

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 1:7-11

Today's Gospel witnesses the beginning of Jesus' public life. By immersing himself in the waters of the Jordan meant for sinners, he shares in our humanity and he expresses his submission to God's saving plan. John, the powerful, passionate Precursor, now humbly steps aside as Jesus, the source of life, enters salvation history.

As Jesus steps out of the water the heavens open and the Spirit of God descends on him as a dove, and the voice of God is heard saying: "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him." What a beautiful endorsement from a father to his son! What loving, encouraging words from a father as his son begins his public life!

May we rise from the waters of the Jordan as children of our loving Father. May our hearts be full of hope; may we be wholly immersed in the peace of Christ.

May we no longer live for ourselves, but live instead for Jesus, our Saviour, who was one of us in all things except sin.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - We pray for those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry. That, like John the Baptist, they will help prepare God's people, through Baptism and the other sacraments, to welcome Jesus into their lives.

We pray for our seminarians, especially for Oran Gartland of Holy Family parish, Derry, who has just begun his propaedeutic year of studies in Salamanca.

Anyone interested in diocesan priesthood is invited to contact their local priest or to speak with Fr Pat O'Hagan, the Diocesan Vocations Director, at (028) 7938 6259.

The Saint Dymphna Mass will be celebrated here in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive mental health and to pray for those who are struggling with mental health issues and those who care for them.

Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy recommences on Friday 12th January at 11.00am in the Cathedral Hall. You are most welcome to join via the online platforms or in person.

Children's Liturgy recommences on Sunday 14th January at 11.00am Mass and is open to all children in Primaries 1 to 4. It involves proclaiming the Gospel in an accessible way to the Children, reflecting on its meaning and responding in prayer with an activity related to the Gospel story.

Catholic Schools Week 2024 Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th January 2024 – To launch Catholic Schools Week in our diocese, a Celebration of the Eucharist will be held here in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown on **Tuesday 16th January at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend.** Catholic Schools week is an annual all-Ireland celebration which invites schools to give expression in an exceptional way to the ethos of Catholic education. It acknowledges the tremendous contribution that our Catholic primary and post-primary schools makes not just to Irish society, but to the mission of the Church. This year's theme is Catholic Schools as Communities of Service. Resources reflecting on features within the overarching theme are available at www.catholiceducation.ie.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*John Cauley
Lawrence Moran
Michael O'Donnell
Maeva O'Neill
Seamus Downey*

May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couples who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

*Roma Murphy & Daniel McLaughlin
Noelle Devlin & Seamus Bradley*

Readers for 13th/14th January

06.15 pm Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm Karen Harkin/
Caitlin Horner McLaughlin
09.30 am Rosemary Finan
11.00 am McGinley School of Music
12.30 pm Kevin Finan
07.00 pm Marian Boyle

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,044
Parish Development: £1,026

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Mary's Meals: £25, £50
Cathedral Funds: £10, £25
Trócaire: £300, £10, £60
Children in Crossfire: £30, £50
Sight Savers: £30, £20, £20
Smile Train: £30, £50, £40
Water Aid: £20
Hungry Children: £20, £20
Ukraine: £30
SVdP: £25, £30, £40
Gaza/Palestine: £50, £20

The Matt talbot Prayer Society – Praying for those suffering from Addiction. The Prayer Society had been created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction, to pray for those recovering from addiction, and to pray for all those affected by addiction, especially family members. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer society please contact the Parish Office (Tel 028 71262894), email cathedral@derrydiocese.org or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page.

Prayer for Freedom from Addiction

Loving God, help me to submit myself to you, resisting the devil and his corrupt ways. Lead me not into temptation and deliver me from evil, show me the way to freedom from this addiction and give me the strength to endure whatever may come my way. Fill me with wisdom and faith to trust you, so you may be my rock to stand upon when I am weak, because through you anything is possible. Each day that I rise I will rejoice and be glad knowing this is the day you have made for me. A day where I can show love, hope and compassion to myself and others struggling with addiction. So, I ask you God, to bless me and guide me to new ways in which all Glory and Honour is given to you.
Amen.

Parish Baptismal Programme: Expectant parents are invited to come to the Sacristy after Sunday Mass for a blessing for themselves and their unborn baby. After this blessing the parents will receive a prayer that they can say during the pregnancy. Parents who wish to have their child baptised here in St Eugene's Cathedral must contact the Parochial House to book their attendance at an Evening of Celebration. The date of Baptism for the child will be confirmed at the Evening of Celebration.

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Pre-School or Primary One places for September 2024. 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 2024, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 26th January 2024.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Thornhill College Open Day on Tuesday 9th January between 3.30pm and 6.00pm. Principal's address at 3.45pm and 4.45pm. All are welcome.

St. Cecilia's College Open Day on Thursday 11th January. Principal's address at 5.00pm and 6.15pm. All are welcome.

Lumen Christi College Open Evening Thursday 11th January. Prospective pupils and their parents/carers are invited to visit Lumen Christi College for the annual Open Evening on Thursday 11th January 2024 between 4.00pm and 6.30pm. Principal's address will be at 4.00pm in College Assembly Hall.

St Joseph's Boys' School Open Day on Friday 12th January. Principal/Head Boy address at 10.30am and 1.30pm. All are welcome.

Prospective pupils and their families are invited to attend **Saint Mary's College Open Day on Saturday 13th January 2024** from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Principal Mr Brendan McGinn will address visitors at 10.00am and 11.00am. All are welcome.

Give Blood, Save Lives - Donor sessions at Carlisle Road Methodist Church, Derry on Wednesday 10th January from 1.00pm – 4.00pm and 5.00pm – 8.00pm and Thursday 11th January from 12.30pm – 4pm and 5.00pm – 7.00pm To book an appointment go Online: www.nibts.org or Telephone 08085 534 653

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.watchmenmedia 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) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.