

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 8:1-11

Today's Gospel makes it clear that Jesus did not come among us to please us; he did not come among us to flatter or curry favour with the rich and the powerful; he did not come among us to nod his approval of those who would separate us out into the deserving and the undeserving: the saints and the sinners. Jesus came among us to unsettle us, to challenge our notions of justice and judgement. He came among us to teach us God's ways and to banish those ways of man which so often masquerade as God's ways but are designed to serve our notions of exclusivity and separateness; our notions of 'us and them!'

The Scribes and the Pharisees, always on the alert to trap Jesus who had fearlessly and on many occasions undermined their authority and their probity, haul an adulteress in front of him and challenge him to dispute the law of Moses which holds that the woman merits being stoned to death for her actions. Jesus' response is to kneel on the ground and begin writing in the sand. When the Scribes and Pharisees persist, he looks up and says: 'Let the one among you who has not sinned be the first to throw a stone.' And he continues to write in the sand. We never learn what it is that Jesus is writing. Perhaps it is the sins of the Scribes and Pharisees, as has been suggested by some scholars. Starting with the eldest, the woman's accusers all slink away leaving her standing before Jesus, who, while not approving of her sin, offers no condemnation but instead offers her compassion and forgiveness. Surely Jesus' quiet forgiveness, his saving of her life, must have had a transformative effect on the life she lived afterwards.

Jesus, may we avoid any semblance of smugness and self-righteousness in our lives. May our minds and hearts always be focused on unity rather than separation, recognising that our brothers and sisters are all of mankind. May humility and truth be the light which guides us towards eternity.

The monthly Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on Monday 7th April 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. 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.

Lenten Programme 2025

- Monday to Friday:** Daily Mass at 8.00am, 10.00am, 1.00pm and 7.30pm
7.45am Morning Prayer of the Church
- 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

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Eddie Grant
Gerry Canning
Charles McFadden
Sr Deirdre Mary O'Neill
Frank Peters
Gerald Stewart
Stephen Quigley
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Rebecca O'Hagan
Isabell(McCaul) Gallagher
Myra (Bonner) Canning
William McCarron
Nellie Strawbridge
Benny & Phyllis Donaghey
Sean McCaul
Susie Rooney
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Connell Christopher Head
Anna Clare Porter
Sophia Grace O'Donnell Wallace
Quinn Éabha Riagáin Doherty O'Kane

Collection

Last week's collection: £ 5,302
Parish Development: £ 1,055

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £20, £100
Earthquake: £50
Flowers for the Altar: £100, £40, £10, £10
Smile Train: £200
Sight Savers: £200
Mary's Meals: £1,000

Readers 12th /13th April

06.15 pm Helen Sweeney
07.30 pm Liz McMonagle
09.30 am Kate Doherty
11.00 am Rosemount PS
12.30 pm Eilish Friel
07.00 pm Philip Wilson

Readers for The Passion have been contacted

"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.

Easter Mass bouquets are available to buy from the Parish Office. Cost £2.00

Adult Safeguarding Training - We have invited Mrs Briege O'Neill, Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Derry to facilitate Adult Safeguarding Training. Adult Safeguarding Training is relevant to clergy, sacristans, church secretaries, adult prayer groups, senior choir leaders, members of St Vincent de Paul and Eucharistic Ministers to those people confined to their homes/nursing homes and all those in the parish who are interested in Safeguarding Adults at risk and in need of protection. Training will take place on Monday 7th April 2025 from 7.00pm-9.30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road. Please contact the parish office on 028 71262894 or leave your name in the Sacristy by 3rd April 2025.

St Eugene's Cathedral Parish Draw – only 200 tickets available! 10 monthly draws at £20 per draw beginning May 2025. 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. Registration for the draw will close on 30th April 2025. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

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of Lent
6th April 2025*

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 4 nights from 14th July to 18th July. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £700 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Masters in Catholic School Leadership - The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. If you are interested in registering for the Masters in September 2025 or require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

Derry Diocesan Youth Department, along with young people participating in the Pope John Paul II Award, invite you to a Lenten Reflection with music and prayer. This will take place in St Mary's Church, Maghera, on Monday 14th April at 7.00pm. All are welcome. The event will also be available on the Maghera parish webcam.

Easter Monday Pilgrim Path Walk at Lough Derg - Join the Team at Lough Derg for a guided walk along the ancient Pilgrim Path around Lough Derg on Monday 21st April at 10.30am. 8km & 12km option available. Free event. Booking essential. For more information visit www.loughderg.org

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on **Sunday 15th June**. Further details will be available in the coming weeks.

The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 22nd June 2025 at 3.00 pm.

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.