

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

Today's Gospel merits our deepest attention: at its heart is life-changing wisdom. St. Francis of Assisi questions whether 'true humility and compassion can exist in our words and in our eyes unless we know we too are capable of any act.' How many of us can only walk in the light by closing our eyes to the dark?

"Let them both grow till the harvest," the Master instructs. In other words, let us never deny or ignore the polarities within us: we are all a mixture of weeds and good wheat, a mixture of both saint and sinner growing together in the same piece of earth. If we acknowledge the saint and sinner within us, we can never sit in judgment on others from any kind of lofty position of self-righteousness.

We can neither think too highly of ourselves nor, indeed, condemn ourselves as creatures unworthy of God's love. But we can grow in compassion and forgiveness. We can grow in humility, because it takes humility to consciously carry both wheat and weeds within us, to accept our imperfections with grace and to embrace the wisdom which is the gift of such a humble acceptance.

Learning how to love is a lifelong task, and one we cannot achieve until we first learn to accept the challenging reality of who we are. We must draw together the opposites within us on the ground of love and afford the same grace to others with generosity and humility.

During this Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood we pray that a new generation of men will be inspired, willing, and well-prepared to spend their lives for the sake of the Lord's flock, joyfully preaching the Word of God, faithfully celebrating the sacraments, and humbly serving those in need.

The Matt Talbot Prayer Society was created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction, to pray for those recovering from addiction, and to pray for all those affected by addiction, especially family members. To join the Matt Talbot Prayer Society, you are invited to enrol the name of the person to be prayed for and the addiction we are praying that they will be freed from. Those enrolled will be prayed for specifically every day by members of the Matt Talbot Prayer Society. Mass will also be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30 pm. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com or private message St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

Prayer for Freedom from Addiction

Loving God, help me to submit myself to you, resisting the devil and his corrupt ways. Lead me not into temptation and deliver me from evil, show me the way to freedom from this addiction and give me the strength to endure whatever may come my way. Fill me with wisdom and faith to trust you, so you may be my rock to stand upon when I am weak, because through you anything is possible. Each day that I rise I will rejoice and be glad knowing this is the day you have made for me. A day where I can show love, hope and compassion to myself and others struggling with addiction. So, I ask you God, to bless me and guide me to new ways in which all Glory and Honour is given to you.

Amen.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Hugh Herron
Alexander Curran**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Bernard Ward
Hugh Gallagher
Ella Webb
Agnes Webb
Patrick (PK) Kelly
Hugh Hastings
Geraldine Donaghey
Patsy Harkin
Mary Cullen
Patrick Boyle
Anthony McAteer**

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Mathew Peter McConnellogue

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

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

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couple who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

Shannon Doherty and David Keenan

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,906
Parish Development: £861

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £10, £100, £20

Smile Train: £50

Concern: £20

Hungry Children: £5

Readers for 29th/30th July

06.15 pm	Piaras O Meallain
07.30 pm	Karen Harkin
09.30 am	Rosemary Finan
11.00 am	Oran Gartland
12.30 pm	Kevin Finan
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Sick Visitation

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

Tuesday (pm): Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Fahan Street, Westland Street, Cable Street, Lower Road

Wednesday (pm): Mulvey Park, Eglinton Terrace, Beechwood Street, Elmwood Road, Gartan Square, Elmwood Terrace, Little Diamond, Clarendon Manor

Light the Fire: On August 6th Archbishop Eamon Martin will relight the fire on the hill of Slane that was lit by Saint Patrick many years ago. He will be joined by Sr. Briege Mc. Kenna, Dana and Fr. Pablo. There will be Mass, Rosary and a Eucharistic Healing Service on the day. This is a unique and monumental event. It is an opportunity for each of us to shine our light and witness to our faith in a joyful and spiritually uplifting celebration. If you would like details of a bus from your area please contact hillofslaneaugust6@gmail.com

St Columba's, Long Tower, and Áras Cholmcille have recently partnered to create a new religious and cultural tourism experience. If you are hosting family and friends from abroad, maybe you'd consider paying us a visit? Now open six days a week, we invite you to reflect on Colmcille's remarkable legacy and get an insight into monastic life through interactive displays, exquisite artefacts and stories that stir the soul. Entrance fee is £4.00 pp and the 'bringer' is free! We are also seeking volunteers to staff the reception for 3 hours once a week. This might be of interest to students seeking volunteering experience or anyone who enjoys engaging with tourists. Please contact **A Darinagh Boyle** via email on darinaghboyle15@gmail.com or send a text to 07789850793 for further information.

Mary's Meals Annual 'Step by Step to Feed the Next Child' Sponsored Walk is taking place throughout Ireland in August. This year Mary's Meals is organising a 'Two Bridges walk' in Derry on Sunday 6th August at 12 noon (Beginning in Sainsbury's car park, across the Foyle Bridge, along the Waterside and back over the Peace Bridge, finishing in the Sainsbury's car park). The distance is approximately 6 miles, or 9.5 km. Walkers will meet in Sainsbury's Car Park at 11.45 in preparation for 12 noon start. To register for this walk see www.bit.ly/stepbystepwalk. If you need any further information, contact Helen Quinn on 07814441701. You can find out more about Mary's Meals at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

Urgently required: volunteers for St Vincent de Paul shop William Street, Derry. We will do our best to facilitate you with a job you might like, at a day and time that suits you. If you can help, call 028 7126 8325. Everybody welcome, we can't do what we do without your help and support.

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 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**.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias