

### A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

In today's Gospel, the disciples find themselves struggling against strong winds while Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. At first, they are filled with fear, but Jesus reassures them with the simple yet powerful words: "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid."

Like the disciples, we all encounter storms in our lives - times of uncertainty, anxiety, illness, or loss. Peter's experience reminds us that faith is not about never doubting, but about keeping our eyes fixed on Christ. When Peter focuses on Jesus, he walks on the water; when he focuses on the wind and waves, he begins to sink. Yet even then, Jesus immediately reaches out His hand to save him.

This Gospel is a beautiful reminder that the Lord is always present, even when He seems distant. He does not promise a life free from storms, but He does promise that we will never face them alone. As we gather around the Lord's table this Sunday, may we hear His reassuring voice, trust in His presence, and reach out to Him in faith, knowing that His hand is always extended towards us.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood:** For our seminarians and the men considering priesthood that, in moments of doubt, they'll hear Jesus say what He says to the disciples in today's gospel, "Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid!"

**On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation.** We gather to give thanks to God for the gift of Our Lady, who was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory, and to renew our hope in the promise of the Resurrection.

Mass times are as follows:

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August – 6.15pm and 7.30pm

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August – 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, and 12.30pm.

The Collection on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be for Parish Youth Ministry. All parishioners are warmly encouraged to join us in celebrating this joyful feast.

**“Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons”** 2026 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly opens on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00am. Exhibition times are 11.00am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Creggan Street, Derry, BT48 9AP. The Exhibition will run until 18<sup>th</sup> August and everyone is welcome.

**On 14<sup>th</sup> August, the Church celebrates the Memorial of St Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest and martyr of charity.** Imprisoned in Auschwitz during the Second World War, he freely offered his life in place of a fellow prisoner who had been selected to die. His extraordinary act of self-sacrificing love reflects Christ's own words: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

St Maximilian had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and dedicated his priesthood to spreading the Gospel through prayer, the media, and missionary work. His courage, faith, and love continue to inspire Christians throughout the world.

As we honour St Maximilian Kolbe, may we ask for his intercession, that we too may grow in faith, charity, and the courage to bear witness to Christ in our daily lives.

#### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Mary Theresa (Maureen) O'Doherty*

*Seamus Mullan*

*Cissie McLaughlin*

*Brother Gabriel McKinney S.J.*

*Richard Gillespie*

*Peggy Carlin*

May they rest in peace

#### Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

*Cora Doyle*

To book a Baptism contact the  
Parish Office 02871 262894

#### Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

*Cara McLaughlin &*

*Alexander Gittings*

who celebrated the Sacrament of  
Marriage recently in the Cathedral  
*May God bless you abundantly in love,  
joy and happiness*

#### Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,362

Parish Development: £ 986

*Thank you for your generosity*

#### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Smile Train:** £20 £60 £20

**Sightsavers:** £100

**Mary's Meals:** £60

**Trócaire:** £10

**SVdP:** £20

#### Readers for 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> August

6.15pm Mary Feeney

7.30pm Mary Morrison

9.30am Marie Canning

11.00am Helen Sweeney

12.30pm Eilish Friel

#### Readers for 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August

6.15 pm Claire O'Kane

7.30 pm Amulya George

9.30 am Barry McDaid/  
Caragh McSheffrey

11.00 am Angela McCallion

12.30 pm Rosemary Finan

7.00 pm Anna Begley

**Lunchtime Concert - Grúpa Ceoil Beag, a group of young traditional Irish music students and performers will be performing in The Cathedral Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30pm.** Entry is free, and everyone is welcome. With thanks to Derry City & Strabane District Council for supporting this event.

**Job Opportunity, Derry Diocesan Trust:** Administrative & Financial Officer (18 hours per week), Waterside Parish, Parochial House, 32 Chapel Road, Derry. Rate of pay: £12.88 per hr - £13.50 per hr. For application packs please email: [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto: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](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org) no later than 12 noon Monday 24 August 2026. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.*

**The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place at Knock Shrine from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2026.** Novena ceremonies will be celebrated daily at 3.00pm and 8.00pm, with workshops and guided prayer sessions also taking place throughout the nine days. This year's theme is "Sheltered in God's Love." See the full program at [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie).

**Mary's Meals – Step by Step Walk** - Mary's Meals is currently feeding over 3 million children a daily school meal across 16 countries. Our Annual Step by Step to Feed the Next Child 2 Bridges Walk (Foyle and Peace Bridges Derry) takes place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. Starting Point is at Sainsbury's Car Park, Strand Road at 12 noon. All Welcome to participate even for a mile or two. For further details and to register online visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk/step](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/step) or contact Caoimhe on 07394564065. Please do keep all our walkers in your prayers.

**Accord Derry – Marriage Preparation Workshops 2026** - Accord Derry is pleased to announce upcoming Marriage Preparation Workshops taking place in 2026. These courses are designed to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

The remaining available dates for 2026 are as follows:

- **September:** 25th–26th 2026
- **November:** 20th–21st 2026

All courses are now available for online booking at: [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com).

Please note that **Accord Derry will not be facilitating Marriage Preparation Courses during October or December 2026.** Couples are encouraged to book early to secure a place on their preferred date.

**ATU St Angela's is now accepting applications for the Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education for Primary School (online delivery), beginning in Autumn 2026.**

The programme is open to qualified primary school teachers, qualified post-primary teachers wishing to transfer to primary teaching, and parents, sacramental preparation teams, and parish catechists with an interest in primary religious education. The closing date for applications is **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2026.** For further information, contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, Education Department, ATU St Angela's, Lough Gill, Sligo, at [mary.kearns@atu.ie](mailto:mary.kearns@atu.ie), or visit [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie).

**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 within the Church please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +447596500793 or email: [dlp@derrydiocese.org](mailto: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

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in Ordinary Time  
9<sup>th</sup> August 2026*

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty**