

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 1: 35-42

Today's Gospel holds two examples of looks exchanged between individuals which are laden with significance. The first is the long intense look John the Baptist gives to the newly arrived Jesus, which prefaces his announcement that the promised Messiah has come at last. What John experiences here is the joy of recognition towards which his life, his ministry, has been leading. His work is done. His mission has been accomplished. He has humbly and powerfully prepared the way for the Lord and now the Lord is here.

The second significant look in today's Gospel is the deep searching look Jesus bestows on Simon before renaming him Peter, his rock. We can conclude that Jesus, looking deeply into Peter's face, can see his human weaknesses as well as his passionate goodness; his future betrayals as well as his heart-felt remorse. He can see that this simple fisherman will go from strength to strength because of his acknowledgement of his sins, his profound repentance, and his humble seeking of forgiveness. He will be, Jesus knows, the worthy rock on which to build his church.

Earlier, when Jesus sees John's apostles following him, he asks them what it is they want, what it is they are searching for. When they respond that they wish to see where he lives, he invites them to 'come and see'.

Jesus, may we learn to see the truth with the eyes of our souls.

Jesus, teach us to look deeply into your beautiful, compassionate face and recognise in it the truth of our salvation.

Jesus, may we listen with our hearts to your invitation to 'come and see' where you live, and abide in that place with you forever.

National Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - Jesus invites the curious disciples in today's gospel to "Come and See." The Vocations Directors of the northern dioceses offer the same invitation to anyone interested in serving the Church as a diocesan priest, to attend a retreat at the Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, from 8th – 10th March. Anyone aged 18 or over wishing to attend should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com with their name, date of birth, and telephone contact details.

The Saint Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive mental health and to pray for those who are struggling with mental health issues and those who care for them.

Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy continues Fridays at 11.00am in the Cathedral Hall. You are most welcome to join via the online platform or in person.

Children's Liturgy continues at 11.00am Mass on Sundays and is open to all children in Primaries 1 to 4. It involves proclaiming the Gospel in an accessible way to the Children, reflecting on its meaning and responding in prayer with an activity related to the Gospel story.

Catholic Schools Week 2024 Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th January 2024 – To launch Catholic Schools Week in our diocese, a Celebration of the Eucharist will be held here in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown on **Tuesday 16th January at 10.00am**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Marie McCafferty

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Patsy & Letty Gillen

Harry McCarron

Manny Carlin

Bella & Tommy Molloy

Patrick McGonagle

May they rest in peace

Readers for 30th /31st January

06.15 pm Mary Murphy

07.30 pm Majella Coyle/

Caitlin Horner McLaughlin

09.30 am Barry McDaid

11.00 am Rosemount PS

12.30 pm Sophia Mason

07.00 pm Anna Begley

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,570

Parish Development: £962

Parish Missionaries: £4,368

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Mary's Meals: £60

Cathedral Funds: £200, £100

Trócaire: £100, £100

SVdP: £100, £20

St Thérèse: £40

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024: Monday 1st to Friday 5th July, ex City of Derry Airport. Led by Bishop Donal McKeown. Full board £799, single room supplement £150. The pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry, will open to the public 11am to 1pm on Thursdays and Saturdays, starting Saturday 10th February. Telephone number 028 71260293, email derry pilgrim@outlook.com

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 9 nights from 30th July to 8th August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with peers from around the world, in a faith context. Up to 50,000 young people attend the Medjugorje Youth Festival each year. Cost is £800 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

St Vincent de Paul is appealing for suites in good condition and bedroom furniture. All donations would be greatly appreciated. Please telephone 02871265489 to arrange collection.

Pre-School or Primary One places for September 2024. There are three excellent Catholic Schools in the Parish, which take both boys and girls. The three schools are St Anne's Primary School (Tel no 71 263046) St Eugene's Primary School (Tel no 71 261601) and Rosemount Primary School (Tel no 71 265605). Nursery class places are available in St Eugene's and Rosemount Primary Schools. If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2024, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 26th January 2024.

Sincere thanks from Sister Ann, Gerry Deeney and Margaret Hamilton to all who contributed in any way to the Christmas Raffle/Fundraiser in aid of the vulnerable children and their families in Kenya, India, Nigeria, Zambia and Haiti. Thanks also to the many people who contribute generously throughout the year to the Hunger Box, in the Church. We had a very successful event, none of which could be done without your continued support. This Christmas we raised £18,657 and €515. May God reward and bless you all.

Children in Crossfire would like to wish all the Parishioners a Happy New Year and say thank you for your ongoing support. Advent Appeal coin boxes/donations can be returned to the Cathedral over the next few weeks. Your donations this year will go a long way in helping to provide early years education for 5,500 children living in extreme poverty in Dar es Salaam Tanzania, helping give hope to their families and making a transformative difference in their lives.

Altnagelvin Hospital Choir will celebrate its 30th anniversary later this month with 'Music for a Winter's Eve' – a performance of Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor, and Haydn's Te Deum in C Major. The choir will be accompanied by a live orchestra, and the soloists for the evening will be Charlotte O'Hare and Rebekah Coffey, Chris Wright and Aaron O'Hare. The event will begin at 7.30pm on Sunday 28th January in Christ Church. Tickets are priced at £10 and can be bought from choir members or online at: www.trybooking.com/uk/cyo. Proceeds in aid of Life After.

Melodies & Memories will recommence this **Monday, 15th January in The Acorn Centre**, (in the grounds of St. Peter's Church, Culmore Road, near Foyle Bridge), 2.30pm - 4.30pm. Melodies & Memories is a music group for people living with dementia, their family members/ friends and it is also for older members of the community who like to sing, enjoy a cuppa and a bit of craic. Please phone 07561706815 for any further information or email melandmem@icloud.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 regarding 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) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty