

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 6:27-38

Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel is clear and unequivocal; it is also frighteningly difficult, in fact we may even think, impossible, to live out of. Jesus asks us to love our enemies, to do only good to those who harm us, to those who hate us and wish us evil. If we think about it, faceless enemies are easier to love and forgive than those we thought were our friends, those whom we thought loved us and who, nevertheless, have betrayed us. How hard is it to forgive those particular individuals their betrayals!

But that is precisely what Jesus asks us to do. He asks us 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'. Do we ever think about the implications of those words? Has their full meaning ever truly penetrated our consciousness? We turn to Jesus himself for illumination. On the cross, in agony, having suffered humiliations and torments, betrayals and derision, his response is to forgive his tormentors. Right up until the moment he drew his last breath Jesus was living fully and lighting our way to eternal life by his example.

If we aspire to be true disciples of Jesus, then we know that that is 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. To love and forgive is to go against the shrill, outraged demands of the ego. It is to let go of that part of us which wants to cling on determinedly to hurt and resentment.

Jesus, may we, with your help, free ourselves from the negative effects of our reluctance to truly love and forgive all others.

Jesus, may we respond from the depths of our souls to the full meaning of the words in the beautiful prayer you taught us.

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 all others.

Lenten Programme 2025

- Monday to Friday:** 7.45am Morning Prayer of the Church
1.00pm Lunch-time Mass beginning on Ash Wednesday (5th March)
- Mondays:** 5.00pm -7.00pm Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Tuesdays:** 7.00pm "Exploration into Theology – *Reading the Signs of the Times*" with Fr Brian Brady in The Cathedral Hall.
- Wednesdays:** 6.30pm Guided Meditation in the Mother Teresa Chapel
7.00pm "Reasons for Hope" - Talk by Fr Paul Farren in the Cathedral
- Thursdays:** 1.30pm Stations of the Cross led by Parish Schools
8.00pm Holy Hour of prayer, adoration, reflection and music with Fr Shaun Doherty in the Cathedral
- Fridays:** 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

'Fish Fridays' - as this is the day when Jesus was crucified you are invited to give up meat on the Fridays in Lent in remembrance of His sacrifice for us.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Hugh Moore
Meta Conaghan
Ann Moore
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Josephine McGuiggan
Noel McGrory
Edward O'Neill
Elizabeth Page
Mickey Carlin
Mary Ellen Kelly

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Daithí Lorcán Duddy
James Anthony McBride
Cónan Anthony McBrearty-Dunnion

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Please remember: Godparents (1 male and 1 female over the age of 16)

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,007
Parish Development: £ 1,086

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Save the Children: £10

Gaza Appeal: £20

Sight Savers: £100, £20

Smile Train: £100, £20

Altar Flowers: £100

Mary's Meals: £1,000

Readers 1st /2nd March

06.15 pm Helen Sweeney

07.30 pm Stephen Orr

09.30 am Rosemary Finan

11.00 am St Anne's PS

12.30 pm Kevin Finan

07.00 pm Anna Begley

Sick Visitation

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

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

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

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – In this weekend's gospel Jesus reminds us of the challenge to love without discrimination or counting the cost. We pray for those called to preach the Gospel of love as priests of the diocese of Derry.

Vocations Weekend in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, 7-9 March. Anyone interested should contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com

Holy Hour for Vocations: There will be a Holy Hour for intercession for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in the Diocese of Derry on Wednesday 26th February at 8:00pm in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Derry. All welcome to come and pray.

Trócaire boxes are available to collect at the back of the Cathedral.

Walk with Me – A Journey of Prayer for Lent 2025 booklets are available to buy at the Parish Office. Cost £1.00.

Songs of Ireland Afternoon Tea, Saturday 29th March at 1.00pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall. Join a host of singers and musicians for Afternoon Tea with music and verse. Pre Booking required. Price £25 To book call to the Cathedral Parish Office or Tel: 02871262894.

LIFE Camp 2025 (Living - In - Faith – Everywhere) LIFE Camp is a voluntary organisation staffed by teachers, students and experienced volunteers. It takes place in St. Mary's College, Northland Road, Derry. We are calling all pupils currently in P3 – P7. Week 1: Tuesday 1st – Friday 4th July and Week 2: Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July. Cost for Week 1 is £35. Cost for Week 2 is £40. To register go to www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Life%20Summer%20Camp

Derry Diocesan Trust – Job Opportunity. Part Time Housekeeper (Buncrana). 15 hours per week Monday to Friday 2.00pm to 5.00pm. For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 02871262302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. 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 4.30 pm on Tuesday 25th February 2025.

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

First Saturday Rosary takes place on Saturday 1st March at 1.00pm in Market Square, Letterkenny. All welcome.

Mary's Meals -Emergency in Southern Africa. Southern Africa is experiencing its worst drought in 100 years, with an estimated 21 million children in the region suffering from malnutrition. Mary's Meals works in four of the worst effected countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe) providing vital daily school meals to 1.5 million hungry children. To help Mary's Meals keep providing these life-changing meals and reach more children in need, please keep our work in your prayers and consider donating to this appeal. 10p provides a school meal. Find out more at www.marysmeals.org.uk or freephone 0800 698 1212.

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

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in Ordinary Time
23rd February 2025*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty