

A short reflection on today's Gospel John 3:16-18

In today's Gospel we hear words that are at the very heart of our Christian faith: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." These verses remind us that salvation begins not with human effort, but with God's immense and faithful love. The Father sends His Son into the world not to condemn humanity, but to rescue and restore it through mercy and grace.

Jesus reveals a God who does not turn away from us in our weakness or sin. Instead, He comes close to us, offering forgiveness, healing, and the promise of eternal life. Belief in Christ is more than simply accepting truths about Him; it means entrusting our lives to Him and allowing His light to guide our choices each day.

The Gospel also challenges us to reflect on how we respond to that love. Do we live as people who truly believe we are loved by God? Do our words and actions reflect the compassion and mercy of Christ to others? In a world often marked by fear, division, and judgement, Christians are called to be witnesses of hope, charity, and reconciliation.

As we continue our journey of faith, may we open our hearts more fully to the love God freely offers us. May that love renew our parish community and inspire us to bring Christ's light to those who are searching for comfort, peace, and hope.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood: We pray for the men who will be charged with the task of preaching, by word and by the example of their lives, the message of John 3:16 - that "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life."

The Matt Talbot Mass will be celebrated in here St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday, 1st June 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. Mass will also be offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 7.30pm. 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 3 Day Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo 6th – 8th September 2026. Cost £300 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.

Ministers and priests from the city's Christian churches will gather on Sunday 7th June this year, to honour our city's patron saint. The interdenominational service begins at 4.15pm in St Augustine's Church of Ireland, on the Walls. The main address will be delivered by the Catholic Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown. We invite you to join us as members of a 'Columban family' celebrating our ancient Christian heritage in this shared city. The event is scheduled ahead of the June 9th Feast Day of St Columba - Cholm Cille.

Diocese of Derry Lough Derg Pilgrimage 2026: The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg will take place from Friday 24th July to Sunday 26th July 2026. Cost: £95 / €110 including bus transport. You are welcome, of course, to use your own means of transport. Booking form and full details available at: derrydiocese/lough-derg

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Muriel Horner
Bridie McCarthy
Eileen White
Sally Cullen
George Duddy*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

*Kerry Crocker
Tommy Strawbridge
Jenny Mullan
James (Jimmy) McGlinchey
Sophia (Fia) Friel
Annie Gallacher
Jean Hamill
Robert Carlin*

May they rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Anne Chimzaram Aninwobodo
Mateo Isaiah Serna
Cyril Przemyslaw Porebny*

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,672
Parish Development: £1,121

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Mary's Meals: £20, £30
Smile Train: £40, £30
Sight Savers: £40
Gaza Appeal: £20

Readers for 6th / 7th June

06.15 pm	Mary Morrison
07.30 pm	Garth Tucker
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	St Eugene's PS
12.30 pm	Megan Dallat
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore You, praise You, and glorify You. Help me to grow in love and unity, guide my heart in Your wisdom, and fill me with Your grace. May I remain rooted in Your divine harmony, now and forever.
Amen

St Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) acknowledges with gratitude a donation of £300.

Saint Columba's Day 2026: This year's St Columba Celebrations at Long Tower have a special significance - we're celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Long Tower in 1946. Events include:

Monday 8th June: All-Night Vigil of Adoration: 8pm - 6.30am

Tuesday 9th June – Feast of St Columba: 7.00am Mass at Hawthorn Tree

10.00am Mass for Schools and Families

6.30pm Vespers at the base of the Medieval-era monastic Bell Tower, Lumen Christi College

7.00pm Rosary in Irish for World Peace at Calvary.

7.30pm Mass of St Columba to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Consecration of Long Tower church celebrated by Fr John Joe Duffy, PP Creeslough followed by procession to St Columba's Well and Parish Party in Lower School Hall.

Annual Service of Intercession for the Dead takes place in the City Cemetery on Sunday, 7th June at 3.00 pm. Please be in position at 2.30 pm. Families are asked to bring their own holy water to the Cemetery for the blessing of the graves. At the appropriate time Bishop McKeown will ask a representative of each family to sprinkle their family grave (and neighbouring grave if there is no-one present). There will be no holy water in the Cemetery. 150 car parking spaces will be made available for Blue Badge holders within the Cemetery. The places will be allocated on a first come first served basis to current Blue Badge holders and can be booked at www.derrystrabane.com/cemeterysunday.

There will be no vehicle access to the cemetery until 1pm to facilitate preparations for the service. Access will only be given to those who have registered with gates remaining open until 2pm. **Those who have secured a space must be in place by 2pm, as there will be no access for vehicles after this time.**

Other car parking will be available for blue badge holders at St Mary's Church, Creggan, St Cecilia's College and Celtic Park. Booking is not required, and access will only be given to vehicles that display a current Disability Blue Badge Permit on arrival.

For visitors parking outside the cemetery, we ask that you please park in appropriate areas and be considerate of people living in the area. Do not block roadways, footpaths, or gateways when parking. This is an important time of prayer for families who are remembering loved ones, and we ask that everyone is respectful and mindful of other visitors during the service. We encourage those attending to arrive in good time, and to adhere to the advice of the stewards. We would greatly appreciate cooperation with staff to ensure everyone can have safe and easy access to this time of prayer.

The Service will also be live streamed and available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvtk3PsOheU>

The Padre Pio Prayer Group at Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, will take place on Tuesday, 2nd June 2026. The evening will begin with the Rosary at 6.45pm, followed by the celebration of Holy Mass at 7.15pm. Afterwards, the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St Pio while the closing prayers are recited. Everyone is warmly welcome.

There will no Men's Rosary on Saturday the 6th June as the All-Ireland Rosary Rally is taking place in Knock on the same day.

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

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty