

### A short Gospel reflection Matthew 11:2-11

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" John, the great prophet who prepared the way, now seeks reassurance while imprisoned and facing uncertainty. Jesus does not answer with a simple "yes," but points to the works that reveal who He is: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor receive good news. These are the unmistakable signs of God's kingdom breaking into the world.

Jesus also honours John, proclaiming him the greatest born of women—not because of earthly success, but because of his fidelity to God's mission even in suffering. Yet Jesus adds that "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he," reminding us that greatness in God's eyes is not about status, but about openness to Christ and participation in His saving work.

This passage invites us to bring our own doubts and fears to Jesus. Like John, we sometimes need reassurance. And Jesus responds not with condemnation, but with signs of His presence—moments of healing, mercy, and unexpected grace. He invites us to see Him at work in our lives and in the world, even when circumstances are difficult.

May we have the humility of John to seek the truth and the courage to recognise Jesus' presence in the ordinary and the extraordinary. And may we become signs of His kingdom for others through our compassion, patience, and witness to hope.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood:** For our seminarians and all those who will be the future priests of our diocese, that they will be prophetic proclaimers of the Good News of God's liberating love revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

**The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 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.

**The season of Advent:** Take some time out from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas to pray and meditate on the true meaning of Advent.

**Morning Prayer of the Church** will be prayed in the Cathedral each morning at 7.45am, Monday to Friday beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**On the Way Home** - In preparation for Christmas, there will be an opportunity for Confession and Adoration each Monday during Advent (1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>) from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

**Eucharistic Adoration:** every Sunday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and every Tuesday from 10.30am until 7.20pm

**St Mary's College Annual Carol Service** – St Mary's College Annual Carol Service will take place in St Eugene's Cathedral on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

**St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December.** St Eugene's Cathedral Choir will lead the carols. We invite children to bring presents of new unwrapped toys and adults to donate sweets, biscuits, vouchers or cash. St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute the gifts.

#### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Margery (Maridie) Scarlett  
John Laurence Doherty  
Monica Doherty**

May they rest in peace

#### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Danny Doherty  
Thomas (Junior) McKinney  
Robert Lewis  
Peggy Caldwell  
Paula Doherty  
Cormac Wilson  
Norah McCafferty  
Manus Carlin**

May they rest in peace

#### Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

**Abbie Octavia O'Kane**

To book a Baptism contact the  
Parish Office 02871 262894

#### Collection

Weekly Collection: £6,592  
Parish Development: £1,156

**Thank you for your generosity**

#### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Hungry Children:** £20  
**SVdP:** £25.50, £20, £100, £10  
**Cathedral Funds:** £25, £50  
**Mary's Meals:** £150, £50  
**Smile Train:** £150, £250, £50  
**Trócaire:** £100, £100  
**Water Aid:** £250, £50  
**Sight Savers:** £50  
**MND:** £100

#### Readers for 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> December

06.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm	John Og McNamee
09.30 am	Barry McDaid
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Ursula Doherty
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

#### Sick Visitation

Fr Shaun Doherty will attend the sick and housebound in his care on Tuesday and Friday.

**St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference)** acknowledges with gratitude a donation of £500.

**St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets** are available to buy after the weekend Masses and during the week at the Parish Office. Cost £2.

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. Cost £895 inclusive of local taxes but exclusive of single supplements and insurance. The Pilgrimage office will open for bookings on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 11.00am. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available (Monday to Thursday) from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.

**Dungiven Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026:** Departing from Belfast International Airport on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August for 6 nights\*. We will be in Lourdes for the Feast of The Assumption. (\*may be reduced to 5 nights - this will be confirmed at a later date). Cost per person based on twin/double sharing, including full board, is £975. Single supplement is £39 per night. Insurance is optional and costs an extra £45. There are only a limited number of seats remaining. Contact the parish office: [dungivenparish@derrydiocese.org](mailto:dungivenparish@derrydiocese.org) or Tel 028 7774 0702.

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Third Sunday  
of Advent  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2025*

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty**

**Trócaire 'Gifts of Change'** are gifts that transform lives, bringing real hope and opportunities to families and communities living in poverty. There are 24 Gifts to choose from starting at £5 for the 'Gift of Soap' for families in war-torn South Sudan. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support. You can buy a Gift and help change lives this Christmas by going online at [www.trocaire.org/gifts](http://www.trocaire.org/gifts), calling 0800 912 1200 or visiting our office at 60 Berry Street, Belfast, BT1 1FJ.

**Marriage Preparation Workshops January to June 2026:**

January 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> 2026. These courses are now online for booking at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com). Please note that Accord Derry will NOT be facilitating courses during July or August.

**The IOSAS (Island of Saints and Scholars) Centre** - Nestled on the Derry–Donegal border beside the White Oaks Centre, the IOSAS Centre is a welcoming haven of peace, good food, and connection with nature. Our Sanctuary Café is open from Wednesday to Sunday. Sunday lunch is a particular favourite, offering a relaxed and welcoming setting for families, friends, and visitors alike. The shop is stocked with wholesome produce and a carefully curated selection of unique Christmas gifts, perfect for meaningful, thoughtful giving. From organic foods to handcrafted items, each reflects our commitment to quality, sustainability, and care. Whether you are local or exploring the area, the IOSAS Centre invites you to pause, savour good food, wander the gardens, and experience a place deeply rooted in community, nature, and tradition. Contact no. 00353 74 9384866. Eircode: F93 F104

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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](mailto: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 749 102 233