

A short reflection on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Paul (formerly known as Saul) was a tent maker and a devout Jew. He believed it was his duty to exterminate anyone who appeared to threaten his Jewish faith. He did this until the day he heard the voice of God say to him “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” That day God’s grace entered his heart and changed him totally. He became perhaps the greatest of all evangelists.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples “Who do **you** say that I am?” Peter spoke up and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This faith filled response was not Peter’s own opinion or human thinking, but a pure gift from God, and the foundation of our Christian faith. Peter was the first, even among the apostles, to make this declaration. Jesus responded by making him “the rock” – the visible head of the Church on earth.

Both Peter and Paul suffered great persecutions and ultimately gave their lives for their faith. It was grace that enabled them to carry out their God-given missions with joy and fervour.

We pray today that we too may work diligently to spread the Gospel in word and deed.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: As we celebrate the Apostles Peter and Paul we pray for our seminarians and all those discerning a vocation to the priesthood, that they will “...fight the good fight... run the race to the finish...(and) keep the faith.”

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene’s Cathedral on Monday, 7th July at 7.30 pm. 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.

The Perfect Plan

Jesus, I love you. Thank you for the perfect plan you have for me and every person. Help those who cannot see your perfect plan for them because of their addiction to drugs. Free them from this dangerous imprisonment to live life to the full. Help them to realise that all wisdom comes from you and the strongest and wisest person is the one who knows how much they need you.

Bless with faith and courage parents, family and friends of anyone addicted to drugs. Let them know the loving presence of your mother, Mary, in their time of torment.

Reveal your perfect plan more clearly every day for each one of us. Thank you for the trust you place in me. Help me to trust you more and more. Amen.

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Rosalie Lee (formerly of Rossville Street) who died on 11th June in Virginia, USA. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

*Mary Abel
Eugene O'Donnell
Hugh Gallagher
Frank Nugent
Tony Carlin
Lily McCaul
Seamus McCaul
Bridget Bonner
Jimmy Carlin*

May they rest in peace

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Mary's Meals: £30
Smile Train: £30, £100
Hungry Children: £30, £5
Sight Savers: £30
Cathedral Funds: £5,000, £5, £150, £30, £100
Trócaire: £100
Flowers for the Altar: £40

Readers for 5th/6th July

06.15 pm Claire O’Kane
07.30 pm Helen Sweeney
09.30 am Michael McCaul
11.00 am Geraldine O Meallain
12.30 pm Jackie Tyre
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God’s family:

*Jonah Conor O’Neill
Mia Lynch*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

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

*Ursula Simpson & Ryan Ivors
Dana DiRenzo & David Curran*

We thank people from the following countries for joining us on the webcam last week - United States, Germany, Australia, Netherlands, Spain, British Virgin Islands, Norway, Malta, Isle of Man, England, Scotland, Wales, Greece, Canada, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Turkey, Lithuania, Iran, Hong Kong and the Philippines and all others too.

Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2025: starts on Friday 25th July and concludes on Sunday 27th July. For those wishing to avail of transport, a bus will depart after 10:00am

Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on the Friday; it will travel via Lifford and Ballybofey. Cost: £95/€110 (including transport). Pre-booking is required. Please contact Tony Brennan on tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocesan Office on 0044 28 7126 2302 for a booking form.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty – will take place on **Tuesday 1 July 2025.** Starting with the Rosary at 6.45pm. Celebration of Holy Mass at 7.15

pm. The priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St Pio, while closing prayers are recited.

Accord Derry Marriage Preparation Workshops – the following dates are now available: September 26th/27th, October 17th/18th, November 7th/8th. Book online at www.accordni.com. Please note that these courses are in person and not virtual.

Job Opportunity – Derry Diocesan Trust:

Diocesan Youth Coordinator - 1 Year Fixed Term Contract (with possible extension) - 35 hours per week. Job Role The main focus of the post will be working with young people, schools and parishes to help them develop their knowledge and understanding of youth ministry in the context of the Catholic Church. For application packs, Tel 028 7126 2302 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 12 noon Monday 7th July 2025.

Administrative & Financial Officer, Parish of Ballinascreen, Co Derry. Permanent post, 28 hours per week (working pattern to be agreed with Parish Priest). Reporting to the Parish Priest, the role entails provision of administrative and financial support. For application packs, Tel 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 12noon on Monday 14 July 2025.

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

Derry Search Youth Group - 40 Years of Faith, Friendship & Fellowship! Join us as we celebrate Derry Search Youth Group's 40th Anniversary with a night of praise and worship on Sunday 6 July at 7.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Creggan.

RNID in Partnership with the Dept of Health are holding a free walk in Support Service to help with hearing aids, including basic repairs and maintenance of NHS hearing aids/ Information on hearing loss and tinnitus/ How to do a hearing check How to access support and services in your area: Great James' Street Health Centre, second Wednesday of every month: 9th July, 13th August, 10th September, 8th October, 12th November, 10th December from 11am to 12.30pm.

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 Shaun Doherty