

A short Gospel reflection Matthew 24:37-44

In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to live with a spirit of watchful readiness. He reminds us that just as people in Noah's time carried on with ordinary life unaware of what was coming, we too can become absorbed in daily routines and miss the presence of God moving quietly in our midst.

Jesus is not trying to frighten us, but to awaken us. Our readiness is not about predicting dates or living in anxiety; it is about living each day rooted in faith, charity, and prayer. When our hearts are open, the Lord's coming—whether in moments of grace, in the needs of others, or at the end of our earthly journey—will not catch us off guard.

As Advent begins, this Gospel calls us to spiritual alertness. What distractions keep us from noticing God's presence? Where might Christ be inviting us to grow, to reconcile, or to serve? Let us stay awake, not out of fear, but out of love for the One who comes to save.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent we pray for our seminarians and the men discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, that they will prepare their hearts and minds to welcome the Lord Jesus into their lives.

Holy Hour for Vocations: The December Holy Hour for Vocations has been brought forward to Tuesday 2nd December at 8.00pm at St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Waterside. All are welcome to come and pray for this special intention.

The season of Advent begins this weekend. Take some time out from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas to pray and meditate on the true meaning of Advent.

Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed in the Cathedral each morning at 7.45am, Monday to Friday beginning Monday 1st December.

On the Way Home - In preparation for Christmas, there will be an opportunity for Confession and Adoration each Monday during Advent (1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd) from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Eucharistic Adoration: every Sunday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and every Tuesday from 10.30am until 7.20pm

St Eugene's Cathedral Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00pm on Sunday 21st December. St Eugene's Cathedral Choir will lead the carols. We invite children to bring presents of new unwrapped toys and adults to donate sweets, biscuits, vouchers or cash. St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute the gifts.

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 1st December at 7.30 pm. 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.

St Eugene's Cathedral Christmas Mass Bouquets are available to buy after the weekend Masses and during the week at the Parish Office. Cost £2.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Eunan (George) Fleming

May he rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Manus (Nassie) McCaul

Mary Molly Boyle

Charlie McIntyre

Alex (Lexie) Ross

Brian Harkin

Patrick McGeehan

Harry Kelly

Lorraine Moran

Mary McNulty

Bridget McAnaney

Bobby McAnaney

Chris Francis

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as a member of God's family:

Phoebe Danni Healey

Sophia Diane Legg

Evie Johnstone-Boyd

Collection

Weekly Collection: £5,017

Parish Development: £1,037

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Trócaire: £100

SVdP: £10, £100

Hungry Children: £5, £10

Mary's Meals: £20, £20

Cathedral Funds: £50, £100

Alzheimer's Society: £50

Readers for 6th /7th December

06.15 pm	Roisin Rice-Cutter
07.30 pm	Liz McMonagle
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	McGinley Readers
12.30 pm	Eva Marie Mallon/ Caragh McSheffrey
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Celebrate Christmas Together - St. Columb's Cathedral & St. Eugene's Cathedral - This Christmas, our two Cathedrals come together in friendship, unity, and hope. You are warmly invited to join us in St. Columb's Cathedral on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm as we celebrate this holy Season with shared joy, prayer, music and community. All are welcome.

St Eugene's Conference of St Vincent de Paul will take up their annual collection at all Masses next weekend (6th and 7th December). During the past year the total dispensed by St Eugene's Conference was £41,906, covering food vouchers, beds, white goods and heating. Your generosity throughout the year and to the Christmas Collection is very much appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's conference) acknowledges with gratitude a donation of £500.

St Eugene's Primary School are holding their Annual Rickety Wheel in the Cathedral Hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 4th December 2025. Great prizes to be won and everyone is welcome!

St Eugene's Cathedral – Monthly Draw Winners

1st Prize	£1,000	Ticket no 153	Fr Michael McCaughey
2nd Prize	£500	Ticket no 135	Carolyn McGeehan
3rd Prize	£100	Ticket no 66	Catherine Brown
	£100	Ticket no 144	Martin Dunleavy
	£100	Ticket no 112	Ann McDaid
	£100	Ticket no 160	Louise McGee
	£100	Ticket no 96	Aileen McDevitt

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Congratulations to the winners of the seventh draw held on Saturday 22nd November! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who continues to support our parish — your generosity is greatly appreciated. The next draw will be held on Saturday 27th December 7.30pm Mass, best of luck to everyone!

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty

Advent Pastoral Letter from Bishop McKeown - This weekend Bishop Donal McKeown shares his Advent Pastoral Letter, *Moving Forward Together in Changing Times*, inviting all of us to a renewed focus on prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, and working together in mission. Copies of the letter are available at the back of the Cathedral and from the parish office. The letter is also available to read online at www.derrydiocese.org/pastoral-letter

If you have family away from home this Christmas and would like them to receive a Christmas card from the parish, please write their names and full postal address on a card available at the back of the Cathedral and return to the Parish Office before 3rd December.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. Cost £895 inclusive of local taxes but exclusive of single supplements and insurance. The Pilgrimage office will open for bookings on Saturday 17th January 2026 at 11.00am. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available (Monday to Thursday) from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, will take place on Tuesday 2nd December at the Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty. After the 7.15pm mass and the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St. Pio. All are welcome.

First Saturday Rosary will be held on Saturday the 6th December at 1.00pm in Market Square, Letterkenny. All are welcome.

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 749 102 233