

A short reflection on today's Gospel

After the terrible anguish of the Passion and death of Jesus, followed by the glory and awe of his resurrection, today's Gospel radiates a beautiful sense of the peace, love and forgiveness which are at the heart of Jesus' teachings. The disciples are gathered together, fearful, as follower of Jesus, of what might happen to them at the hands of the Romans; undoubtedly also feeling the guilt of their desertion of their Lord in his hour of need, when the risen Jesus appears in their midst. It has often been noted that instead of doing what most of us would do in similar circumstances, that is, tell those who have betrayed us exactly what we think of them, Jesus, ever the Good Teacher, withholds all condemnation, all censure, and offers instead a blessing of peace to his guilt-ridden friends. What an extraordinary act of spiritual generosity! What a complete absence of a smarting ego thirsting for revenge! The word 'peace' connotes stillness, freedom from agitation and anxiety, a harmonious connection with God and humanity. This is what Jesus wishes for his disciples and his wish has unlimited love, unlimited forgiveness, at its core. Instead of staying with their frailty, he breathes on them his trust in their ability to carry out their mission to come.

When Thomas, having been absent from Jesus' previous appearances, expresses doubts about his Master's resurrection, and then finds himself being offered incontrovertible proof by the Man of Sorrows himself, Jesus uses the opportunity to reach down lovingly through the ages to all of us who have not seen the physical evidence of his resurrection, but who believe in its glorious truth: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Today's Gospel is a quiet miracle of peace, love and forgiveness offered to us as an unearned gift, redolent of God's unlimited love for humanity, his presence closer to us than our breath in all that we do and in all that we suffer. Thanks be to God.

Saint Eugene's Cathedral 150 years

As a Diocese and as a Parish we will be celebrating generations of faith coming to this house of God for 150 years. The **Diocesan Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 30th April at 3.00pm** and the **Parish Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 4th May at 7.30pm.**

We will give thanks to God for the past. We will commit ourselves to God and to the Church in the present and we will entrust the future to God. All are very welcome.

The St Dymphna Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th April. 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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Lily Harley
John McGuinness
Pat McCallion

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Charlie Harkin
Paddy Cullen
Mary Holden
Thomas McDaid
William McGill

May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couple who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

Hannah Ward & Guto Gwyn
Elaine Curran & Paul Nicholl
Michaela Kiely & Gavin O'Neill

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Michael Patrick Brown

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £300
Sight Savers: £200
Trócaire: £20
Carlo Acutis Statue: £360

Collection

Last week's collection: £6,538
Parish Development: £1,276

Thank you for your generosity

Readers for 22nd/23rd April

06.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm	Stephen Orr
09.30 am	Kay McGinn
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Sophia Mason
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

The Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux will be take place here at St Eugene's Cathedral from Saturday 6th May until Sunday 14th May 2023. This will be an opportunity to pray for a special intention and to ask St Thérèse to intercede for us. It is a time when many people find great joy and healing. All are very welcome.

World Youth Day - Derry Diocesan Youth is taking a group on Pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon, from 25th July to 7th August 2023. This pilgrimage is for over 18s. Limited places available: if you would be interested in travelling on the pilgrimage, or finding out more, please contact Lizzie Rea on lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org.

The Sister Clare Retreat will take place in St Columba's Church, Long Tower from 17th – 23rd April. There will be Mass at 7.00am & 10.00am (Monday to Friday). Each evening at 7.30pm there will be Benediction, with a guest Speaker (Monday-Friday). On Saturday there will be Benediction at 3.00pm, followed by a guest speaker. The closing ceremony will be led by Bishop McKeown and takes place on the Sunday at 3.00pm.

Archbishop Eamon Martin is leading a pilgrimage to Fatima from 20th – 27th July 2023. Cost for 7 days is £799/€899 per person sharing. Flights depart Dublin at 6.05am Thursday 20th July arriving in Fatima 11.00am. Single room supplement and insurance is additional. For further information contact Joe or Maureen McLaughlin on 02890701606 or 07711808207.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: 15th October 2023 (9 nights) Direct ex Dublin – Tel Aviv. Part I: Galilee/Nazareth. Part II: Bethlehem/Jerusalem. Cost £1,795 stg includes taxes, transfers, tips, half-board. For further details please contact Erin/Sr Perpetua at thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org.

The Catechism of the Catholic church in Our Lady's shrine, Knock on Saturday 22nd April 2023 from 9.30am – 5pm. Spiritual Director: Fr. Vincent Twomey SVD. The Catechism / YOUCAT Workshop will be of interest to those who plan to start / join a Study Group. For further information / booking contact Mairin Ni Shuilleabhain B.A. Div. Coordinator - Adult Studies Catechism of the Catholic Church. Email: mairin991@gmail.com Mobile: 087 7950325 Website www.catechism.ie .

Foster Carers needed in the Western Trust area – a range of opportunities available that can work in with different lifestyles, including respite, emergency and long-term: Upcoming Information Events at the Guildhall, Derry on Saturday 22nd April, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. To register, email info@fostering.hscni.net or call 0800 0720 137

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