

Reflection for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

At one time, attending Mass was a dangerous occupation. In our own history, Mass was often celebrated secretly at the Mass Rock, while men kept watch to protect the priest and congregation from harm. Sadly, not all were spared. Even today, going to Mass can be a statement to a world that may be indifferent—or even hostile—to our way of worshipping God. Perhaps Jesus was preparing us for these challenges in today’s Gospel, where He uses stark and unsettling words: “I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! ... Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” Is Jesus being harsh, even destructive toward families? Of course not. But He is warning us that the decision to follow Him may sometimes cause division—even among those we love most. History gives us many examples. Think of the saints who faced opposition from their families when they gave their lives to Christ—often walking away from wealth and privilege to embrace poverty and service. St. Francis of Assisi is one well-known example. We sometimes like to think of Jesus as always gentle and agreeable—the One who simply gives us what we ask for. But today’s Gospel reminds us that He is also the Son of God, who loves us too much to leave us unchallenged. Like a good parent, He warns us of dangers, encourages us to persevere, and insists that we live with integrity.

His message is clear: God must come first—before parents, children, spouses, friends, or even ourselves. This is not to diminish our love for others, but to put it in the right order. When God is in His proper place in our lives, all other relationships find their proper place too. So today, let us hear His loving but challenging words. May we put God first, trust His guidance, and follow Him with courage—whatever divisions or difficulties that may bring—knowing that His love is worth everything.

Jubilee Year Opportunities at Lough Derg this August & September

One Day Retreats – Guided Days of Prayer and Reflection - places available on August 19, 23, 24, 25, 30; September 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 20, 21.

National Sacred Heart Crusade – a Sacred Heart Statue blessed by Pope Francis will be present for the Day Retreats on 23, 24 & 25 August.

Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis on Sunday 7 September – special devotions and blessing with Carlo Acutis Relic. Admission €50. Group discounts available. Advance Booking Essential.

Thursday 21st August to mark National Heritage Week 2025 Lough Derg offers a day to immerse yourself in the story and heritage of the ancient Sanctuary. Guided Tour of Station Island and Boat Trip at 11am & 2:30pm. Admission €15. Concessions for students, children & families. Advance Booking Essential.

Pilgrim Path Lake Shore Pilgrimage - In the footsteps of pilgrims through the centuries: Sunday 31 August. Guided 8km & 12km walk options available. Admission €25. Advance Booking Essential.

Quiet Day Retreat – Come apart by yourself, and rest for a while – Friday 12 September. Admission €40 includes refreshments and lunch. Advance booking essential.

Contact by email: info@loughderg.org / Tel. 0(0353) 719861518

There is still time to collect your Lough Derg Pilgrim Passport Stamp www.pilgrimpassport.ie

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Kathleen Bierwas
Sibeal Sharkey
Nance Gallagher
Philomena Duffy***

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members
of God’s family:

***Ayla-Grace Mc Laughlin
Nóra Nestor
Michael Óg Seán Condren***

To book a Baptism contact the
Parish Office 02871 262894

Readers 23rd / 24th August

06.15pm Helen & Rebecca Sweeney
07.30pm Liz Mc Monagle
09.30am Barry Mc Daid
11.00am Claire O’Kane
12.30pm Paul Gormley
07.00pm Marian Boyle

Collection

Collection: £5,368

Parish Development: £966

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks
the following donations for:

Gaza Appeal: £20, £300, £20, £20

Mary’s Meals: £100

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and
housebound in his care during the
coming week:

Monday: Lisfannon Park,
William Street, Creggan Street,
Fahan Street, Cable Street, Lower Road,
Abbey House, Little Diamond

Tuesday: Mulvey Park,
Laburnum Terrace, Elmwood Terrace,
Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor,
Grangemore, Northland Road

“Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons” 2025 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly. Exhibition times are Monday - Saturday from 10.30am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. The Exhibition runs until 28th August. Everyone is welcome.

The IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden, Muff, (next to White Oaks), offers something special happening every day of the week. We have Fish & Chip Friday, and our hearty all-day breakfast on Saturdays, Sunday lunch made with our own organic produce. Our farm shop, open Monday to Friday until 4.30pm, offers fresh organic fruit and vegetables, homemade jams, chutneys, free-range eggs, and other tasty treats. Take time to explore the Celtic Prayer Garden – a peaceful and magical space where children and adults can reconnect with nature and enjoy a moment of calm. It’s a little haven of joy, nourishment, and tranquillity, right on your doorstep: Eircode F93F104 will bring you straight to your door in Co. Donegal. Tel 0(0353)74 91 848 66.

Anyone considering a **Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood** is invited to an afternoon of prayer and discussion organised by the diocesan vocations team on Sunday 24th August. Mass in St Columb's Church, Waterside, at 12.30pm, followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. Bishop McKeown hopes to attend, along with a number of priests and seminarians. The afternoon will end at 6pm.

*Vol 53 No 33
Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
17th August 2025*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Cathedral Parking Notice - Please be advised that parking at the Cathedral is restricted for Cathedral use only. Due to limited space, and to ensure safety, accessibility, and availability for those attending Mass, events, and pastoral appointments, we kindly ask that parking be reserved for Cathedral-related activities only.

This change also supports our efforts to accommodate:

- Elderly and disabled visitors who require closer access
- Clergy and staff during working hours
- Funerals, weddings, and other scheduled services
- Deliveries and essential maintenance access

We understand this may cause inconvenience, and we are grateful for your understanding and cooperation as we aim to serve our Parish as best we can.

Accord Derry Marriage Preparation Workshops – the following dates are now available: September 26th/27th, October 17th/18th, November 7th/8th. Book online at www.accordni.com. Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

4 Week free Dementia Education Programme for Informal Carers, starting Wednesday 3rd September at 7.00pm in the Old Library Trust, Creggan. This course is for those looking after someone at home who has received a dementia diagnosis. It teaches what dementia is and helps carers to gain an understanding about different types of dementia, their signs and symptoms, about communication, different behaviours and coping strategies etc. ***Please note, this course is not suitable for individuals who either have dementia or are currently going through a process of diagnosis.*** Booking is essential via eilish@olt.ie or contact 02871 373870.

Is gambling affecting your life? Perhaps we can help. Telephone 028 7135 1329.

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.