

A short reflection on today's Gospel

Today's Gospel according to John invites us to open our hearts in wonder and awe, in readiness to receive the same gift of truth so profoundly and compassionately given by Jesus to the woman at the well. Time and time again Jesus shows his disinterest in the man-made cultural, societal and religious norms of his own day, designed to separate people into opposing groups, thus fostering enmity between these groups, as well as fostering greed for supremacy and power over others. Time and time again, Jesus, by his actions and his words, set women, for instance, free from societal norms that did not allow them to serve God fully. Jesus never defined people by their social standing, or their gender, or how much power they wielded over others. Jesus defined people by what he saw in their hearts, and what Jesus loved above all was a pure heart, a heart that desires nothing more than to be with God. In today's Gospel Jesus saw into the Samaritan woman's heart and recognised that what she was really searching for throughout her chaotic life was the water of life, the living water, the Holy Spirit; and so he gives her the gift of truth, the truth of who he is and what his mission is. He ignores the Jewish law forbidding a man from talking to a strange woman alone; he breaks down the boundaries between Jews and Samaritans, and he teaches us about who really get to be God's people.

Jesus, may we thirst for the water of life always. May we open our hearts to welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives.

Jesus, thank you for your love and care for the oppressed and the despised.

St Eugene's Cathedral Lenten Programme

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45 am Monday to Friday.

1.00pm Lunch time Mass (Monday – Friday).

Late openings on Mondays – To celebrate the Sacrament of Confession and spend some quiet time in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament from 8.00 to 10.00 pm.

Tuesdays: Why is my presence at Mass important? Fr Paul Farren continues a series of talks in St Eugene's Cathedral from 7.00 pm to 7.20 pm.

Feast of St Patrick – Friday 17th March. St Patrick brought the Christian Gospel to Ireland leaving behind a permanent memory that has united Irish people over the centuries. On the feast of saint Patrick we pray that we will remain strong in love and faithful to the way of Christ.

Vigil Masses on Thursday at 6.15pm and 7.30pm. **Friday 17th March** Mass times are 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm.

St Patrick's Day family get together Join us this St Patrick's Day at the Cathedral Hall after the 11.00am Mass for kid's crafts, traditional music from the Cutliffes and face painting.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Daniel (Danny) McCallion
Sam Finlay
Raymond Kelly
Michael McDaid***

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Bill Ferry
Catherine Donaghey
Celine Dunleavy
Martha Harkin
Christine Ann Cullen***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

***Méabha Thompson
Fiadh Sue Martin***

To book a Baptism telephone 028 71262894

Please remember:

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

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trocaire: £100, £80

SVDP: £25

Mary's Meals: £80, £25

Turkey & Syria Appeal: £50, £100, £100, £500

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,043

Parish Development: £1,026

Thank you for your generosity

Readers for St Patrick's Day

06.15 pm	Oran Gartland
07.30 pm	Angela McCallion
09.30 am	Breda Boyle
11.00 am	Piaras O Meallain
12.30 pm	Eilish Friel
07.00 pm	Barry McDaid

Readers for 18/19 March

06.15 pm	Therese Ferry
07.30 pm	Oran Gartland
09.30 am	Kay McGinn
11.00 am	St Joseph's BS
12.30 pm	Roisin McGarrigle
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

As we celebrate 150 of the Cathedral, we give thanks to God for all those who handed on the faith down the generations to us. We look back with gratitude. We also look forward to the next 150 years. As we do we pray that this Cathedral will be a place of special prayer for young people. Carlo Acutis is a young saint for our time. We are asking Carlo to call young people to prayer in the Cathedral. We are having a six-foot statue of Carlo carved for the Cathedral and his mother Antonia is kindly giving us a first-class relic of Carlo. We hope to have the statue in place for our 150th celebrations at the end of April. We look to the future with trust, hope and confidence. We would welcome any contribution for the statue and the reliquary.

Space for Lent at lunchtime - Would you like to spend a little time each Wednesday of Lent preparing for the Sunday Gospel before you hear it at Sunday Mass? Lent is a time to consider a commitment to prayer, fasting and giving. 'Space for Lent at Lunchtime' will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to gather with others to pray, share and reflect on the Sunday Gospels during Lent leading up to Palm Sunday and Holy Week. 'Space for Lent at Lunchtime' is delivered via Zoom and facilitated by Ursula Doherty - Lectio Divina Guide, and Tony Brennan - Pastoral Coordinator, Diocese of Derry. Each session is held on the Wednesdays of Lent, 1:00pm - 1:50pm, and will continue until Wednesday, 29th March 2023. Registration and details can be found at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/space-for-lent-at-lunchtime>.

First Anniversary Mass for Fr Paddy O'Kane will take place in Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty on Tuesday 28th March at 7.15pm. All welcome.

Building welcoming communities, growing in faith, renewed in the Holy Spirit, caring for God's creation & evangelising with love and action - want to learn about the rich wisdom and inspiration from our Celtic Spiritual Heritage? The IOSAS Centre, Derryvane, Muff, Co. Donegal is running three-week programs on how our Celtic past can help us today. These programs that are made up of short videos & small group discussions starting Monday 27th March from 7pm -8.30pm. Tea & Coffee included. All enquiries by telephone 00353 74 93 84866 or by email: info@sanctuarydonegal.com

Accord NI Catholic Marriage Care Service is recruiting Marriage Education Facilitators to provide Sacramental Marriage Preparation for couples in the Diocese. They are seeking individuals who are good communicators and have an enthusiasm for supporting couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and future family life. This is an opportunity to formally train within a supportive, nurturing and inspiring community. For further details and an application form, please contact Brenda at 028 9023 3002 or email info@accordni.com.

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 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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias