

### A short reflection on today's Gospel

Today's Gospel is multi-layered in terms of its powerful meanings. Jesus, unsolicited, restores the sight of the man blind from birth and by so doing incurs the wrath of the Pharisees, who believed that the blind man's disability was a punishment for his sins, and as such he didn't deserve to be cured. They also condemned Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. They quizzed the cured man on his perceptions of Jesus. "He is a prophet!" the man replied and was promptly castigated by the Pharisees for his temerity as a sinner to attempt to instruct them.

The man blind from birth may have been physically blind, but he proves himself to be spiritually sighted: he is open to Jesus, to the miracle Jesus has wrought, and believes on the instant that Jesus is the Son of Man. The Pharisees are physically sighted but spiritually blind: they believe that sickness and disability are the result of sin; they show themselves to be more concerned with rules, regulations and control than they are with love and kindness. Their outward selves are disconnected from their hearts.

*Lord Jesus, save us from the blindness which manifests as a lack of self-knowledge and spiritual wisdom. Teach us to live in the light of your ministry of love.*

*Keep us humble. Teach us to be loving and unquestioning of God's will. Let us remember the words of St. Paul: "in everything God works for good with those who love him."*

### St Eugene's Cathedral Lenten Programme

**Morning Prayer of the Church** at 7.45 am Monday to Friday

**1.00pm Lunch time Mass (Monday – Friday)**

**Late openings on Mondays** – 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 10.00 pm

**Tuesdays: Why is my presence at Mass important?** Fr Paul Farren continues a series of talks in St Eugene's Cathedral from 7.00 pm to 7.20 pm

**As we celebrate 150 of the Cathedral, we give thanks to God for all those who handed on the faith down the generations to us.** We look back with gratitude. We also look forward to the next 150 years. As we do we pray that this Cathedral will be a place of special prayer for young people. Carlo Acutis is a young saint for our time. We are asking Carlo to call young people to prayer in the Cathedral. We are having a six-foot statue of Carlo carved for the Cathedral and his mother Antonia is kindly giving us a first-class relic of Carlo. We hope to have the statue in place for our 150th celebrations at the end of April. We look to the future with trust, hope and confidence. We would welcome any contribution for the statue and the reliquary.

### Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Michael McDaid  
Gertie Crumlish*

May they rest in peace

### Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Frank McMahon  
Nora & Peter Toland  
Maureen Armstrong  
Freddie Boyle  
Gerry Caldwell  
Eamon McCamphill  
John Dorraty  
Anna McDonnell  
Josephine McBride  
Justin Morrow  
John McCauley*

May they rest in peace

### Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Saóirse Carol Casey  
Caoimhín Gérard Coyle  
Ruairi James McBride  
Lochlain Alexander Wright*

### Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Trocaire:** £300

**Ukraine:** £60, £50

**Turkey & Syria:** £100, £100, £50

**SVDP:** £100

**Cathedral Funds:** £50, £300, £70

**Statue Blessed Carlo Acutis:**  
£50

*Thank You*

### Collection

Last week's collection: £4,947

Parish Development: £937

*Thank you for your generosity*

### **Readers for 25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> March**

06.15 pm	Oran Gartland
07.30 pm	Claire O'Kane
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Philip Wilson

**World Youth Day** - Derry Diocesan Youth is taking a group on Pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon, from 25<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org).

**Easter Mass Bouquets** will be available to buy at the Parish Office from next week. Cost £2.

**The Sister Clare Retreat** will take place in St Columba's Church, Long Tower, Derry, 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Pope John Paul II Award Youth Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine** takes place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 11.00am and concluding with Mass at 2.30pm. Mass will be celebrated by the Award patron, Bishop McKeown. Many young people from this diocese, with others from across the country, attended this youth pilgrimage last year. Open to all 16-18 year-olds. The pilgrimage, including transportation, is being organised through schools. Parental consent is required. The pilgrimage theme is '**Pilgrimage for Peace**'. Prayer intentions can be sent with any young person you know attending. For more information, visit [www.jp2award.com](http://www.jp2award.com) or contact the Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 00 44 (0)28 7126 4087.

**The Sorrowful Mysteries:** A dramatic presentation for Holy Week: St Mary's Church, Creggan, on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 8.30pm and the Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30pm.

**Space for Lent at lunchtime** - Would you like to spend a little time each Wednesday of Lent preparing for the Sunday Gospel before you hear it at Sunday Mass? Lent is a time to consider a commitment to prayer, fasting and giving. 'Space for Lent at Lunchtime' will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to gather with others to pray, share and reflect on the Sunday Gospels during Lent leading up to Palm Sunday and Holy Week. 'Space for Lent at Lunchtime' is delivered via Zoom and facilitated by Ursula Doherty - Lectio Divina Guide, and Tony Brennan - Pastoral Coordinator, Diocese of Derry. Each session is held on the Wednesdays of Lent, 1:00pm - 1:50pm, and will continue until Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Registration and details can be found at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/space-for-lent-at-lunchtime>.

**First Anniversary Mass for Fr Paddy O'Kane** will take place in Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm. All welcome.

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://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](mailto: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**