

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

In today's Gospel, Jesus paints a familiar image of a farmer scattering seed with remarkable generosity. The seed falls on every kind of ground, reminding us that God offers His grace and His word to everyone without exception. The difference lies not in the quality of the seed, but in the condition of the soil that receives it.

Jesus invites us to reflect honestly on our own hearts. At different times we may recognise ourselves in each type of soil. We can become hardened by disappointment, shallow in our commitment, or distracted by the pressures and attractions of daily life. Yet the Lord never stops sowing. He continues to speak to us through the Scriptures, the Sacraments, the Church, and the quiet moments of prayer.

The good soil is the heart that remains open, patient, and willing to be transformed by God's grace. Such a heart does not simply hear the word but lives it. The fruit it bears is seen in acts of kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and faithful discipleship.

As we listen to God's word this week, may we ask the Holy Spirit to break up whatever has become hard within us, remove the thorns that hinder our growth, and deepen our roots in Christ. Then the seed of the Gospel will flourish, bearing an abundant harvest for the glory of God and the service of our neighbour.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray for the men called to serve the Church as priests of our diocese, that their hearts will be the fertile soil Jesus needs to receive the seed which is His Word, and that they will spread His Word, His Good News, by their preaching and by the example of their lives.

Diocesan Lough Derg Pilgrimage 2026 - If you've often heard about Lough Derg but have never been, why not make this the year? The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage takes place from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July 2026. Step away from the pace of daily life and discover three days of prayer, peace, reflection and renewal. Cost: £95 / €110, including bus transport. Booking form and full details are available at derrydiocese.org/lough-derg

The annual Pioneer pilgrimage Mass at Knock Shrine will be celebrated in the Basilica at 3pm next Sunday 19th July 2026. Pioneers extend a welcome to families and relatives of people who are undergoing treatment for addiction at this time. Pioneer emblems and certificates will be available in St John's Rest and Care Centre from 1pm.

People who are in recovery / aftercare and who live by the 12 Step Programme are particularly welcome to Knock during this Golden Jubilee Year of the Basilica of Our Lady Queen of Ireland. For further information contact Fr Robert at prayer@pioneers.ie

The June 2026 edition of 'The Net', the monthly publication sharing the fruits of the faith in our parish communities within the Diocese of Derry and beyond. The NET is available online at <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-june-2026> as well as hardcopy at the back of the Cathedral. This month's edition celebrates the many ways faith is being lived and shared throughout the diocese. The cover story follows the joyful ordination of Fr Stephen Baxter to the priesthood, with extensive coverage of the ceremony, Bishop Donal McKeown's homily, and Fr Stephen's First Mass.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Eileen McCourt
John Donaghey
Pat Curran**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**William Boyce
Rose Hegarty
Mickey & Kathleen Harkin
Jim Gallagher**

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Dara Jack Webber

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

**Ailbhe Brady & George Frisby
Sara Coul & Jordan Roarty**

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

Collection

Last week's collection: £6,242

Parish Development: £1,106

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Matt Talbot Society: £5
Venezuela Earthquake Appeal: £100
£50, £100, £100
Hungry Children: £5
Smile Train: £10
Sight Savers: £40
Trócaire: £10**

Readers for 18th / 19th July

6.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
7.30 pm	Majella Coyle
9.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	Piarsa O Meallain
12.30 pm	Amulya George
7.00 pm	Anna Begley

On 16th July, the Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a day that reminds us of Mary's loving care and constant intercession for all who turn to her. The title "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" comes from Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, where Christian hermits lived lives of prayer and eventually formed the Carmelite Order. They looked to Mary as their Mother, Protector, and model of faithful discipleship. The Brown Scapular, closely associated with this feast, is a sign of devotion to Our Lady and a reminder of our call to live as faithful followers of Christ. Mary's response to God's call was one of trust and wholehearted surrender. Her example encourages us to deepen our own prayer, to place our confidence in God's providence, and to bring Christ's love to those around us through simple acts of kindness and service.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Sacristan: Derry Diocesan Trust - Three Patrons Parish, St Brigid's, Carnhill. Part-time: 12 Hours per week. Rate of Pay: £12.88 per hour. For full details and application pack please email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 71262302. 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 no later than 12noon on Monday 20 July 2026. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.*

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Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
12th July 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

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.

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.

Al-Anon – It is easy to see what alcohol is doing to the person who drinks, but can you see what it is doing to you? Are you afraid to upset someone for fear that it might trigger a drinking bout? For further information, contact the Al-Anon confidential helpline on 0800 0086 811 or email helpline@al-anonuk.org.uk. Alternatively, telephone 028 9068 2368.

ATU St Angela's is inviting applications for the following programme beginning Autumn 2026: Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education for Primary School, with Online Delivery. The programme is open to: Qualified primary school teachers; Qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply. Closing date for Applications is Friday 14 August 2026. For further information contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, Education Department, ATU St Angela's, Lough Gill, Sligo. Email mary.kearns@atu.ie or visit Website: 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, 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