

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that Christian community is built on honesty, reconciliation and love. When someone hurts us, makes a mistake, or goes astray, we are not called to condemn or abandon them. Instead, we are invited to approach them with patience, compassion and a genuine desire to restore the relationship. This is not always easy. It can take courage to speak honestly, humility to admit when we are wrong, and generosity of heart to forgive. Yet this willingness to reach out, rather than turn away, is at the heart of how Jesus calls us to live together as his disciples.

Jesus also gives us the beautiful promise: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Our faith is never meant to be lived alone. We need one another, especially in moments when life is difficult or when our faith feels weak. Christ is present when we come together in prayer, when we support one another through difficult times, when we forgive, and when we patiently work to bring peace and understanding. Even the smallest acts of kindness and encouragement can become signs of Christ's presence among us.

As a parish family, may we have the courage to speak with kindness, the humility to listen, and the grace to forgive. May we be willing to look beyond our differences and remember that each person we meet is valued and loved by God. May we never be afraid to take the first step towards reconciliation, even when it is difficult or uncomfortable. And may our communities always be places where Christ's presence can be recognised - not only in our words and prayers, but especially in the way we welcome, support, forgive and care for one another. In doing so, may we become a true reflection of the love and mercy that Jesus asks us to share with the world.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray for the men called to priesthood, to the ministry of teaching and preaching in the name of Jesus, and encouraging their brothers and sisters to turn away from sin and live as followers of Christ in today's world.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 7th September 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.

Save the Date: 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.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Brian McKeever
Joan Ferry
Martin Crowley
John & Maureen Duffy
Pete Rooney
Berna Boyle
Ding Doherty
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Róise Caoimhe Campbell
Erin Therese Campbell
Luán John Barr

To book a Baptism contact the
Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Megan McGarrigle & Johnathan Ward
Jacinta McGahey &
Connor McLaughlin
Cyra Sweeney & Tyrone McCullagh
who celebrated the Sacrament of
Marriage recently in the Cathedral
*May God bless you abundantly in love,
joy and happiness*

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,527
Parish Development: £1,032
Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £40, £30, £100
Trócaire: £100
Mary's Meals: £50, £20, £330
Sight Savers: £30, £50, £20, £20

Readers for 12th /13th September

6.15pm Karen O'Brien
7.30pm Majella Coyle
9.30am Rosemary Finan
11.00am McGinley Readers
12.30pm Kevin Finan
7.00pm Anna Begley

O Blessed Virgin Mary,
on the joyful feast of your Nativity,
we thank God for the gift of your life.
Pray for us, that we may grow in faith,
hope, and love,
and lead us closer to your Son, Jesus.
Amen

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – On 8th September, the Church celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - the birthday of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Although Scripture does not tell us the details of Mary's birth, this feast has been celebrated by the Church for many centuries. It invites us to rejoice in the gift of Mary, chosen by God from the beginning to play a unique part in the story of our salvation. Mary's life reminds us that God often works quietly and patiently, preparing the way for great things. Her humble "yes" to God would one day bring Christ into the world. In celebrating her birth, we give thanks for the young woman who became the Mother of God and a mother to us all. May Mary's example encourage us to welcome God's will with faith, humility and trust, and may we ask her prayers as we seek to follow her Son, Jesus.

Host for Hospice: October is officially Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning Month. We are calling on supporters to help us raise vital funds by hosting a Coffee Morning. Whether it's at home, work or in your local community, you can support your local hospice by bringing your friends together and putting the kettle on - it's a piece of cake! To request your FREE host pack or for more info, please call Ailbhe McDaid, Community Fundraiser, Foyle Hospice, on 028 7135 9888 or email: ailbhe@foylehospice.com

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in Ordinary Time
6th September 2026*

Friends of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Lieutenancy of Ireland: The Holy Land is the land of the Gospel, but it is also home to Christian families, schools, parishes and communities who need prayer, solidarity and practical support today. The Order is a Catholic Order under the protection of the Holy See, dedicated to supporting the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Christian communities of the Holy Land. Friends are not members of the Order but are people of goodwill who wish to support this mission through prayer, awareness and charitable giving. To learn more or become a Friend: Website: holysepulchre.ie/friends Facebook: EOHSJ Ireland Email: friends@holysepulchre.ie Phone: 086 3253882

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Job Opportunity: Derry Diocesan Trust - Granaghan (Swatragh) Parish: Sacristan, hours of work: 12 hours per week. Place of work: St John the Baptist Church. Rate of Pay: £12.88 per hour. For application packs please email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 7126 2302. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to recruitment@derrydiocese.org no later than 12noon on Tuesday 15 September 2026. Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

Just five minutes from Derry, the IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden is a special place of peace, community and connection. Enjoy freshly prepared homemade food in our warm and welcoming surroundings, then take time in our beautiful Celtic Prayer Garden, relax and experience its wonderful peace and serenity. Come along, meet friends and discover somewhere truly different. Group bookings are very welcome, with ample parking and easy level access for visitors with mobility needs. Find us at F93 F104. For more information contact us at 00353 74 9384866.

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