

Bishop McKeown, Fr Paul and Fr Shaun
wish you all a joyful and a blessed Easter. May the peace and hope of the Risen Christ be with you and your families throughout this holy season.

A Word of Thanks

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the preparation and celebration of the Easter liturgies. The Sacristans, Maghnus Monaghan, and the Choir, Cantors and Musicians, Margarett McNamee and the Rejoice Folk Group, Gareth Coyle, Gráinne Nugent and the Readers, Noreen McElhinney and the Eucharistic Ministers, those who took part in the Washing of the Feet, and those who prepared the Church. Your dedication and generosity of spirit are deeply appreciated.

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 20: 1-9

Today's Gospel calls us to accompany Mary of Magdala as she makes her heartbroken way to the tomb to minister to the precious lifeless body of her beloved Jesus. We share her shocked horror when she discovers the empty tomb. There are very few of us, having experienced the pain of the loss of a loved one, who have not faltered under the crushing weight of the absence of that loved one: the empty tomb experience is a deeply human one.

But the darkest part of the night is just before the dawn. We have travelled with Jesus on his excruciating journey to Calvary. We have witnessed his agony as he is reviled, abused, humiliated, mocked, tortured. But soon the empty tomb will liberate the disciples understanding of the teaching of scripture, 'that he must rise from the dead'. Soon the heartbroken Mary of Magdala's tears will be wiped away as Jesus tenderly calls her name.

The cross which seemed to be the end of all hope becomes the source of all life; Jesus is alive in our midst today as the beautiful, pure spring of all love, kindness, generosity, justice and peace.

Jesus, you are the true, beautiful, place of peace within us, the place of rest which helps us to bear the darkness. May we never forget that we are Easter people, people of the resurrection, loving each other as you have so loved us through your cross and passion.

Saint Eugene's Cathedral Programme

Monday to Friday (21st – 25th April)

Mass at 8.00am, 10.00am and 7.30pm

Saturday (26th April)

Mass at 10.00am, Vigil Masses at 6.15pm and 7.30pm

Sunday (27th April)

Mass at 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 7.00pm

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood - For those discerning a calling to the diocesan priesthood that, in the words of our Second Reading for Easter Sunday, they will have the grace to "...seek and set their minds on the things that are above, where Christ is..."

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Raymond McConnell
William Green
Virginia McCauley
Lily O'Hagan*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*John F Mullan
Patrick Horner
Daniel Cullen*

May they rest in peace

Collection

Last week's collection: £7,397

Parish Development: £1,211

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

SVdP: £100, £15

Smile Train: £50

Sight Savers: £50

Cathedral Funds: £100, £50

Flowers for Altar: £10

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Roán Kieran-Edems Green
Cillian Carlo Boyle
Bláthnaid Margaret Rose Shannon*

The Annual Mass for the Deceased Members of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women will be held here in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on Easter Monday, 21st April at 11.30am. All are welcome.

St Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Knock – 15th -17th June as part of the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage. Cost £280 per person sharing. For more information and full itinerary contact Anne Marie Hickey, Pastoral Coordinator on amhickey@derrydiocese.org, phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894 or call into the Parish Office.

St Eugene's Cathedral Scholars: Applications are now open for the 2025-2026 Choral Scholars Scheme. The scheme is open to all full-time students over the age of 16. The choral scholars sing with the cathedral choir weekly as well as other special events as instructed by the director of music. They will receive instruction in a wide range of choral music, and they receive a stipend for their participation. Entrance is by application only. For an application form contact the director of music at maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com. Deadline for applications is 12th May 2025.

The Youth of Acutis are hosting a talk by the Dominican Friar Conor McDonough OP, in the Cathedral Hall on Saturday 26th April at 8.15pm. The talk will focus on what we can learn from the life and works of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Refreshments will be provided. Admission is free.

On Sunday 27th April at 3.30pm, the day of Blessed Carlo's canonisation, the Adoration room at Carnhill is to be dedicated to Carlo Acutis.

St Eugene's Cathedral Parish Draw – only 200 tickets available! 10 monthly draws at £20 per draw beginning May 2025. Entry fee for all draws can be paid in full or monthly. Entries paid in full will be entered into a draw for £500. Prizes per month £1,000, £500 and 5 x £100. The draw will raise funds for necessary repair, maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful Cathedral. Registration for the draw will close on 30th April 2025. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 4 nights from 14th July to 18th July. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £700 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

Masters in Catholic School Leadership - The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. If you are interested in registering for the Masters in September 2025 or require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

'Sing for Joy!' - A Reflective Day of Music and Ministry - Saturday 26th April 2025 at Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co. Donegal. There will be various inputs as well as time to pray, connect with others and explore this Sacred place. The day will conclude with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 3.30pm (open to the public). This day is open to young people aged 18-35 and is free to attend (supported by the Knights of St Columbanus). Boat departs at 9:30am. Registration is essential via <https://bit.ly/SingforJoy>. For further information please contact info@knightsfstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk / +447759496677.

Easter Monday Pilgrim Path Walk at Lough Derg - Join the Team at Lough Derg for a guided walk along the ancient Pilgrim Path around Lough Derg on Monday 21st April at 10.30am. 8km & 12km option available. Free event. Booking essential. For more information visit www.loughderg.org

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) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty