

A Short Reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

At the heart of today's Gospel lie two powerful messages for those who wish to be true disciples of Jesus. The first is contained in Jesus' ministry of love, healing and hope which he points out as proof that he is indeed the promised one for whom John the Baptist has been preparing the way. This is the ministry which must inform our lives as we journey towards our Creator: we must come out from behind the camouflage of mere words and live out our Christianity through our actions. We must live out our ministry by comforting the suffering with the kindness which is at the heart of love; by feeding the hungry; by proclaiming the Good News of our salvation with courage and conviction.

The second message in relation to true discipleship is conveyed in Jesus' moving and beautiful paean of praise to John the Baptist. No masking of the true self with fine clothes for John; no sheltering in the palaces of the rich and powerful for him either. John's truth, his purity of heart, his passionate love for God and his humble, devoted preparation for the coming of Christ, are real. His reality needs no ornamentation, no disguise. A powerful message, indeed, for those of us needing to embrace it.

Lord Jesus, help us to become your true disciples through our actions, not merely our words. Help us to reveal, and thus heal, our true, unornamented selves, trusting always in your mercy and compassion.

Advent Programme – Morning Prayer (Monday-Friday at 7.45am). **Special Prayer during Advent** (Monday after the 10.00am Mass) – everyone welcome & tea provided. **Late Opening** (Monday 8.00pm – 10.00pm) with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession.

St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service will be held on Sunday 18th December at 4.00pm

St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets are available to buy at the Parochial House. Price £2.

Sounds of the Season – A celebration of song for Christmas concert will be held in the Cathedral Hall on Thursday 15th December from 2pm – 4pm. Includes performances by the Doire Calgach Singers, Momentum and Cathedral Voices. Entrance is free and everyone is welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Mona Wells

Mary Ellen (Marie) Johnson

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Paula Doherty

Peggy Caldwell

May they rest in peace.

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Phoebe McCafferty

Chikondi Donel Phiri

To book a Baptism phone
02871262894

Please remember:

Godparents: (1 male and 1 female
over the age of 16).

Readers for 17th/18th December

06.15 pm	Anna Begley
07.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,382

Parish Development: £931

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

SVdP: £500, £100, £25, £100, £100, £30

Mary's Meals: £25

Trocaire: £100, £50

Cathedral Funds: £10

Children in Crossfire: £50

Medicins sans Frontiers: £20

Missions: £300

Foyle Hospice: £50

Sightsavers: £50

Smile Train: £50, £500

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Monday: Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Fahan Street, Westland Street, Cable Street, Lower Road

Tuesday: Mulvey Park, Eglinton Terrace, Beechwood Street, Elmwood Road, Limewood Street, Elmwood Terrace, Little Diamond, Clarendon Manor

Fr Roni Zacharias will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Tuesday: Fairman Place, Academy Terrace, Tudor Court, Tutor Close, Argyle Street, Northland Parade, Northland Drive

Friday: Forest Park, Rosemount Gardens, Rosemount Avenue, Osborne Street, Montrose Gardens

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) would like to acknowledge with thanks a donation of £1,000.00.

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Third Sunday of Advent
11th December 2022*

Annual Solemn Novena in St Columba's Long Tower this Sunday 11th December at 6pm, including Rosary, Novena prayer and Eucharistic healing ceremony with Benediction. The theme of this year's Novena is 'What do I believe? Exploring our faith in the Creed'. This week's guest speaker is Fr Noel McDermott, PP of Faughanvale and Lower Cumber, who will reflect on our belief in 'Life everlasting'. All welcome.

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

At Christmas we celebrate the gift of Jesus, our hope and peace, Jesus, the light of the world. We pray this Christmas that each of us will rediscover the meaning of Our Lord's Nativity and the great hope that it proclaims for the world. You are invited to spend time with scripture, reflection and prayer. A Christmas prayer resource is available to download on the Diocese of Derry website for private prayer at the church or home, to share with a neighbour who may have no online access or for a time to gather each day with your family. The booklet can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/12-days-of-christmas-2022>

Pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome: As part of St Eugene's Cathedral 150th Anniversary Celebrations, Bishop Donal McKeown will lead a pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome from 25th – 30th September 2023. Price is £879pps (Single room supplement £150). For more details, email info@marian.ie or call Belfast on (028) 956 80005 or Dublin on (01) 878 8159

Life in the Spirit Seminars: Saturday 7 January and Sunday 8 January 2023, led by the Apostles of Love, in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca. Finishing with Mass on Sunday celebrated by Bishop McKeown. Enquiries to Mark on 07895003022 or Jenny on 07761248975.

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 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.