

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 21:1-14

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding banquet prepared by a king. The invitation is generous and freely offered, yet many of those invited choose not to come. Eventually, the invitation is extended to everyone - to people from the roads and crossroads, to those who might never have expected a place at the table.

This is a beautiful reminder of the generosity of God. His invitation is not reserved for a select few. God calls each of us into friendship with him and offers us a place in the joy of his Kingdom. We do not earn this invitation; it is a gift of grace.

Yet the Gospel also reminds us that accepting God's invitation calls for a response. The wedding garment can be understood as a sign of a heart that has been changed by God's love - a life clothed in faith, compassion, forgiveness and charity. It is not enough simply to hear God's invitation; we are called to let it shape the way we live.

Perhaps there are times when we are like those who were too busy or distracted to accept the invitation. The pressures and concerns of daily life can easily push God to the margins. This Gospel invites us to pause, recognise the grace being offered to us, and respond with open and grateful hearts.

As a parish community, may we remember that there is always room at God's table. May we welcome others with the same generosity that God shows us, and may our lives bear witness to the joy of accepting his invitation.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray that the men called to be priests of our diocese will know the truth of St Paul's words in our second reading, "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength."

Are you 18 years or older and thinking or wondering about serving the Church as a priest of the diocese of Derry? There will be an afternoon Talk with time for prayer, discussion, questions & answers in Derry on Sunday 11th October. For further details please contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

Saint Carlo Acutis Day of Prayer. You are invited to come to St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry today, Sunday 11th October from 2.00pm where we will have Veneration of a First Class Relic of St Carlo Acutis, gifted to the Cathedral by Carlo's mother, Antonia.

The Sacrament of Confession will be available from 2.00pm until Mass at 7.00pm, which will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Ruter. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Mother Teresa Chapel during the Celebrations. A short film on Carlo's life will be shown in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to this special time.

Mass bouquets are available for £2 each as a thanksgiving for the gift of St Carlo Acutis. Bouquets can be purchased from the parish office during the week and after Masses next weekend. St Carlo, known for his deep love of the Eucharist and his inspiring witness of faith in the digital age, is a powerful intercessor for young people, families, and all those seeking to grow in holiness. This is a beautiful way to celebrate this joyful occasion and to share a spiritual gift with someone you love or remember in prayer.

International Exhibition - The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, designed and created by St. Carlo Acutis will take place in The Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road until 16th October 2026. Come and discover the remarkable stories of Eucharistic miracles from around the world, brought together through the inspiring work of St. Carlo Acutis. Admission is free - all are welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Eugene Hillick
James Kelly***

May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

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

Collection

Priests Collection: £5,197

Parish Development: £1,076

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

SVdP: £60

Flowers for the Altar: £40

Water Aid: £500

Hungry Children: £10, £20, £10

Smile Train: £40, £100, £10

Mary's Meals: £20, £10, £20

Sight Savers: £20, £40

Matt Talbot Prayer Society: £20, £5

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Raymond Cassidy
Rose McCaul
Kathleen Bradley
Jim Bradley
Maureen Keys
Robbie Herron
Annie Phelan
John Kelly***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

***Lyra Rae Patterson
Dáire Daniel Coyle***

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Readers for 17th /18th October

6.15pm Mary Morrison

7.30pm Stephen Orr/Karl Orr

9.30am Kate Doherty

11.00am St Anne's PS

12.30pm Marie Canning

7.00pm Anna Begley

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena - The Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots continues after the 7.30pm Mass on Thursdays, in St Eugene's Cathedral, concluding on Thursday 26th November. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady, and that Christ gave us His Mother as Our Lady, Untier of Knots. Through this devotion, we entrust our personal "knots" to her loving care - learning to let go and allowing her to gently untie what binds us. All are welcome to join in prayer and reflection during this special time of grace.

Would you like to become an Altar Server in St Eugene's Cathedral? We are recruiting for anyone who is in Primary 5 and upwards, to come and serve at our weekend Masses. If you are interested in becoming an altar server, please email Lauren at lauren.doherty@derrydiocese.org or phone the parish office on 02871 262894 for more information.'

Pray for the National gathering of the Church in Ireland: Bishops, priests, religious and lay people from across Ireland will gather for the National Synodal Assembly on Saturday, 17th October, to pray, listen and discern what God may be asking of the Catholic Church in Ireland at this time. Bishop Michael Router and seven delegates will represent the Diocese of Derry. Please remember in your prayers Bishop Michael, our diocesan delegates and everyone taking part. Find out more on: <https://derrydiocese.org/national-synodal-assembly>

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in Ordinary Time
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The Columban Young Adults are a new group for those aged 18 - 30 in the diocese, who are seeking a community of like-minded young adults who have Christ at the centre of their lives. Our October event will be a Holy Hour and meditation next Thursday 15th October, 7.00pm at our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, delivered by Fr Declan McGeehan. The meditation will be followed by Solemn Benediction and light refreshments. We are actively seeking new members- please come along and bring a friend! **Do you know a young person who would benefit from a week of friendship, fun, faith and unforgettable memories in Lourdes?** Rise & Shine Trust brings children (11+) and young adults with additional needs on a week-long pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes each Easter. The trip is free for our guests as our volunteers fundraise for it. For more information, and to apply, please see www.riseandshine.ie. Applications for the 2027 Easter Pilgrimage are currently open and close on 15th October 2026.

What is university actually for? Queen's Catholic Chaplaincy is delighted to welcome Dr Paul Shrimpton, writer, historian and scholar of St John Henry Newman, for a public lecture exploring Newman's vision of human flourishing at university and what it might still have to say to universities and society today. Monday 12th October, 7.00pm Queen's Catholic Chaplaincy, 30-38 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast. Students, staff, alumni and friends are warmly welcome. Admission free.

Book of Memories of Father Paddy O'Kane. A new book is being planned about well-known Derry priest Father Paddy O'Kane, who died in 2022. Due for publication next year, it will include memories and stories from those who knew him, alongside selections from his *Derry News* column. If you have a memory or story to share, author Ciaran O'Neill would be delighted to hear from you. Email: caoneill1971@gmail.com Phone: 07875 904354

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 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

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

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty