

Bishop Donal McKeown, Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty and Fr Colum Clerkin wish you every blessing, joy and peace this Christmas time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being part of the faith community of Saint Eugene’s Cathedral and for your ongoing support and prayers.

A short Gospel reflection Matthew 1: 18-24

In this Gospel, we are invited into the quiet faith of Saint Joseph. Faced with a situation he cannot fully understand, Joseph chooses mercy over judgment. Rather than exposing Mary to shame, he resolves to protect her, revealing a heart already attuned to God’s law of love. God then speaks into Joseph’s fear through a dream, assuring him that what seems impossible is, in fact, God at work. Joseph is asked to trust not what he sees, but what God promises. His obedience is immediate and complete: he takes Mary into his home and accepts the role God has given him. Matthew reminds us that Jesus is Emmanuel— “God with us.” God enters our world not through power or certainty, but through trust, humility, and human co-operation. Joseph teaches us that holiness often unfolds in silence, faithfulness, and courageous obedience. Like him, we are called to welcome Christ into our lives, even when the path ahead is unclear, trusting that God is truly with us.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: In both the First Reading and the Gospel this weekend we hear Jesus called "Emmanuel" - a name that means "God-is-with-us!" We pray for an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood, and that the future priests of our diocese will be modern-day Emmanuels - the loving, healing, forgiving, and merciful presence of God in the Church and in the world.

Confession and Christmas Mass Times

Morning Prayer of the Church - Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th December at 7.45am

Confession and Adoration on the Way Home Monday 22nd December from 5.00m to 7.00pm

Christmas Eve	Confessions 11.30am to 5.30pm
	Vigil Masses 6.00pm & 12 midnight
Christmas Day	7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am & 12.30pm
St Stephen’s Day	12 noon
Saturday 27th December	12 noon
	Vigil Masses 6.15pm & 7.30pm
Sunday 28th December	7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm & 7.00pm
Monday 29th December	12 noon
Tuesday 30th December	12 noon
Wednesday 31st December	12 noon & 7.30pm

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately after the 7.30pm Mass on New Year’s Eve concluding with Rosary and Benediction at 11.45pm to welcome in the New Year

Thursday 1st January 12 noon

Normal weekday Mass times will resume on Friday 2nd January – 8.00am, 10.00am & 7.30pm.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Colette Moffitt
Gerry Friel
Patsy Farren

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mard McCourt
Celine Martin
Hugh & Mona McLaughlin
Peter Griffin
Donald Coyle
Paddy McFadden
Peter O’Hagan
Gerald Cruickshank
Catherine McKenna
Peter Toland
Mary O’Kane
Lily Boyle Arekion
Nellie Barr
Davy Barr

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God’s family:

Tiernan Jack O’Donnell Canning
Oisín Matthew McCallion
Alfie James Robert Roddy

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,082
 Parish Development: £1,017

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £20, £40, £20
Sight Savers: £30, £20
Mary’s Meals: £30, £20, £100, £40
SVdP: £20, £100, £40
Trócaire: £100, £200
Palestine: £40
Medical Missions of Mary: £20
Flowers for the Altar: £10

Readers for 27th/28th December

06.15 pm	Roisin Rice
07.30 pm	Liz McMonagle
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	Eva Marie Mallon/ Caragh McSheffrey
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
7.00 pm	Anna Begley

Sick Visitation

Fr Paul Farren will attend the sick and housebound in his care during the coming week:

Monday: Lisfannon Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Cable Street, Lower Road, Abbey House, Little Diamond

Tuesday: Mulvey Park, Laburnum Terrace, Elmwood Terrace, Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor, Grangemore, Northland Road

Joy to the World Concert. Join a host of wonderful, gifted singers and musicians for a lunchtime Concert on Saturday 27th December at 1.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral. Joy to the World - Concert celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this special time of the year.

Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese, the latest edition of 'The Net' is available in print in parishes as well as on the Diocesan website at www.derrydiocese.org/news. For coverage of faith related stories email editorthenet15@gmail.com.

Saint Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry: Open Day is on Saturday 10th January 2026 beginning at 9.00am. The principal's address is at 9.15am and 10.30am. Tours of the school will begin immediately after each address. Open Day ends at 12.30pm. All are welcome.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. Cost £895 inclusive of local taxes but exclusive of single supplements and insurance. The Pilgrimage office will open for bookings on Saturday 17th January 2026 at 11.00am. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available (Monday to Thursday) from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.

Dungiven Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Departing from Belfast International Airport on Monday 10th August for 6 nights*. We will be in Lourdes for the Feast of The Assumption. (*may be reduced to 5 nights - this will be confirmed at a later date). Cost per person based on twin/double sharing, including full board, is £975. Single supplement is £39 per night. Insurance is optional and costs an extra £45. There are only a limited number of seats remaining. Contact the parish office: dungivenparish@derrydiocese.org or Tel 028 7774 0702.

Trócaire 'Gifts of Change' are gifts that transform lives, bringing real hope and opportunities to families and communities living in poverty. There are 24 Gifts to choose from starting at £5 for the 'Gift of Soap' for families in war-torn South Sudan. You can buy a Gift and help change lives this Christmas by going online at www.trocaire.org/gifts, calling 0800 912 1200 or visiting our office at 60 Berry Street, Belfast, BT1 1FJ.

Marriage Preparation Workshops January to June 2026:

January 23rd/24th, February 20th/21st, March 27th/28th, April 24th/25th, May 15th/16th, June 19th/20th 2026. These courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com. Please note that Accord Derry will NOT be facilitating courses during July or August.

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 749 102 233

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Fourth Sunday
of Advent
21st December 2025*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty