

A short reflection on today's Gospel Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Today's Gospel witnesses Jesus early on in his ministry exhibiting extraordinary power and eloquence as he teaches in the synagogue in Nazareth, his home town. The people are wonder-struck by his words, by the vastness and depth of his knowledge. They will later question his authority suspiciously on the grounds that 'he is merely Jesus, the son of Joseph, the carpenter', but now they are listening in awe as he reveals the mission entrusted to him by his heavenly Father. It is a mission of forgiveness, compassion, liberation; it is a mission of extraordinary beauty. The 'good news' of Jesus' mission on earth for those whose hearts and minds are open to its truth is salvation and eternal life. The spiritually blind will see with the clear eyes of faith in a loving God; those imprisoned in doubt and despair will be set free, liberated into the fresh green pastures of God's vision for humanity; those impoverished by injustice and misery will be restored and replenished:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

Jesus, may we always keep your words safely in our hearts, loving the beauty and glory of your heavenly Father's vision for us. May we see with the eyes of truth and surrender to that truth.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – As we celebrate this Sunday of The Word of God, we pray for those already called or being called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry that, filled with the Spirit of the Lord, they will work to bring the "good news" of God's love and mercy to God's people.

St. Brigid's Cross Making Workshop - If you want to learn this ancient craft, join us in the Cathedral Hall on Thursday 30th January after the 10am Mass.

St. Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Fatima – 19th – 24th October 2025. Cost £795 per person sharing with a single room supplement of £155 (subject to availability). For more information, please contact Anne Marie Hickey on amhickey@derrydiocese.org or phone Parish Office on 028 71262894.

St John of the Cross Series will take place in Termonbacca on Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th February at 7.30pm. These talks will explore the teaching of St John of the Cross and will be delivered by Fr Matt Blake O.C.D. Fr Matt is a Discalced Carmelite priest, and a renowned speaker and authority on Carmelite spirituality. These talks are open to anyone who wishes to grow in their own spiritual life and learn more from the Saints. All welcome to come along.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Anthony (Tony) McColgan
Elizabeth Doherty

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Martin Concannon
Phonsie Kelly
Neil McMahon
Jean Boyce
Dan & Molly Doherty
Edward Higgins
Laurence Hargan
Mick O'Kane
Jimmy McKendrick

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Freyarose McCallion
Fionn Alistair Doherty

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: £ 5,513
Parish Development: £ 1,077

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

SVdP: £30, £10

Save the Children: £20

Children in Cross Fire: £100

Mary's Meals: £20, £20

Flowers for the Altar: £20

Sick Visitation

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

Monday: Lisfannon Park, Glenfada Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Chamberlain Street, Cable Street, Lower Road, Abbey House

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

Readers 1st /2nd February

06.15 pm Michael McCaul

07.30 pm Helen Sweeney

09.30 am Cara Elliott/Gerry O'Donnell

11.00 am Rosemount PS

12.30 pm Michael Wilson

07.00 pm Anna Begley

Accord is now seeking marriage preparation facilitators. Might this be you? Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. Successful applicants will receive professional training in the Accord marriage preparation programme and be part of a team delivering programmes locally. Contact Aisling on 00353 (0)15053112 or by email to marriagepreparation@accord.ie and for further information see www.accord.ie

Derry Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes Monday 30th June -Friday 4th July. Fare £849 (+ £144 Single Supplement). We are delighted to announce that The Lourdes Pilgrimage Office will be opening on Saturday 1st February from 11am to 1pm in The Pastoral Centre 164 Bishop Street Derry BT48 6UJ. Phone 02871260293. It will continue to be open each week on Thursdays and Saturdays 11am to 1pm. Application Forms may be collected at these times and are also available by emailing derrypilgrim @outlook.com. We also have a youth pilgrimage coming with us and any young person 16 -18 years in any Parish may contact us by phone or email for more information. We are also asking any Nurses, Doctors or Care Staff who are interested in joining our Care Team to make contact with the Pilgrimage Office.

The Lourdes Hospitalité collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, is due to take place at weekend Masses on the 8th/9th of February 2025. As in previous years, we appeal to your generosity for this worthwhile cause as we take the pilgrimage forward facing many new challenges.

First Saturday Rosary will be held on Saturday the 1st February at 12.00 noon in Guildhall Square, Derry. Followed by the 'Come Follow Me' Eucharistic Procession led by the Franciscan Friars of Renewal, which will depart from St Columba's Church, Long Tower at 1.00pm going through Derry City. Bring your St Brigid's cross or a simple cross to carry along the route. All are welcome.

Calling all knitters: Age NI is delighted to announce that the Big Knit is back for 2025! So, grab your needles and your brightest yarn and get knitting for Age NI. For every hat knitted, Age NI receives 30p, and that money helps the Charity support older people who have no-one else to turn to. To register and find out more, call Age NI on 028 9024 5729, email bigknit@ageni.org or visit www.ageni.org/thebigknit

Dromantine Retreat Centre Workshop - Living Your Strengths: Discover your unique character strengths and reach your true potential, Saturday 8th February 9.30am - 4.30pm (registration 9am) cost £43 / €50. This workshop will be led by Father Hugh Lagan. Fr Lagan is a priest with the Society of African Missions and a chartered clinical psychologist. He has led retreats and workshops internationally on psychological and spiritual well-being, positive change, trauma and resilience. To reserve a place or for more information Tel: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964 or Email: admin@dromantineconference.com

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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty