

With the passing of Pope Francis, we enter a period of mourning for a shepherd who led with humility, compassion and deep faith. His life from the streets of Buenos Aires to the Chair of Saint Peter reminds us of the heart of the Gospel – mercy, service and love for the poor. As we reflect on his papacy, we are invited to renew our own call to serve, to listen, and to build a Church that reflects the love and welcome of Christ. Pope Francis' life encourages us to be, as he says, “missionary disciples” – people of faith who go out with joy and compassion into the world.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 20:19-23

Today's Gospel according to John witnesses the first encounter between the Risen Jesus and his disciples. He shows them the signs of his Passion, the wounds which so powerfully effect his compassionate connection with suffering humanity. He offers them his peace, a perfect peace, the peace which comes from living life fully, a life which is in harmony with God and humanity. He breathes into them the Holy Spirit with gifts of knowledge and courage to arm them for their evangelising mission. Finally, he gives them the power to forgive sins, the power which is at the heart of Jesus' mission of reconciliation. Where there is forgiveness there is no division, no separation: there is only oneness with God and humanity, through the death and resurrection of His son and the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

When Thomas, having been absent from Jesus' previous appearances, expresses doubts about his Master's resurrection, and then finds himself being offered incontrovertible proof by the Man of Sorrows himself, Jesus uses the opportunity to reach down lovingly through the ages to all of us who have not seen the physical evidence of his resurrection, but who believe in its glorious truth: “Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Today's Gospel is a quiet miracle of peace, love and forgiveness offered to us as an unearned gift, redolent of God's unlimited love for humanity, his presence closer to us than our breath in all that we do and in all that we suffer. Thanks be to God.

The Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux will take place at St Eugene's Cathedral from Saturday 10th May until Sunday 18th May 2025. The Novena begins with a Mass with the Anointing of the sick at 7.30pm on Saturday 10th May. Sunday 11th May at 6.00pm there will be Devotions and a talk. Monday to Friday (12th to 16th May) Novena Masses will be celebrated at 6.30am, 10.00am each morning and there will be an evening service with a guest speaker at 7.30pm. On Saturday 17th May the 10.00am Mass will be offered up for those who have died. The Novena will close on Sunday 18th May at 3.00pm. This will be an opportunity to pray for a special intention and to ask St Thérèse to intercede for us. Everyone is welcome to St Eugene's Cathedral for this time of prayer and petition.

St Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Knock – 15th -17th June as part of the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage. Cost £280 per person sharing. For more information and full itinerary contact Anne Marie Hickey, Pastoral Coordinator on amhickey@derrydiocese.org, phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894 or call into the Parish Office.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Patsy Nash
James Coyle
May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Mary O'Hagan
Annie Watson
May McGrellis
Denis Heaney
Mary Columba McCool
Eddie Higgins
Harry O'Connor
William Lafferty
May they rest in peace

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate
Shauna Maguire & Matthew Thomas
who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral
May God bless you abundantly in love, joy and happiness

Readers 3rd/4th May

06.15 pm Helen Sweeney
07.30 pm Stephen Orr
09.30 am Cara Elliott/Gerry O'Donnell
11.00 am McGinley Readers
12.30 pm Jackie Tyre
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Collection

Last week's collection: £ 7,863
Parish Development: £ 1,465

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £10, £100
Trócaire: £40, £150, £200, £100
Mary's Meals: £100, £50, £500
Smile Train: £100, £50, £290
Sight Savers: £100
Homeless: £100
SVdP: £100
Altar Flowers: £50, £100, £60, £40
Gaza Appeal: £50, £20
Radio Maria: £100

Sick Visitation

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

Monday (after 3pm): Lisfannon Park, William Street, Creggan Street, Fahan Street, Cable Street, Lower Road, Abbey House, Little Diamond
Tuesday (pm): Mulvey Park, Laburnum Terrace, Elmwood Terrace, Gartan Square, Clarendon Manor, Grangemore, Northland Road

St Eugene's Cathedral Scholars: Applications are now open for the 2025-2026 Choral Scholars Scheme. The scheme is open to all full-time students over the age of 16. The choral scholars sing with the cathedral choir weekly as well as other special events as instructed by the director of music. They will receive instruction in a wide range of choral music, and they receive a stipend for their participation. Entrance is by application only. For an application form contact the director of music at maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com. Deadline for applications is 12th May 2025.

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. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on **Sunday 15th June**. Further details will be available in the coming weeks.

First Saturday Rosary will be held on Saturday 3rd May at 12 noon in Market Square, Letterkenny. All are welcome.

Mary's Meals – Pray in May. Mary's Meals is built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love offered by those who believe in our mission. During the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in praying for the 2.6 million children in 16 of the world's poorest countries who receive our nutritious school meals daily and for all the children and families around the world living in poverty. For free prayer calendars and resources for individuals, families, schools, prayer groups or to sign up to our fortnightly prayer email for May, visit www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay.

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 4 nights from 14th July to 18th July. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £700 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org 00 44 2871264087.

Masters in Catholic School Leadership - The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. If you are interested in registering for the Masters in September 2025 or require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.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.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty