

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 4:1-13

Today's Gospel is powerful in the teaching it offers us as we witness the assault on Jesus by Satan. Jesus is subject to every human experience from birth to death. Otherwise, the incarnation is incomplete and his ministry is defective. As our Saviour he must share in our everyday temptations, and he does. The conflict in today's Gospel is between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. And it's no coincidence that Jesus' temptation immediately follows his baptism. It is acknowledged that when conversion or transformation or some profound spiritual experience occurs, when a certain level of wisdom, maturity has been reached, then it is that we are hit with temptations more strongly than ever. But it is through times of trial and temptation that we grow in spiritual wisdom. In the Gospel today, Jesus teaches us how to withstand assaults on our souls by the master of lies and deception. All three of Satan's temptations have the misuse of power at their centre: power without spiritual wisdom. Jesus calmly refutes each of Satan's temptations by countering them with the words of his Father in heaven. Satan attempts to seduce Jesus with promises of earthly power and status but the eyes of Jesus are firmly fixed on the things of God. Satan proves impotent in the face of the steadfastness of Jesus, and therein lies the lesson in today's Gospel.

Jesus, may we, like you, be willing at times to draw apart from the world to pray and thereby to strengthen and purify our fidelity to God and to the task with which He has entrusted us: to proclaim His kingdom.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – As we pray for the men attending the Vocations Retreat in Larne this weekend, we ask the Lord to bless all those who are discerning their vocation at this time. May God give them the grace to follow whatever path in life He wants them to take and, like Jesus in today's gospel, in times of temptation or trial, to draw courage and inspiration from the words of Scripture.

Forty Hours Adoration – The Forty Hours Adoration begins today Sunday (9th March) after the 12.30pm Mass.

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

'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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Henry Gallagher
John Slevin
Michelle McNulty
Nathan McGowan
Mona Bradley
Jim Cusack

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Bill Ferry
Celine Dunleavy
Peggy Quigley
Eamonn Camphill
Martha Harkin

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Avery Jack Wason

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £ 5,486
Parish Development: £ 1,042

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Gaza Appeal: £15, £20
Flowers for the Altar: £40, £100, £20, £40, £40, £20
Cathedral Funds: £20, £200, £10
Mary's Meals: £25, £20, £100, £20, £40
Blessed Carlo Acutis: £60
SVdP: £40, £25
Water Aid: £15
Hungry Children: £10
Save the Children: £10

Readers 15th /16th March

06.15 pm Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm Rebecca Sweeney/
Helen Sweeney
09.30 am Kate Doherty
11.00 am Model PS
12.30 pm Megan Dallat
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Monday 17th March – Feast of Saint Patrick. St Patrick brought the Christian gospel to Ireland in a way nobody else did, leaving behind a permanent memory that has united Irish people over the centuries and across the world. On the feast of St Patrick, we pray that we will remain strong in love and faithful to the way of Christ.
Mass times – 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm

Blessed Shamrock Boxes – over the weekend boxes of Blessed Shamrock will be available at the back of the Cathedral and can be picked up on a 'donation' basis. This is a fundraising appeal by the Cuan Mhuire Addiction Treatment Centres. Sr Consilio founded Cuan Mhuire from humble beginnings in 1966, to help those suffering from addiction to alcohol, gambling, drugs etc. Cuan Mhuire has now grown to become one of the leading treatment centres in Ireland, especially catering for the less-well-off, who need help. The money raised from the Shamrock Fundraiser will go directly to Cuan Mhuire.

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.

LIFE Camp 2025 (Living - In - Faith – Everywhere) LIFE Camp is a voluntary organisation staffed by teachers, students and experienced volunteers. It takes place in St. Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry. We are calling all pupils currently in P3 – P7. Week 1: Tuesday 1st – Friday 4th July and Week 2: Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July. Cost for Week 1 is £35. Cost for Week 2 is £40. To register go to www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Life%20Summer%20Camp

Calling all men - A 12 hour Eucharistic Adoration in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca on the Friday 14th March. Beginning with Holy Mass at 8.00pm and concluding with Holy Mass at 8.00am. All men welcome for a night of prayer and Adoration.

Pro-life Day: Advancing the Culture of Life, Through Prayer, Love and Service. Takes place on Saturday 15th March from 10.00am – 4.00pm, at St Pio House, Galliagh, Derry. With Bernadette Smyth of Precious Life, and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The day will include the celebration of Mass, Adoration, Talks and Prayer. Free admission. Bring your own Lunch.

March is Foyle Hospice Make a Will Month. During the month of March local solicitors very kindly agree to waive their usual Will writing fee in return for a suggested £100 donation to Foyle Hospice. A list of participating solicitors can be found at www.foylehospice.com or by calling Kathleen at the Foyle Hospice on 02871 359888. The purpose of Make a Will Month is to encourage people to write their Wills, whilst also raising much-needed funds for Foyle Hospice. Money raised will ensure Foyle Hospice can continue to deliver high quality specialist palliative care and end of life care to those in our community with life-limiting illness.

Mary's Meals -Emergency in Southern Africa. Southern Africa is experiencing its worst drought in 100 years, with an estimated 21 million children in the region suffering from malnutrition. To help Mary's Meals keep providing life-changing meals and reach more children in need, please keep our work in your prayers and consider donating to this appeal. 10p provides a school meal. Find out more at www.marysmeals.org.uk or freephone 0800 698 1212.

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.

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9th March 2025*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty