

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 2:1-11

Today's Gospel, The Wedding Feast at Cana, testifies to the mutual love, sympathy and deep understanding which are at the heart of the relationship between Jesus and his mother. Mary, her compassion roused by the thought that her friends, the wedding hosts, will be shamed when their guests discover that there is no more wine, turns to her son for help. "My hour has not yet come," Jesus reminds her, but Mary, gently confident that her son will refuse her nothing, instructs the servants to do whatever he asks them to do. The servants carry out Jesus' instructions, and the wedding hosts are saved the shame and embarrassment they dreaded.

We don't read much in Scripture about Jesus' family life before he begins his public ministry, which makes today's Gospel all the more significant in terms of the depth and beauty it reveals of his relationship with his mother. Their understanding of each other is palpable. She knows that his compassionate heart will be moved as hers is. She knows that although 'his time has not yet come', he will not let their friends be shamed before their guests; and she knows that he will refuse her, his beloved mother, nothing.

Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother too, your heart is always moved by our cares and concerns. Your son always listens to you; he refuses you nothing. Let us fashion our needs into a prayer and ask you to lay our prayer at the feet of your son.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – As we pray for the grace to use our God-given gifts as God would wish us to use them, we pray in particular for those called to use them as priests in the service of the parishes and people of our diocese.

The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 21st January 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.

To celebrate Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025, St. Eugene's Cathedral and Christ Church along with The Association of Iconographers Ireland, invite you to an **Exhibition of Icons** in St. Eugene's Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road, Derry, BT48 7ER from Monday 20th January to Wednesday 22nd January 2025 from 10.30am to 8.30pm. Entry to the exhibition is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th – 24th October 2025. Cost £795 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £155 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or phone Parish Office on 028 71262894.

To mark Christian Unity Week later this month, City Centre Churches are holding a Walking Service on Monday 20th January, starting at First Derry Presbyterian Church at 7.00 pm. 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. In the event of the weather being unsuitable, we will meet in First Derry Presbyterian Church at 7.00pm and hold our event there. **The Waterside Christian Unity event will take place on Wednesday 22nd January, starting at 7.00pm in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road and ending in Ebrington Presbyterian Church.** Everyone is most welcome at one or both events.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Charlie Hickey
Susan Duffy***

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Patrick Griffin
Patricia Monaghan
Sean Lafferty
Tony Simpson
Patricia Gill***

Rosaleen McFadden

May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Aoife Carson & Tristan Serres who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Readers 25th /26th January

06.15 pm Claire O'Kane

07.30 pm John Og McNamee/
Amulya George

09.30 am Gerry O'Donnell/
Rebecca Sweeney

11.00 am Mc Ginley Readers

12.30 pm Ursula Doherty

07.00 pm Marian Boyle

Collection

Last week's collection: £ 6,135
Parish Development: £ 1,112

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Missionaries Overseas: £30
Cathedral Funds: £15**

Sick Visitation

Fr Shaun Doherty will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Tuesday: Academy Terrace, Tutor Close, Northland Parade, Northland Crescent, Edenmore Street, Glenbank Road, Glenbank Gardens, Glenside Gardens, Marlborough Road, Marlborough Avenue, Marlborough Street, Creggan Road, Helen Street, Oakfield Crescent

Friday: Glenowen Park, Cashelmore Park, Hatmore Park, Turasmore Park, Ardglen, Nassau Crescent, Rosemount Gardens, Baldrick Crescent, Osborne Street, Lawrence Hill, Joseph Place, Beechwood Avenue

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) would like to thank all who contributed so generously to our Christmas Collection and throughout the past year to our weekly collections. Your kindness and support enable us to continue to help those in need.

Children in Crossfire would like to thank everyone for supporting their Advent Appeal. Please remember to bring your box/envelope back to the Cathedral as soon as possible. Any support you can give is greatly appreciated.

You are cordially invited to a Book Launch celebrating the Life of Dr Tom McGinley, founder of the Foyle Hospice, in St Columb's Hall on Wednesday 29th January at 7.15pm. Doors open from 6.45pm. Entry is free. Booking is essential. Book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/stcolumbshall.

*Vol 52 No.3
Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
19th January 2025*

Pre-School or Primary One places for September 2025. There are three excellent Catholic Schools in the Parish, which take both boys and girls. If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2025, you can apply online for their place at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 24th January 2025.

St Mary's College – if you missed our Open Day you can book a tour of the school on the following dates: Wednesday 22nd/29th January or Wednesday 5th February. Tours will begin at 4.00pm and end at 5.00pm. Please contact the school to book a tour on (028) 71362154.

"Come Follow Me" Eucharistic Procession on Saturday, 1st February 2025, departs from St. Columba's, Long Tower, at 1pm, going through Derry City. Led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

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)1 505 3112 or by email to marriagepreparation@accord.ie and for further information see www.accord.ie

"Stewsday" every Tuesday at Rosemount Village Community Hub 1a Westway (behind the Mace Shop). Beginning Tuesday 21st January stew will be served between 12.30pm and 2pm. £1 donation. Chat and chew with old friends and make new friends. Everyone welcome.

There will be a performance of Haydn's The Creation by Altnagelvin Hospital Choir on Saturday 25th January at 7.30pm in Christ Church, Infirmary Road. Ticket price £10 - tickets available at the door or online at www.trybooking.com/uk/EEPB. Proceeds in aid of Macular Society.

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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty