

2024 has been another blessed year in Saint Eugene's Parish. We are truly blessed with so many people who give their time so generously and to have our retired priests living among us who serve the parish so faithfully. As we begin 2025, we ask God's blessing and thank Him for the gift of 2024.

A short reflection on today's Gospel John1:1-18

God speaks and everything comes into being: all of creation has its source in God. John's powerful Prologue to his Gospel spells out clearly this amazing fact. It is no wonder that we cannot bear to live without God in our lives; no wonder that the human heart is without rest until it rests in God. We may deny this; we may struggle with it; we may try to hide from it, but the truth will always pursue us relentlessly until we turn, look into its beautiful face, and embrace it.

'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.'

Jesus, witnessed so powerfully and passionately by John the Baptist, is the Word of God made flesh, and with the express purpose of bringing us closer to the Father, lived among us with grace and truth, as unrecognised by closed minds then as now, teaching us the ways of God and guiding us on our journey home. Jesus is the living Word of God and his life on earth is the revelation of God to us. He is the light of the world, and as we know, light is not so much what we directly see as that by which we see everything else.

Jesus, may we live with minds and hearts open to the Word. May we rejoice in the fact that everything in existence is an expression of the Word. May we try always to emulate the power and the passion of John the Baptist's witness as we take every opportunity to go out and proclaim the Good News of God's infinite and compassionate love for us, his children.

Jesus, you are the light of the world and it is by your light that our Father is clearly revealed to us. May we never be tempted to stray from the bright beauty of your light into the soulless darkness of unbelief. Amen

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – At the start of this new year and Jubilee of Hope we ask God's blessing on our seminarians and those discerning their vocation, remembering especially Gary Duddy, Gerry Friel, and Gary White as they begin their propaedeutic studies in Salamanca. With St Paul in our second reading this weekend, we pray: "May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit."

Feast of the Epiphany, Monday 6th January 2025 is a Holyday of Obligation. Mass times for the Holyday are as follows:

Monday 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am 12.30pm and 7.30pm

There will be a collection for Parish Missionaries Overseas at all the Masses on the Feast of the Epiphany. If you wish to nominate a priest or nun who has family connections in the Parish for financial support, please email their name and contact details to cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Catherine McKenna
Gerald Cruickshank
Kathleen Crilly
Donald Coyle
Paul Harkin*

*Trevor Pio Lamberton
Patrick Sharkey
Eamon McLaughlin*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Evelyn Gillen
Sara Jane Brady
Rose Tucker
Rose McCauley
Michael Kerlin
John Cauley*

Catherine Harkin

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Tommy Scott Garnham
Mason Brian Mukendi
Ciaran Flynn McCay
Ellie Grace McNulty
Jessie Madison McNulty*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £ 5,297
Parish Development: £1,138

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trócaire: £1,000, £100, £320, £100

Gaza Appeal: £20

Mary's Meals: £100, £750, £200, £40

SVdP: £500, £20, £80, £20, £100,
£100, £40, £250, £50

St Pio Fund: £250

Flowers for the Altar: £10, £100, €50

Smile Train: £100, £100, £30, £320,
£30

Children in Cross Fire: £20

Sight Savers: £150, £25, £30, £160

Save the Children: £20

Medical Missionaries of Mary: £20

Readers 11th/12th January

06.15 pm Roisin Rice Cutter
07.30 pm John Og McNamee/
Caitlin Horner McLaughlin
09.30 am Rosemary Finan
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Kevin Finan
07.00 pm Marian Boyle

The monthly Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on Monday 6th January at 7:30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. 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 by members of the Matt Talbot Prayer Society. 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.

St. Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th – 24th October 2025. Cost £795 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £155 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894.

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of Christmas
5th January 2025*

Invitation to 33 Days of Family Prayer: Bishop McKeown will lead the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, as part of a diocesan programme for the Jubilee Year of 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*. It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening at 7.00pm, starting on Thursday 9 January 2025 and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tuesday 11 February 2025. Bishop McKeown explains, *“It is a journey I set out to make to entrust myself and my priesthood to Christ through the Mother of God. I extend an invitation to you and your families from the parishes of the diocese to join me”*. Details and times of the prayer programme with a video message from Bishop McKeown can be viewed at derrydiocese.org/consecration.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Pre-School or Primary One places for September 2025. There are three excellent Catholic Schools in the Parish, which take both boys and girls. The three schools are St Anne's Primary School (Tel no 71 263046) St Eugene's Primary School (Tel no 71 261601) and Rosemount Primary School (Tel no 71 265605). Nursery class places are available in St Eugene's and Rosemount Primary Schools. If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2025, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 24th January 2025.

Saint Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry - Open Day is on Saturday 11th January 2025. The principal's address is at 9.15am and 10.30am. Tours of the school will begin immediately after each address. Open Day ends at 12.30pm. All are welcome.

St Cecilia's College cordially invites you to their Open Day on Thursday 9th January from 5pm to 8pm. Principal's address at 5.00pm and 6.15pm

Accord Derry - Marriage Preparation Workshops 2025. The following dates available: January 24th/25th February 21st/22nd March 28th/29th April 11th/12th May 30th/31st and June 20th/21st. All courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com. Please note that all these courses are in person and not virtual.

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.