

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that following him is not always the easy path. He speaks honestly about suffering, sacrifice and the cross, and calls his disciples to take up their own cross and follow him with courage and trust.

These words can challenge us. We naturally want a life free from difficulty, yet Jesus shows us that true love often involves self-giving and putting others before ourselves. Taking up our cross does not mean seeking out suffering, but faithfully responding to the demands of love, forgiveness, service and faithfulness in the circumstances of our daily lives.

Jesus also asks a profound question: What will it profit us to gain the whole world but lose our true selves? In a world that can place great value on success, possessions, comfort and recognition, the Gospel calls us to step back and remember what truly matters. Our relationship with God and the way we love others are worth far more than anything the world can offer.

May we have the courage to follow Christ faithfully, especially when the path is difficult, trusting that the way of the cross ultimately leads to life. And may our everyday acts of love, kindness and service become a quiet witness to the hope we have in him.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: That the men called to priesthood will be filled with courage and hope as they hear Jesus calling them to follow Him by renouncing themselves, taking up their cross every day, and finding life in Him and in the service of His people.

Save the Date: Saint Carlo Acutis Day of Prayer. You are invited to come to St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Sunday 11th October from 2.00pm where we will have Veneration of a First Class Relic of St Carlo Acutis, gifted to the Cathedral by Carlo's mother, Antonia.

The Sacrament of Confession will be available from 2.00pm until Mass at 7.00pm, which will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Router. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Mother Teresa Chapel during the Celebrations. A short film on Carlo's life will be shown in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to this special time.

St Teresa of Calcutta: A Life of Love. On 5th September, the Church celebrates the memorial of St Teresa of Calcutta, a woman whose life was a remarkable witness to Christ's love for the poor, the sick and the forgotten.

Born in Skopje in 1910, Mother Teresa dedicated her life to serving those most in need. Through the Missionaries of Charity, she sought to see Christ in every person she encountered, especially those who were suffering or abandoned. Her simple message was powerful: we are called to do small things with great love.

Her life reminds us that holiness is not always found in extraordinary deeds, but in the faithful, loving actions of everyday life. A kind word, a visit to someone who is lonely, an act of forgiveness, or practical help offered to someone in need can all become expressions of God's love.

As we remember St Teresa this September, may her example encourage us to look around our own communities with compassionate eyes and generous hearts. May we recognise Christ in those we meet and, in whatever small ways we can, bring something of His love and mercy to others.

St Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Maureen McClay

Kay Hamill

Harry Hamill

Fr John Carlin S.J.

Sr Bridget McCourt

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Marian Gill

Sheila Bradley

May Doherty

Helen Nash

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Fíán Daniel Deeney

Ríán Canice Harkin

Róán McConnell

Kai Gillen

To book a Baptism contact the
Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate

Amy Doherty & Caolán McCosker
Caragh McCool & Robert Deane

who celebrated the Sacrament of
Marriage recently in the Cathedral
*May God bless you abundantly in love,
joy and happiness*

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,926

Parish Development: £1,032

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

St Therese £40

Flowers for the Altar: £40

SVdP: £60

Smile Train: £20 £10

Sight Savers: £20 £10 £20

Hungry Children: £5

Mary's Meals £200 £20

Gaza Appeal: £400

Readers for 5th /6th September

6.15pm Garth Tucker

7.30pm Liz McMonagle

9.30am Kay McGinn

11.00am Uju A

12.30pm Ursula Doherty

7.00pm Marian Boyle

Welcome Back! As the summer holidays come to an end, we wish all our children a very happy return to school. We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with fun, friendship and happy memories.

A new school year is a fresh beginning - a chance to learn new things, make new friends and discover the gifts and talents God has given each of us. Whatever the year ahead brings, remember that God is always with you, guiding and encouraging you.

We pray for all our children, families and teachers as they begin this new chapter. May the year ahead be filled with joy, kindness, courage and many opportunities to grow.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group at Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, will take place on Tuesday, 1st September 2026. The evening will begin with the Rosary at 6.45pm, followed by the celebration of Holy Mass at 7.15pm. After Mass, the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St Pio while the closing prayers are recited. Everyone is welcome.

*Vol 54 No 34
Twenty- Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
30th August 2026*

Season of Creation 2026: The Season of Creation takes place from 1st September to 4 October, bringing Christians throughout the world together in prayer, reflection and action for the care of our common home. This year's theme, *Living Water*, invites us to give thanks for the gift of water and renew our care for God's creation.

Blessing of Bikers and Motorcycles will take place on Sunday 13th September in St Aengus' Chapel, Burt, Co Donegal, at 1.30pm. All are welcome to attend the brief service and blessing. Following the blessing all are welcome to join the run to Ned's Point RNLI Station, to present the donation to the RNLI.

Please note, Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 13th September in St Patrick's Church, Dungiven, at 11.30am for deceased bikers, especially those who have died in past year.

Job Opportunity: Derry Diocesan Trust - Granaghan (Swatragh) Parish: Sacristan, hours of work: 12 hours per week. Place of work: St John the Baptist Church. Rate of Pay: £12.88 per hour. For application packs please email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 7126 2302. 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 Tuesday 15 September 2026. Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

Just five minutes from Derry, the IOSAS Centre and Celtic Prayer Garden is a special place of peace, community and connection. Enjoy freshly prepared homemade food in our warm and welcoming surroundings, then take time in our beautiful Celtic Prayer Garden, relax and experience its wonderful peace and serenity.

Come along, meet friends and discover somewhere truly different. Group bookings are very welcome, with ample parking and easy level access for visitors with mobility needs. Find us at F93 F104. For more information contact us at 00353 74 9384866.

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 within the Church please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +447596500793 or email: dlp@derrydiocese.org

Northern Ireland emergency services: PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland): 101 Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust: 028 7131 4090 (and ask for the Duty Social Worker), Gateway Services, Northern HSC Trust: 028 9442 4459, Regional Emergency Social Work Services: 0800 1979 995. Republic of Ireland emergency services: Garda Síochána Buncrana: 00353 749 320 540 Letterkenny: 00353 749 167 100, TUSLA (ROI) Child and Family Agency: 00353 749 102 23

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty