



**DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE**

**Assembly
Monday 15th March
with Fr Paul Farren**

Welcome: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen**

Opening Hymn:

Opening Prayer: Loving God, as we begin week 4 of Lent, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus and the promise of eternal life bestowed on all by His death. We pray that we will always live in the light and avoid the darkness of sin where your presence is absent. We place before you, this day, all the things that distract us from you and acknowledge that we are sinners. As we express our sorrow, we pray that our efforts will be pleasing to you. We make this prayer, though your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading: A Reading from the Gospel of John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, 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.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the World men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.

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Reflection: Therese Ferry

Intercessions: Lord, as we enter the 4th week of Lent, help us to draw near to you in humility and sorrow. We ask you, to hear and answer the prayers we make today.

Lord, may we strive to live in the Light by following your command, to love and care for those we meet daily.

Lord, may we strive to live in the Light by following your command, to be a disciple and bring the faith to those who do not yet know you.

Lord, may we strive to live in the Light by following your command, to reach out to those who are isolated, alone, marginalised.

Lord, may we strive to live in the Light by following your command, to act fairly and justly in every action we carry out.

We take a moment to call to mind anyone or anything we wish to pray for.

United as the children of God, we bring all our prayers together in the words Jesus, our first teacher, taught us. **Our Father.....**

Closing Prayer: Lord, we know that we are not always good disciples. We do not always follow your commands. We often prefer to please ourselves. Be with us, we ask, on this our Lenten journey and help us to remember that your own spirit can guide us in the right direction. We want to do better. At times this seems overwhelming, but with your help we know, anything is possible. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: