

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Today's Gospel is about repentance; it is about Divine mercy and reconciliation. In his response to having been informed by the people of the brutal murder of the Galileans by Pilate, and the tragedy of the eighteen men killed when the tower at Siloam collapsed on top of them, Jesus dismisses the long-held belief that suffering is a consequence of evil and prosperity is a consequence of righteousness. Human existence can be tragic; it can be brutal and painful. The solution, Jesus makes clear, lies in our turning to God and to the possibility of transformation and enlightenment. The solution is not about condemnation, it is about repentance. It is about the acknowledgement of our sinfulness and failures; it is about turning to God, and turning our lives over to God.

The parable of the fig tree which bears no fruit reveals the merciful forgiveness of God as a result of the intervention of his Son, Jesus, whose life, death and resurrection dearly bought our salvation. Jesus teaches us that our spiritual growth will be blocked if we don't care for our souls. With loving care for our souls, the fruit we bear will be good fruit: it will be joy and kindness, love and forgiveness, healing, faithfulness, goodness. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – In our first reading this weekend God calls Moses to lead His people from exile into the Promised Land. We pray for those being called by God today to lead His people in the ways of faith as priests of the diocese of Derry.

Lenten Programme 2025

- Monday to Friday:** Daily Mass at 8.00am, 10.00am, 1.00pm and 7.30pm
7.45am Morning Prayer of the Church
- 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.

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.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Terry O'Kane
Eilish Casey
Ryan Mellon
Shaun-Paul Fahy
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Jim Taylor
Celine Taylor
Martin Keaveney
Tony McIntyre
Freddie Boyle
Bernadette Condren
May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:
Blaine Callum Lewis
Keoni Kyle Lewis
Kyren Kyle Lewis
Dakota Faith Palmer
To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Readers 29th /30th March

06.15 pm Karen O'Brien
07.30 pm Amulya George
09.30 am Barry McDaid
11.00 am St Eugene's PS
12.30 pm Eilish Friel
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Collection

Last week's collection: £ 5,843
Parish Development: £ 1,160
Clerical Education & ongoing formation: £ 4,285

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Mary's Meals: £100, £100, £20, £14.10
Holy Land: £50
Smile Train: £50
Flowers for Altar: £30, £40

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

Adult Safeguarding Training - We have invited Mrs Briege O'Neill, Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Derry to facilitate Adult Safeguarding Training. Adult Safeguarding Training is relevant to clergy, sacristans, church secretaries, adult prayer groups, senior choir leaders, members of St Vincent de Paul and Eucharistic Ministers to those people confined to their homes/nursing homes and all those in the parish who are interested in Safeguarding Adults at risk and in need of protection. Training will take place on Monday 7th April 2025 from 7.00pm-9.30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall, Infirmary Road. Please contact the parish office on 028 71262894 or leave your name in the Sacristy by 3rd April 2025.

The weekly collection envelopes are available for collection at the back of the Cathedral after Masses this weekend. If you would like to sign up to receive a box of envelopes, please contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

*Vol 52 No 12
Third Sunday
of Lent
23rd March 2025*

The Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead will take place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 22nd June 2025 at 3.00 pm.

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

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

From Friday 28th- Sunday 30th March Fr Stephen Quinn OCD will lead a weekend silent retreat in Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca. Lent is a perfect time to take a step away from the hustle and bustle and learn to make time to meet God in silence and contemplation. The weekend costs £90 which includes all meals and accommodation. It is open to everyone. For queries/booking contact Aoife on 02871262512 or email termonbaccaderry@gmail.com

Accord NI is recruiting experienced practitioners for the Derry and Enniskillen centres, to train in the specialism of couple counselling. Successful applicants will follow an 18-day (9 weekends) in-person Certificate programme, (144 hours class contact), which will provide the clinical skills essential for safe and ethical couples work. **Course fees paid and placement provided by Accord NI.** For further information and to obtain an application form please email info@accord.ie. Closing date for receipt of applications 30th April 2025. Programme commences September 2025.

The Corrymeela Long-Term Volunteer Programme are now taking applications for 2025/26. Our Long-Term Volunteer Programme offers you the opportunity to spend a year living at our Ballycastle Centre, assisting our teams as they deliver programmes for groups from different backgrounds and enabling participants to nurture deeper relationships and explore how to live well together. We hope you will consider whether volunteering at Corrymeela is right for you. For more information visit www.corrymeela.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 Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.