

A short reflection on today's Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus' teaching is clear and unequivocal. It is also, we may think, frighteningly difficult to live out. Jesus asks us to reject the policy of 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' and to respond instead to any violence offered against us with humble acceptance. He also asks us to give until it hurts to those who solicit our help.

He asks, in effect, to see love and forgiveness as more than just words. When we pray the 'Our Father', the prayer Jesus himself taught us, we say the words, 'and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. Has the full meaning of those words ever truly penetrated our consciousness? We turn to Jesus himself for illumination. On the cross, in agony, his response to the humiliations, betrayals, torments and tortures inflicted on him, is to forgive his tormentors. Right up until the moment he draws his last breath Jesus is living fully and lighting our way to eternal life by his example.

If we aspire to be true disciples of Jesus then we know what we must do. Love and forgiveness are not just words. They are our way to God and eternal life. And it's not always an easy way.

Jesus, may we see that love and forgiveness are one and the same in the eyes of God; they are His gift to us, offered freely every moment of our lives. Let us offer the same gift to others.

St Eugene's Cathedral Lenten Programme

Ash Wednesday 22nd February – Ashes will be distributed after all Masses

Morning Prayer of the Church at 7.45am Monday to Friday

1.00pm Lunch time Mass (Monday – Friday)

Late openings on Mondays, beginning Monday 27th February – To celebrate the Sacrament of Confession and spend some quiet time in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament from 8.00 to 10.00pm.

Tuesdays: Why is my presence at Mass important? Fr Paul Farren will lead a series of talks starting on Tuesday 28th February, from 7.00pm to 7.25pm.

Trócaire Lenten Appeal – Trócaire boxes are available this weekend for collection at the back of the Cathedral.

The St Dymphna Mass will be celebrated here at St Eugene's Cathedral on Tuesday 21st 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.

The Columba Community's next Healing Mass at Columba House, 11 Queen St, Derry will be held on Thursday 23rd February at 7.30pm. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr Michael Sweeney followed by individual prayer for healing with blessed oil. All welcome.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Gary Hutcheon
Irene Doherty
George Doherty
Deirdre O'Doherty**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Harry & Emma O'Connor
Patsy Devine
Michael Devine
Elizabeth Page
Michael Cullen
Marie Canning**

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

**Lauren Paula O'Donnell
Olivia Siobhan Corry**

To book a Baptism telephone 028 71262894

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Turkish & Syria Earthquake Appeal: £10,000, £270, £100, £100, £80, £200, £100, £40, £200, £100

Somalia: £70

Cathedral Funds: £10, £50, £200

Smile Train: £25

Trocaire: £100

Flowers for Altar: £20

St Colmcille Village: £20

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,669

Parish Development: £973

Thank you for your generosity

Readers for 25th/ 26th February

06.15 pm	Claire O'Kane
07.30 pm	Eilish Friel
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Faith Renewal Events at Knock Shrine - on Saturday 25th February, Fr Denis McBride will lead a Lenten workshop entitled 'Following in the Footsteps of Jesus to His Passion', taking place from 10am-4pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock Shrine. Fee €30 and advance booking is required. See knockshrine.ie for further details and booking information.

A Temperance Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's Church, Creggan on Tuesday 28th February at 7.30pm. This Mass will highlight the virtue of Temperance, focusing on the Pioneer promises of moderation in all things, particularly in the use of alcohol. All, especially Pioneers, are invited to attend.

Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse will take place on Friday 24th February. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown at 7.30pm at St Eugene's Cathedral. The Day of Prayer is an initiative of Pope Francis and was first marked in Irish dioceses in 2017. Blessed candles will be lit in parishes across the country as a reminder to the faithful of the need for atonement and to symbolise repentance, light in the darkness and hope.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea, Saturday 18th March at 1.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Join Anne Marie Hickey and friends for an Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Tickets £20 available in the parish office. Telephone 71262894.

Calling all past Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and Committee members to help us celebrate 50 years of Scouting. We are having a Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral on Sunday, 26th February at 12.30pm. Tea and light refreshments afterwards in the Cathedral Hall.

Accord NI Catholic Marriage Care Service is recruiting Marriage Education Facilitators to provide Sacramental Marriage Preparation for couples in the Diocese. We are seeking individuals who are good communicators and have an enthusiasm for supporting couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and future family life. This is an opportunity to formally train within a supportive, nurturing and inspiring community. For further details and an application form, please contact Brenda at 028 9023 3002 or email info@accordni.com

St Angela's College, Sligo is inviting applications for a Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) with Online Delivery beginning Autumn 2023. The programme is open to qualified primary school teachers and qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in primary religious education may also apply. Closing date for applications is Monday, 12th June 2023. For further information contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, School of Education, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo. Email mkearns@stangelas.ie or visit www.stangelas.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 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