

A short reflection on today's Gospel Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Once again through Scripture we can bear witness to Jesus as a powerful teacher and an exemplar of a life being lived out with uncompromising truth and fidelity to the will of his heavenly Father. In today's Gospel John tells Jesus that he has tried to stop people from performing miracles in Jesus' name because they were not, as John puts it, 'one of us'! Jesus' response to his disciple teaches us the dangers of harbouring notions of exclusivity, of separating ourselves from others on the grounds that they don't merit somehow to be included in our 'inner circle'. Jesus once again insists that it is what lies in the heart which is important, not whether one is 'in' or 'out'..

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us to be aware of the things we harbour in our lives which cause us to sin; sins we must remove if we are to enter into eternal life. Again he uses the image of the child as a symbol of innocence and trusting faith, and he warns anyone who would seek to destroy that innocence and faith that it would be better for that person 'to be thrown into the sea with a great millstone around his neck'.

Jesus, may we seek to be transformed in our lives by your word and your actions. May we strive to remove from our lives all that causes us to sin so that we can enter into the eternal life promised to all who walk with you.

Jesus, may we turn our backs, as you did, on notions of elitism and exclusivity, as well as on narcissism and coldness of heart. May we reach out always to those in need of our support, understanding and love, and may we do this in your name. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – As the Liturgy of the Word for this Sunday's Mass challenges us all to be "prophets" and to work for the Lord, no matter what we do, we pray for those called to serve the Lord and the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry - our five current seminarians, those who hope to begin seminary studies in January, and all those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

Visit of the Relics of St Bernadette to the Diocese of Derry: The Holy Relics of St Bernadette are currently on pilgrimage from Lourdes to Ireland for the very first time, visiting every diocese in Ireland during September and October. The relics will visit St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, from 2.00pm on Sunday 13th October to Monday 14th October. This very special, once-in-a-lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in their own diocese. Full programme of times of viewing can be found at derrydiocese.org

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Novena commences after 7.30pm Mass on Thursday 3rd October in Saint Eugene's Cathedral and will continue for the following eight Thursdays finishing on 28th November. Do you have some "knots" in your life? Knots of discord in your family, the knots of deep hurts in relationships, the absence of peace and joy in the home. Sometimes our lives may seem one big knot due to circumstances beyond our control when we face health problems. This Novena reminds us that sin never entangled Our Lady; that Christ gave His Mother to be our Mother, the Untier of Knots. We pray and entrust our specific "knots" to Her loving hands, learning how to let go of that which binds us.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Margaret Capone
Brian Gillespie
Jean (Jinny) McKinney
Joseph Doherty

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Danny Hegarty
Jim Callan
William Cullen
Mary O'Kane
Frank Lynch

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Albert Clarke
Nina Pauline Watt

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Collection

Last week's collection: £4,992

Parish Development: £1,057

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Foreign Missions: £5
Altar Flowers: £20, £100
Smile Train: £25, £10, £100
SVdP: £100
Mary's Meals: £100
Sight Savers: £10
Gaza: £20

Readers 5th / 6th October

06.15 pm Mary Morrison
07.30pm Caitlin Horner McLaughlin
09.30 am Rosemary Finan
11.00 am Rosemount PS
12.30 pm Kevin Finan
07.00 pm Anna Begley

Visit of the Relics of St. Bernadette - We need volunteers to help us steward for the Visit of the Relics of St. Bernadette on Sunday 13th October and Monday 14th October. If you can spare some time, please sign the sheets available at the back of the Cathedral or contact the Parish Office on 028 71262894 or email cathedral@derrydiocese.org

Singers Wanted: St Eugene's Cathedral Choir is looking for male voices (tenor and bass) to sing with the cathedral choir. The choir practise on Wednesday evenings and sing at 12.30pm Mass on Sundays and at other special events during the year. If you are interested, please contact the choir director, Maghnus Monaghan on 00353863728443 or after 12.30pm Mass.

The Cathedral Club meets after the 10.00am Mass on Thursdays, in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group. Refreshments will be served.

Exploring Poetry with Mary Murphy continues Fridays at 11.00am in the Cathedral Hall. You are most welcome to join in person or via the online platform www.steugenescathedral.com/webcamhall.html

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 1st October at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. Starting with the Rosary at 6.45pm, followed by Mass at 7.15pm, and the Novena to St Pio. There will be an opportunity to be blessed with a first-class relic of St Pio after Mass. All are welcome.

Catholic Mothers Ireland Retreat Day: Join us for a day of Spiritual Restoration, Inspiring Talks, Holy Mass, Prayer and Confession on Lough Derg Island, Pettigo, Co. Donegal on Saturday 5th October 2024. This all-day Retreat will run from 10am – 5pm. Email catholicmothers@outlook.ie for more information or to book your place.

There will be no First Saturday Rosary in Letterkenny Market Square on Saturday 5th October. The Rosary Group will be attending the all-Ireland Men's Rosary in Knock on that day.

Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. For further information contact 02890351222 or visit alcoholicsanonymous.ie. All enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence.

Ulster Project Derry/Londonderry - Applications are now open for Ulster Project 2025. Teens who are eligible must be 15years old on or before 1st July 2025, and a written reference from a priest/minister on attendance together with a written reference from form teacher to be included with application form. USA dates are provisionally from 26th June to 18th July. For an application form please email: ulsterprojectderrylondonderry@outlook.com. Cost to be confirmed – deposit of £750 will required in January. Closing date is Sunday 20th October 2024.

Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast - Annual Dedication of Studies Mass takes place in the University's Great Hall next Sunday, 6th October at 8pm and will be presided over by recent alumnus, **Fr Chris Gault OP**. Students, staff, alumni and friends are most welcome to join us as we pray God's blessing on the academic community at Queen's for the year ahead.

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) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.

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in Ordinary Time
29th September 2024*

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty