

Our parish community warmly welcomes the announcement of the appointment of Bishop Michael Router as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Derry. We offer him our heartfelt congratulations and assure him of our prayers and support as he begins this important ministry of leadership, service, and pastoral care throughout the diocese. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen him in the years ahead as he serves the people of Derry with wisdom, compassion, and faith.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to Bishop Donal McKeown for his dedicated and faithful service as Bishop of Derry. His commitment to the life and mission of the Church, together with his pastoral leadership over the past years, has been greatly appreciated by clergy, religious, and laity alike. We thank him for his generous ministry and pray that God will continue to bless him with good health, peace, and every grace in the next chapter of his journey. Bishop Donal remains in office until Bishop Michael is installed. As a parish family, we look forward with hope to this new chapter in the life of our diocese and keep both Bishop Michael and Bishop Donal in our prayers.

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 13:24-43

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that God's kingdom grows quietly and patiently. Through the parables of the weeds among the wheat, the mustard seed, and the yeast, He teaches that good and evil often exist side by side in our world and even within our own hearts. Rather than acting with haste, God shows remarkable patience, giving every person the opportunity to repent and grow in holiness.

The tiny mustard seed becomes a great tree, and a small amount of yeast transforms the whole batch of dough. In the same way, even the smallest acts of faith, kindness, forgiveness, and prayer can have a profound impact when entrusted to God. We may not always see the fruits immediately, but the Lord is always at work.

As we continue our journey of faith, may we trust in God's timing, persevere in doing good, and allow His grace to transform our lives from within. Then, as Jesus promises, "the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: That those called to priesthood will be the virtuous men of the first reading, kindly to their brothers and sisters, reflecting the lenient justice of God in their words and actions as they offer hope to God's people.

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

Prayer to Our Lady of Mental Peace

Mother of tranquillity, Mother of Hope, Our Lady of Mental Peace. We reach out to you for what is needful in our weakness. Teach a searching heart that God's love is unchanging, that human love begins and grows by touching God's love.

Let your gentle peace- which the world cannot give – be always with me. And help me to bring this same peace into the lives of others.

Our Lady of Mental Peace – pray for me.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Seamus Kerr

May he rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Anne Hickey

Patrick (PK) Kelly

Patrick Hegarty

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Aria Wylie O'Donnell

Fíadh Hegarty

Ashton Joseph McMichael

Darragh John McDaid

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,926

Parish Development: £950

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Venezuela Earthquake Appeal: £50, £100, £100, £20

Smile Train: £50, £20, £50, £100

Sight Savers: £50 £100, £20

Hungry Children: £120

Gaza Appeal: £120

Trócaire: £20

Clerical Students: £100

Mary's Meals: £100

Cathedral Funds: £50

Readers for 25th / 26th July

6.15 pm Mary Morrison

7.30 pm Helen Sweeney

9.30 am Barry McDaid

11.00 am Micky Kerr

12.30 pm Ursula Doherty

7.00 pm Marian Boyle

On 24th July the Church celebrates the Feast of St Sharbel Makhlof, the Lebanese Maronite monk and hermit renowned for his holiness and deep life of prayer. Living a life of simplicity, silence, and devotion to the Eucharist, he sought above all to be united with Christ. Since his death in 1898, countless people have turned to him in prayer and have experienced God's healing and grace through his intercession.

St Sharbel reminds us that true holiness is found in faithfulness to God in the ordinary moments of life. May his example inspire us to grow in prayer, trust, and love of Christ.

St Sharbel, pray for us

The June 2026 edition of 'The Net', the monthly publication sharing the fruits of the faith in our parish communities within the Diocese of Derry and beyond. The NET is available online at <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-june-2026> as well as hardcopy at the back of the Cathedral. This month's edition celebrates the many ways faith is being lived and shared throughout the diocese. The cover story follows the joyful ordination of Fr Stephen Baxter to the priesthood, with extensive coverage of the ceremony, Bishop Donal McKeown's homily, and Fr Stephen's First Mass.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Sacristan: Derry Diocesan Trust - Three Patrons Parish, St Brigid's, Carnhill. Part-time: 12 Hours per week. Rate of Pay: £12.88 per hour. For full details and application pack please email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 71262302. 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 12noon on Monday 20 July 2026. *Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.*

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Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
19th July 2026*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Accord Derry – Marriage Preparation Workshops 2026 - Accord Derry is pleased to announce upcoming Marriage Preparation Workshops taking place in 2026. These courses are designed to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

The remaining available dates for 2026 are as follows:

- **September:** 25th–26th 2026
- **November:** 20th–21st 2026

All courses are now available for online booking at: www.accordni.com.

Please note that **Accord Derry will not be facilitating Marriage Preparation Courses during October or December 2026.** Couples are encouraged to book early to secure a place on their preferred date.

Al-Anon – It is easy to see what alcohol is doing to the person who drinks, but can you see what it is doing to you? Are you afraid to upset someone for fear that it might trigger a drinking bout? For further information, contact the Al-Anon confidential helpline on 0800 0086 811 or email helpline@al-anonuk.org.uk. Alternatively, telephone 028 9068 2368.

ATU St Angela's is inviting applications for the following programme beginning Autumn 2026: Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education for Primary School, with Online Delivery. The programme is open to: Qualified primary school teachers; 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 the area of primary religious education may also apply. Closing date for Applications is Friday 14 August 2026. For further information contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, Education Department, ATU St Angela's, Lough Gill, Sligo. Email mary.kearns@atu.ie or visit Website: www.atu.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 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 23