

## A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 3: 13-17

### The Baptism of Jesus in the waters of the Jordan

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.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Fr Paul Farren and his family during this difficult time. We pray that God gives you all the comfort and peace that you seek and may the soul of your father rest in peace.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen*

**The next Holy Hour for Vocations will take place in St Eugene's Cathedral on Friday 13 January at 8pm and will be led by Deacon Michael McCaul.** If you cannot attend in person, you are invited to join in the prayers via the Cathedral webcam at [www.steugenescathedral.com](http://www.steugenescathedral.com). Anyone interested in serving the Church as a priest in the diocese of Derry should contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, PP Bellaghy and Greenlough, at (028) 7938 6452 or at [pgoh2111@gmail.com](mailto:pgoh2111@gmail.com)

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we pray for the grace to be faithful, each one of us, to the vocation we received at our own baptism: to live as God's beloved children, bringing the Light and Peace of Christ into the lives of our brothers and sisters. We pray in particular for those called to the priesthood and religious life, that they will serve God and His people faithfully.

### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Sheila Bradley  
Geraldine O'Neill  
Frankie McDermott  
Breedge O'Connell  
Packie Farren*

May they rest in peace

### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Janie Gallagher  
Jim Sharkey  
Lawrence Moran  
Seamus Downey  
Michael Kerlin  
Michael O'Donnell  
Ronnie Kennedy*

May they rest in peace

### Sacrament of Marriage

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

*Emma Morrison & Jason McKinney*

### Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Caolan Daragh McCafferty  
Ezekiel Tobias McCallion*

To book a Baptism telephone 028 71262894.

### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Smile Train:** £15, £20, £60, £50, £20

**Sight Savers:** £15, £20, £50

**Trocaire:** £30, £60, £50, £100, £1000, £100, £40

**Children in Crossfire:** £50

**SVdP:** £100, £50, £60, £40, £25, £20

**Somalia:** £100

**Salvation Army:** £30

**Mary's Meals:** £25

**Cathedral Funds:** £1,000, £1000

**Admin's Choice:** £100

**Flowers for Altar:** £20

### Collection

Last week's collection: £4,406

Parish Development: £1,002

*Thank you for your generosity*

**St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference)** would like to acknowledge with thanks contributions of £50 and £500.

**Pre-School or Primary one place for September 2023.** 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 2023, you can apply online from 12 noon Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for their place at [www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions). The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Anam Cara Donegal**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm in the Raddison Blu Hotel, Letterkenny Co. Donegal. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 00353 (0)1 4045378.

**Be still and know that I Am God: Adults silent retreat** at Ards Friary, Donegal, from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The Servant Brothers from the Home of the Mother will lead a series of Spiritual Exercises each day along with Confession, Rosary, Adoration and Holy Mass. Cost £190 and includes private room accommodation in the Friary and all meals and drinks. To book or for more information contact Rory on 00353 86 8231717.

**Lourdes 2023 The Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July led by Bishop Donal McKeown.** Flights direct from City of Derry Airport. Four nights full board. Cost £745 sharing, £35 single supplement. Travel insurance available - £39 up to age 79, £78 for ages 80-94. Pilgrims may use their own insurance. Further details and payment arrangements will be available shortly via the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Email [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com) Telephone 02871 260 293

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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 or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596500793 or at 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.

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias, Deacon: Rev Michael McCaul**