possessions, abilities and even our relationships. We can easily forget that these are gifts to be received with gratitude and used for the good of others. The Gospel invites us instead to become faithful stewards, recognising that everything we have is ultimately a gift from God and that we are called to help it flourish.

At the heart of the parable is God's patient and enduring love. Even when his messengers are rejected and his people turn away, God does not abandon them. He continues to call them back to himself, offering opportunities to change, to return and to begin again. In sending his Son, Jesus, God reveals just how far he is willing to go to draw us into his love and restore us to friendship with him.

As a parish community, may we receive all that God has entrusted to us with grateful hearts. May we be generous in sharing our gifts, faithful in our responsibilities, and attentive to the needs of those around us. And may our lives, like a well-tended vineyard, bear abundant fruit - fruit that gives glory to God and brings hope, love and blessing to others.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray for the men God is calling to serve as priests of our diocese that, as they work in the vineyard of the Lord, they will produce the good fruit of justice and integrity.

Are you 18 years or older and thinking or wondering about serving the Church as a priest of the diocese of Derry? There will be an afternoon Talk with time for prayer, discussion, questions & answers in Derry on Sunday 11th October. For further details please contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated here in St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 5th October 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.

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena - The Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots continues after the 7.30pm Mass on Thursdays, in St Eugene's Cathedral, concluding on Thursday 26th November. Sometimes life can feel like one overwhelming knot, especially when we face health challenges or burdens beyond our control. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady, and that Christ gave us His Mother as Our Lady, Untier of Knots. Through this devotion, we entrust our personal "knots" to her loving care - learning to let go and allowing her to gently untie what binds us. All are welcome to join in prayer and reflection during this special time of grace.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Assunta Hegarty

Brian McColgan

Annie Neal

Danny Hegarty

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

William & Kathleen Gallagher

Jane Doherty

Adrian Ward

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Hugh Patrick Clarke

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Priests Collection: £5,734

Parish Development: £1,036

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Sight Savers: £20, £50, £20

Hungry Children: £5

UNICEF: £40

Smile Train: £50, £10

Gaza Appeal: £50, £20

Medical Missions of Mary: £10

Cathedral Funds: £500

Readers for 10th /11th October

6.15pm Garth Tucker

7.30pm Claire O'Kane

9.30am Barry McDaid

11.00am McGinley Readers

12.30pm Eilish Friel

7.00pm Marian Boyle

Saint Carlo Acutis Day of Prayer. You are invited to come to St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Sunday 11th October from 2.00pm where we will have Veneration of a First Class Relic of St Carlo Acutis, gifted to the Cathedral by Carlo's mother, Antonia.

The Sacrament of Confession will be available from 2.00pm until Mass at 7.00pm, which will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Router. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Mother Teresa Chapel during the Celebrations. A short film on Carlo's life will be shown in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to this special time.

Mass bouquets are available for £2 each as a thanksgiving for the gift of St Carlo Acutis. Bouquets can be purchased from the parish office during the week and after Masses next weekend. St Carlo, known for his deep love of the Eucharist and his inspiring witness of faith in the digital age, is a powerful intercessor for young people, families, and all those seeking to grow in holiness. This is a beautiful way to celebrate this joyful occasion and to share a spiritual gift with someone you love or remember in prayer.

International Exhibition - The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, designed and created by St. Carlo Acutis will take place in The Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road from 9-16 October 2026. Come and discover the remarkable stories of Eucharistic miracles from around the world, brought together through the inspiring work of St. Carlo Acutis. Admission is free - all are welcome.

Book Launch – *The Power of Gathering* - You are warmly invited to the launch of Fr Paul Farren's new book, *The Power of Gathering: How Coming Together at Mass Renews Our Faith*. The book reflects on the gift of gathering as a community of faith and the importance of coming together to celebrate Mass. The launch is on Wednesday 7th October 2026 at 7.00pm in St. Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry. The Guest Speaker will be Bishop Michael Router. All are very welcome.

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in Ordinary Time
4th October 2026*

Are you enrolled in the Pope John Paul II Award in St Eugene's Cathedral this year? If so, you are invited to attend an Information Session on Wednesday 7th October at 4.30pm in the Upper Sacristy. There will be a short presentation and discussion on how we can help you find suitable tasks that you will enjoy taking part in. Any questions you can email lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

The Padre Pio Prayer Group at Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, will take place on Tuesday, 6th October 2026. The evening will begin with the Rosary at 6.45pm, followed by the celebration of Holy Mass at 7.15pm. After Mass, the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St Pio, while the closing prayers are recited. Everyone is welcome.

Foyle Hospice Annual Coffee Morning. Foyle Hospice will be hosting its Annual Coffee Morning on Saturday, 10th October, from 10am to 1pm, at Day Therapy, Foyle Hospice, 61 Culmore Road, Derry. Everyone is welcome! Please come along and support your local hospice.

Lumen Christi College 30th anniversary Gala event in the Everglades Hotel, Friday 23rd October: Night at the Races, meal and dancing! Tickets available from the college reception. All welcome!

Book of Memories of Father Paddy O'Kane. A new book is being written about well-known Derry priest Father Paddy O'Kane, who died in 2022. The book, planned for publication next year, will bring together memories and stories from those who knew him, alongside selections from his weekly column in the *Derry News*. Do you have a memory or story about Father Paddy? Author Ciaran O'Neill would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to contribute. Ciaran can be contacted at caoneill1971@gmail.com or 07875 904354.

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