

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 5:1-11

Today's Gospel is rich in its depths of meaning. Jesus chooses to address the crowd facing them from Simon's boat, unusual in itself. After he has finished teaching the gathering, Jesus suggests to Simon and the other fishermen that they should row out into deep waters and put out their nets. This was the prelude to the miraculous haul of fish caught when they complied with Jesus' directive, despite having already laboured all night and caught nothing.

The Gospel today witnesses the start of the beautiful relationship between Jesus and Simon Peter. Jesus sees beyond the roughcast appearance of the fisherman straight into his passionate, loving, flawed heart and knows that this man standing in front of him is the rock on which he will build his church on earth. He knows that this man, Simon Peter, will, when the time comes, live and die for him. Now, when Peter, having listened to Jesus' teaching and witnessed the miraculous haul of fish, falls to his knees and cries out his unworthiness, Jesus responds with, 'Do not be afraid, from now on you will be a fisher of men.'

And they left everything and followed him.

Jesus, with your help, may we endeavour to live our lives with truth and openness. May what we do and how we act never be fear-based but full of the courage of our conviction that we live and die in you only.

Jesus, may we never be afraid to launch out into the deeper waters of spiritual risk rather than stay in the shallows of reason alone.

Jesus, give us the courage to leave our attachments to the things of this world and follow your way into eternal life. Amen

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – This weekend's Gospel tells us that the fishermen who met Jesus "...left everything and followed Him." We invite men aged 18+ who may be considering following the Lord as diocesan priests to a Vocations Weekend in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, from 7-9 March 2025. Anyone interested should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com

We congratulate and pray for the children from St Anne's Primary School, St Eugene's Primary School, Model Primary School, and Rosemount Primary School who received the Sacrament of Confirmation during the week at St Eugene's Cathedral. ***Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9***

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea, Saturday 29th March at 1.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall. Join a host of singers and musicians for Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Pre Booking required. Price £25 To book call to the Cathedral Parish Office or Tel: 02871262894

Mass for the Intentions of the Seven Sister Apostolate will be celebrated on Friday 14th February in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30 pm. All members in this ministry are invited to attend. We ask for God's blessing as we commit to another year of prayer for our Bishop and priests. New members are welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Liam Kelly
Marguerite-Marie Gavin
Eithne McCafferty
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Martin McCrossan
Derrick Tucker
Neil McCauley
Frank Hegarty
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Luca James Harkin
Hollie Esme Campbell
Matthew James Campbell
Jada Lily O'Donnell
Fiadh Kathleen Martin

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,617
Parish Development: £ 1,068

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Flowers for the Altar: £10, £20, £30
SVdP: £100, £25, £25
Mary's Meals: £25
Trócaire: £100, £200
Gaza Appeal: £20, £500
Save the Children: £10
Sight Savers: £10

Readers 15th/16th February

06.15 pm Karen O'Brien
07.30 pm Claire O'Kane
09.30 am Barry McDaid
11.00 am Kay McGinn
12.30 pm Marie Canning
07.00 pm Anna Begley

The Lourdes Hospitalité collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, takes place at this weekend's Masses. As in previous years, we appeal to your generosity for this worthwhile cause.

Invitation to Mass – Concluding the 33 Days of Family Prayer: As you may be aware, Bishop McKeown has been leading the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, as part of the diocesan programme for the Jubilee year of 2025, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The 33 days concludes on Tuesday, 11th February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Each evening of the 33 days, Bishop McKeown and priests of the diocese have been broadcasting online a short reflection and prayers of the Rosary. Bishop McKeown now extends an invitation to those who have participated in this journey of prayer to join him in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Tuesday, 11th February at 7:00pm. The bishop will pray the final prayers of this journey and lead people in making the Prayer of Consecration. This will be followed by the celebration of Mass at 7:30pm. Certificates to mark the Consecration will be available after Mass. If you are unable to attend, Certificates will be available to download at derrydiocese.org/consecration. Details of the Family Prayer programme can be found on the website.

Job opportunities

Diocesan Trust Officer - 35 hours per week (Permanent). The Diocesan Trust Officer reports to the Bishop of Derry and liaising with the Executive Director supports the aims and objectives of Derry Diocesan Trust. The main areas of responsibility will include finance, payroll, and HR administration.

Administrative Officer - 21 hours (3 days per week). Permanent. Reporting to the Executive Director, Derry Diocesan Trust is recruiting an Administrative Officer to assist in the smooth running of Derry Diocesan Trust. The post requires the individual to be self-motivated, confident and competent in written and oral communication and to be an effective organiser. The postholder will be expected to demonstrate initiative and discretion whilst carrying out duties.

For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org.

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 4.30pm on Friday 14th February 2025

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

SPARK: A weekend of fun, faith and friendship for 12–16-year-olds – 21st-23rd February at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca. Spark is a weekend experience which follows core themes from YouCat, as well as stories of role models such as Blessed Carlo Acutis and Sr Clare Crockett, to help young people learn about their faith, while making friends and hopefully having a bit of fun in the process! Cost €80/£70 per person (covers food and board). To book or find out more text or WhatsApp Brendan on +353 86 8067973 or Vivienne on +44 7935 007351.

'Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage' to Rome: Led by Thornhill Ministries. 16th October 2025 x 4 Nights £1,095 stg pp sharing. Text: 07736832458 with name and address for forms and details.

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.