

A short Gospel reflection John 1:29-34

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist identifies Jesus with a title rich in meaning: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This declaration recalls the Passover lamb whose blood saved Israel and points forward to the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. Jesus is revealed as the one who freely offers Himself so that humanity might be reconciled with God. His mission is not limited to one people or moment in history; He comes to take away the sin of the world.

John's witness is marked by humility and faithfulness. Though he is well known and followed by many, John understands his role as preparatory and temporary. He testifies that he did not recognise Jesus by human insight alone, but through the sign given by God—the Holy Spirit descending and remaining upon Him. This emphasises that true recognition of Christ comes through God's grace, not our own efforts or status.

The Spirit's abiding presence reveals Jesus as the Son of God and the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit. This reminds us that Christian life is not merely moral effort, but participation in divine life. Through Baptism, we too receive the Holy Spirit and are called to live as witnesses to Christ.

Like John the Baptist, we are sent to point others to Jesus, especially in a world often distracted by false saviours. Each time we approach the Eucharist and hear the words "Lamb of God," we are invited to renew our trust in Christ's mercy and allow our lives to proclaim what John proclaimed: that Jesus alone is our hope and salvation.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, You call and reveal Yourself to those You choose. Send Your Spirit upon generous hearts, that many may recognise Your voice and follow You in the diocesan priesthood. May they bear witness to You with joy and serve Your people with faithful love.

Vocations Retreat Weekend for anyone (18+) interested in the diocesan priesthood, in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Friday 6th - Sunday 8th March 2026. Please register using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discernment-retreat-for-the-diocesan-priesthood-tickets-1980332502825?aff=oddtcreator>. For further information, please 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 at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 20th 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.

Saint Dymphna, patron saint of those suffering with mental and emotional distress, pray for all who are struggling. Ask God to grant them peace, strength, and healing, and to comfort all who care for them.

Saint Dymphna, pray for us.

To mark Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026, the City Centre Churches are holding a Walking Service on Monday 19th of January, starting at St Augustine's Church on the Walls at 7.00pm. We will visit several areas of the city's business and residential sectors before finishing at Carlisle Road Methodist Church, approximately an hour later, with light refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Frankie Stanton-Brennick
Mary Patton
George Caldwell

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Neil McMahon
Jean Boyce
Tommy & Bella Molloy
Rosaleen McFadden
Seamus & Lily McCready
Sean Lafferty
Patricia Monaghan
Patricia Gill

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Anna Rose Kelly
Cali Christina McGuinness
Saoirse Éire Harkin

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Weekly Collection: £6,317
Parish Development: £1,096

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £20, £50, £15, £15
Mary's Meals: £20, £25
Sight Savers: £50
Cathedral Funds: £200, £10
Gaza Appeal: £20
SVdP: £25
Mercy Ships: £15
Water Aid: £15
Trócaire: £15

Readers 24th /25th January

06.15pm Helen Sweeney
07.30pm Stephen Orr/ Karl Orr
09.30am Kay McGinn
11.00am Model PS
12.30pm Marie Canning
07.00pm Anna Begley

The Cathedral Club will meet this Thursday after the 10am Mass. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group who meet once a week in the Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road. Refreshments will be served.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd 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 17th 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.

St Eugene's Scouts are seeking new adult leaders aged 18 and over (male or female). Full training will be provided. Anyone interested is invited to contact Maria on 07955549818 or Elisha on 07724400081 for further information. New members are also very welcome to join Beavers (ages 6–8) and Cubs (ages 9–12). Meetings are held at St Anne's Primary School on Monday evenings.

Job Opportunity – Derry Diocesan Trust: Housekeeper for priest in Buncrana area: 15 hours per week. Days and times to be arranged with priest. For application pack please telephone 02871262302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop’s House, St Eugene’s Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to recruitment@derrydiocese.org no later than 12 noon Friday 30th January 2026. Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Children in Crossfire would like to thank all the parishioners who have already supported their Advent Appeal. If you still have your box/envelopes at home, please return them via the sacristy before/after Mass, or drop them off during the week at the parish office. Thank you for your continued support.

Direct Payments Information Session Thursday 26th February from 12.00pm to 2.00pm at the Old Library Trust Healthy Living Centre, Creggan - To support carers in gaining a better understanding of using Direct Payments to arrange and pay for your own care. Light refreshments will be provided. For further information or to register, please contact Eilish on 02871 373870 or email eilish@olt.ie.

Silent Retreat – 10th - 13th April led by the Servant Priests of the Home of the Mother, in Lough Derg, Donegal. Full board meals and accommodation included. Cost €260. For more information or to book contact: Sr Mary Donovan at hmagactivitiesireland@gmail.com or call 00353(0)858763564 or Rory O'Donnell at odonnellphotography@gmail.com or call 00353 (0)86 823 1717.

Burt Charity Concert with Michael English– St Aengus Church, Burt on Sunday 22nd February. Tickets cost €30 – proceeds for installation of new heating system in the Church. To book or for more information contact Sinead at 00353 86 1673669 or Siobhan at 07599278823.

Pre-School or Primary One places for September 2026. 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 2026, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

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 within the Church please contact Marie O’Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +447596500793 or email: 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

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Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
18th January 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty