

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 6:17, 20-26

Today's Gospel, according to Luke, presents us with four beatitudes each of which has a parallel warning or woe. The poor, the hungry, the grieving and the abused are described by Jesus as the blessed who will find favour with God; the rich, the well-fed, those whose lives are privileged and seem insulated from grief and abuse, are warned that riches and possessions are not to be depended upon, and woe to those who wrongly identify the source of our eternal happiness. This is a truly powerful message which Jesus directs at his disciples, a message which has been described as the framework for Christian living. His disciples are poor: their lives are without any material privileges, and they will suffer at the hands of those who hate the ministry of Christ. But they are called blessed by God; their eternal happiness is assured. The rich and powerful on the other hand, if they believe in worldly power as the only source of all happiness, if they live their lives indifferent to the needs and the tears of others, they, according to Jesus, are in deep trouble.

Jesus may we always be aware of the seductiveness of worldly power and possessions. May we be aware of the danger inherent in the world's promises that it can answer all of our needs provided we embrace and live out of its philosophy of self-gratification, ambition and lust for power.

Jesus, may we be aware that the ultimate danger for our immortal souls is in wrongly identifying the source of our eternal happiness. May we know with certainty that our vocation as Christians is not to be looked up to and admired in the eyes of the world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – Today's gospel challenges all of us to 'comfort the afflicted, and to afflict the comfortable' (including ourselves!) We pray for those being called to do so as priests of the diocese of Derry.

We invite men aged 18+ who may be considering following the Lord as diocesan priests to a Vocations Weekend in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, from 7th – 9th March 2025. Anyone interested should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 18th February 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.

Prayer to Our Lady of Mental Peace

Mother of tranquillity, Mother of hope, Our Lady of Mental Peace. We reach out to you for what is needful in our weakness. Teach a searching heart that God's love is unchanging, that human love begins and grows by touching God's love.

Our Lady of Mental Peace, pray for us

St Dymphna, Pray for us

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Jean Branagan
Tony Deehan
Pat Doherty

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Margaret Boyce
Marie Canning
John Gill
Jim O'Hea
May O'Hea
Brian Higgins
Michael Cullen

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Lily Carolann McLaughlin-Doherty
Kaia Helen Doherty

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,638
Lourdes Hospitalité: £ 1,101

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £100, £10
SVdP: £100
Gaza: £30
Medical Missionaries of Mary: £20

Readers 22nd /23rd February

06.15 pm Michael McCaul
07.30 pm Piaras O Meallain
09.30 am Eva Maria Mallon/
Rua Sweeney
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Eilish Friel
07.00 pm Marian Boyle

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) acknowledges with gratitude donations of £100 and £100.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea, Saturday 29th March at 1.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall. Join a host of singers and musicians for Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Pre Booking required. Price £25 To book call to the Cathedral Parish Office or Tel: 02871262894.

LIFE Camp 2025 (Living - In - Faith – Everywhere) LIFE Camp is a voluntary organisation staffed by teachers, students and experienced volunteers. It takes place in St. Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry. We are calling all pupils currently in P3 – P7. Week 1: Tuesday 1st – Friday 4th July and Week 2: Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July. Cost for Week 1 is £35. Cost for Week 2 is £40. To register go to www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Life%20Summer%20Camp

Derry Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes Monday 30th June -Friday 4th July. Fare £849 (+ £144 Single Supplement). We are delighted to announce that The Lourdes Pilgrimage Office which opened on 1st February from 11am to 1pm in The Pastoral Centre 164 Bishop Street Derry BT48 6UJ. Phone 02871260293. It will continue to be open each week on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11am to 1pm. Application Forms may be collected at these times and are also available by emailing derrypilgrim @outlook.com. We also have a youth pilgrimage coming with us and any young person 16 -18 years in any Parish may contact us by phone or email for more information. We are also asking any Nurses, Doctors or Care Staff who are interested in joining our Care Team to make contact with the Pilgrimage Office.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

SPARK: A weekend of fun, faith and friendship for 12–16-year-olds – 21st-23rd February at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca. Spark is a weekend experience which follows core themes from YouCat, as well as stories of role models such as Blessed Carlo Acutis and Sr Clare Crockett, to help young people learn about their faith, while making friends and hopefully having a bit of fun in the process! Cost €80/£70 per person (covers food and board). To book or find out more text or WhatsApp Brendan on +353 86 8067973 or Vivienne on +44 7935 007351.

‘Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage’ to Rome: Led by Thornhill Ministries. 16th October 2025 x 4 Nights £1,095 stg pp sharing. Text: 07736832458 with name and address for forms and details.

Holy Souls in Purgatory Prayer Group will take place in Termonbacca on Wednesday 26th February from 12.30 – 1.30pm.

Accord is now seeking marriage preparation facilitators. Might this be you? Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. Successful applicants will receive professional training in the Accord marriage preparation programme and be part of a team delivering programmes locally. Contact Aisling on 00353 (0)15053112 or by email to marriagepreparation@accord.ie and for further information see www.accord.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 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 Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.