



Archdiocese of Dublin
Education Secretariat

Post Primary Diocesan Advisers R.E. News Blog - April 2022

Dear Chaplain and R.E. Teachers,

TS Eliot, in his great poem "The Wasteland", describes April as "the cruellest month", "stirring dull roots with Spring rain." Eliot saw April as a time when one can dare to hope, and yet like many of us, he feared the disappointment of a hope that deceives because it is never realised.

The disciples of Jesus experienced that same desolation. "We had hoped..." they say, only to find those hopes dashed to pieces on Calvary. For the disciples the journey from hopelessness and desolation to a more profound hope and resurrection took place over a matter of days although it must have felt like an entire lifetime. This is our journey too, one that we are invited to make once again this April as we mark Holy Week and Easter. It is the journey of the people of Ukraine. They too are experiencing the struggle between light and darkness, good and evil, despair and hope that keeps on hoping.

One of their great Ukrainian poets, Lesia Oukrainka (1871- 1931) speaks of the struggle and spirit of these remarkable people:

No, through my tears, I keep my smile,
And I sing amid misfortunes.
Beyond all hope, I nonetheless want to hope,
I want to live away with you, thoughts overwhelming me!

On the steep slope of the mountain,
As one carries the cross, I will carry my stone,
And climbing with the heavy burden,
I will nonetheless sing a song of joy.

Yes, through my tears, I keep my smile,
And I sing amid misfortunes,
Beyond all hope, I nonetheless want to hope,
I want to live: farewell, thoughts that overwhelmed me.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, let us remember all the women, men and children who are suffering. Let us be bearers of the light of Christian Hope. May our world and our hearts be blessed with peace and the joy of the Risen Lord.

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April Calendar

April 2, World Autism Day

World Autism Awareness day is one of the United Nations seven official health awareness days. Since 2007, World Autism Awareness Day has been marked on 2 April, during which we celebrate the achievements, accomplishments and unique talents of people with Autism. This year marks the 15th annual World Autism Awareness Day. The focus of this day is to increase understanding and acceptance of people with Autism. The theme which the United Nations has chosen for this year is “Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post Pandemic World.”

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/world-autism-awareness-day>

April 7, Feast of St John Baptist De La Salle



John Baptist de La Salle is the Patron Saint of teachers. Born in 1651 into a wealthy aristocratic family in Rheims in France, he promised a dying friend to help a group of sisters in their work of educating orphans. John Baptist de la Salle, founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools was an educational reformer and one of the greatest pioneers of education for all. He sought to nurture the inherent dignity and wellbeing of every person and so create a better society.

John Baptist de la Salle was canonised on May 24, 1900 and on May 15, 1950. Pope Pius X II announced that he was to be known in the future as the “Special Patron of all Christian Educators.”

THE FIVE CORE LASALLIAN PRINCIPLES

- Faith in the Presence of God. The Lasallian School nurtures belief in the living presence of God in our world. ...
- Concern for the Poor and Social Justice. ...
- Respect for All Persons. ...
- Quality Education. ...
- Inclusive Community.

Sayings of St. John Baptist De La Salle

"This work of teaching is one of the most important in the Church"

"To touch the hearts of your students is the greatest miracle you can perform"

"Remembering that God is with you will help and inspire you in all that you do"

"100 Short quotes of St. John Baptist De La Salle – Brother Nick Hutchinson"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7smCSl8Xygg> Who is St. John Baptist De La Salle?

Holy Week, 10 - 16 April



Our blog this month offers some simple thoughts which we hope might help you or help your students as we face the challenges of living Holy Week and Easter and to opening ourselves to receive the particular graces God wants to give to us.

Holy means "set apart". As Christians, we set apart an entire week - Holy Week - to recall the events surrounding the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. This is the most important week of the Church's year. How can we participate in it?

The liturgy leads us on a journey of suffering, joy and celebration. It is often difficult to talk to our students about how to mark the days of Holy Week and daunting to mark them ourselves.

Where to begin we ask?

Where better than at the beginning with the first prayer we learned from our parents

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

In Baptism each one of us takes on the name of Jesus, and we are called to live every moment of every day "In the name of The Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

This means living up to a name that stands for compassion, mercy, selfless love, forgiveness and so many other virtues that Jesus modelled for us during His earthly ministry. During this Holy Week, may we commit ourselves to living "in the name of the Lord."

Very often the words "In the name of the Father" are followed by "Let us Pray" this call to prayer echoed in every major religion of the world is a communal one. Praying together is so

much more powerful than praying alone. We remember the words of Jesus “where two or three of you are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of you” Just being consciously part of a flow of prayer is a powerful way of opening to God.

Ruth Burrows, a Carmelite nun and Mystic, writes powerfully of the nature of prayer through her numerous books. She writes “Almost always when we talk about prayer we are thinking of something we do” and she says that from that standpoint, questions, problems discouragement, illusions, multiply. She believes that it is of fundamental importance to correct this view. The Church assures us that prayer is essentially what God does, how God addresses us, looks at us. It is not primarily something we are doing to God, something we are giving to God but what God is doing for us. And what He is doing is giving the divine Self in love. The essential thing we have to do is *believe* in the enfolding, nurturing, transforming Love of God which is the Reality, that is absolutely always there whether we avert to It or not. Prayer from our side, is a deliberate decision to avert to it, to respond to It, in the fullest way we can. To do this we must set aside time to devote exclusively to the Yes of faith.” Holy Week, a time set apart by the Church, is the ideal time to do this.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Pope-s-Lent-2022-message>
Holy Week Prayers - CAFOD

April 10, Palm Sunday



By Palm Sunday, Jesus knew that he had only a few days left and that he had much to accomplish before he died. The disciples were sent ahead to make preparations for his entry into Jerusalem.

“Open the gates” the psalmist tells us”Let the King of Glory enter.” On Palm Sunday, we recall how Jesus was welcomed joyfully into Jerusalem. Jesus’ friends thought that he was going to be triumphant once they reached Jerusalem. Jesus knew that the people of Jerusalem who had welcomed him were about to reject him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X10EbPPNgkI>

Hosanna Hosanna - Palm Sunday Song

Christ, the Light of the World (John 8:12)

Today we are asked to open our hearts “behold I stand at the door and knock (Revelation 3:20) “ if anyone hears my voice I will come in and eat with him and he with me.”



This famous painting by the Victorian artist Holman Hunt depicts Jesus, The Light of The World knocking on the door of our lives. It is a painting rich in symbolism. Jesus carries a lamp, He is the Light of the World, the only one able to banish the darkness that threatens to engulf us.

We see that there is no handle on the outside of the door. This door can only be opened from within. The iron-work is rusted, for it is a long time since the door has been opened. The door to our hearts has to be opened from within, through repentance and faith. The door is overgrown with dead weeds and trailing ivy that would not be there if the door had been kept open. All the plants have been overtaken by brambles, because this a place to which the gardener has not come.

We see too that that Jesus's feet are pointing outwards as if is preparing to go.....the implication seems to be that He has been standing there a long time and the need to invite Him in is urgent. It is important to do so before it is too late.

A careful study of the lantern will reveal little holes at the top. These are six pointed stars and crescent moons which are symbols of Judaism and Islam. The artist is depicting our Christian belief that Jesus comes for all people and His invitation is to every person.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_MmTsJ1bj8

Light of the World – Biblelex Verses

April 14, Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday marks the start of the most solemn moment in the liturgical year. It is a time to reflect on God's plan for salvation. God gave his Son so that we might live. Jesus embraced our humanity and died for each one of us.



Through His actions primarily, but also through His words, Jesus demonstrates God's humble love. The washing of the disciples' feet in St. John's Gospel is a prime example of such a demonstration by actions and then in words. This symbolic image of washing feet refers to the ministry that flows out of love. (Jesus washes his disciples' feet. John 13:1-15).

Jesus asks his disciples—and through them, us—to take care of others as he has taken care of them, and us. Their love for Jesus will naturally spill over into wanting to be like him in caring for others.

Excerpted from: [An Invitation to Love: A Personal Retreat on the Great Commandment](#) by William A. Barry, SJ

April 15, Good Friday



We gather on this day as Christians united in prayer. In the midst of our busy lives, we pause to pray as we reflect on the suffering of Christ.

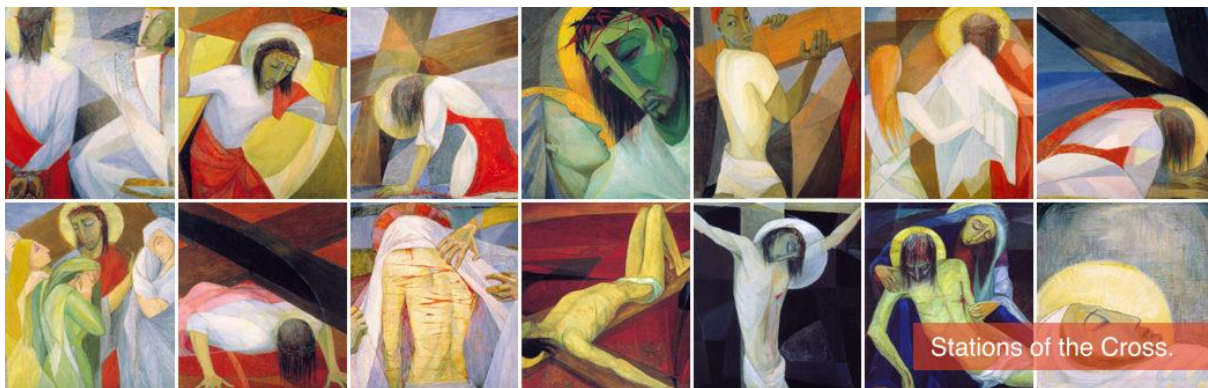
As we accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary, let us take a moment to remember how difficult that journey was. He carried his cross through the narrow crowded streets of

Jerusalem. It was Passover time and so the city was full of people, many of whom mocked, jostled and took pleasure in watching as Jesus struggled with his heavy burden. The way was often steep. The journey that Jesus made on that day remains a symbol of Christianity in the world, as it struggles with its own crosses and failures, and the challenges of modern life.

The streets of our cities and towns are filled with people who carry their personal crosses, who are bruised, battered and broken. Through the Stations of the Cross, Jesus is inviting us to accompany with him and to reflect on his suffering as it continues in the lives of his people. In solidarity with all who suffer, let us pray that we will be open to whatever he wants us to see, hear and understand.

Stations of the Cross

Reflecting and praying with the Stations of the Cross is a way to enter into the reality of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.



“Let us gaze upon Jesus on the cross and say to him: ‘Lord, how much you love me! How precious I am to you!’ Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again, for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and asserting oneself, but in realizing that we are loved.” Pope Francis

First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Die

Jesus is condemned unjustly by those who did not understand him and by those who were frightened of what he did and said.

Do I have the courage to speak up for someone who is treated unfairly?

We continue to condemn people unjustly today. People are condemned because of the colour of their skin, their gender, their beliefs, because they are born with a disability and because they don't conform to our way of thinking.

We pray for a change of heart that we may see with new eyes those we might otherwise condemn.

Second Station: Jesus Carries His Cross

Jesus was led away carrying the cross by himself.

What do I do when someone is wrongly blamed for something he or she didn't do?

We all carry burdens, some are very obvious and others we take great care to hide. There are the burdens of illness, loneliness, misunderstanding, and of being isolated or bullied.

May we experience your presence Lord in all the burdens we carry.

Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

Jesus falls beneath the weight of the cross.

Where have I fallen along the way?

Jesus shows us that being strong does not mean staying on one's feet at all costs. Being strong means getting up again after falling.

Give us a compassionate heart to support those who find their cross too heavy to bear.

Fourth Station: Jesus Meets his Mother

When Jesus and his mother meet they just look at each other – words cannot express how they feel. The violence inflicted upon Jesus is etched into the very heart of his mother, as she watches the agony of her son.

How do I relate with others particularly with my family and friends?

We see Mary's pain in the mothers and fathers of Ukraine and in the faces of parents everywhere who must watch helplessly as their children suffer.

Give them strength Lord, give them courage, give them hope.

Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus

Simon the Cyrene, a stranger in the city, did not know Jesus. But that did not matter. What matters here is that in this moment of need Simon was capable of lending his shoulders to help Jesus. Simon offered his strength in taking on himself the cross which Jesus could no longer carry.

How do I respond to people in need? How can we support each other as we carry our crosses?

There are opportunities each day to be a Simon in our world.

May we have the spirit of Simon in our dealings with others each day. May we be generous in supporting agencies such as Trócaire and all who work to alleviate suffering.

Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Veronica was so moved by the sight of Jesus suffering that she courageously moved out from the crowd to wipe the blood and sweat from his face with a towel.

Who has shown me compassion? Can I recall a moment when I acted with compassion towards someone?

Veronica willingly put herself forward as she saw the suffering of Jesus.

Help me to respond to the needs of others and be a visible sign of God's love and compassion.

Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time and Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Jesus fell again under the weight of the cross.

What crosses do I find difficult to carry?

The soldiers forced him to get up.

What do I say or do when I know someone is doing something wrong?

Jesus, from deep within himself found the courage and strength to get up once again and continue the journey.

We ask for the gifts of strength and courage to keep going even when hope is dim.

Eight Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

The women of Jerusalem wept when they saw how Jesus suffered. Jesus recognised their distress, he broke his silence for the first time, spoke to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children'.

Who do we weep for today?

We weep for the victims of war in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Ethiopia. We weep too for people who starve in the shadow of abundance and for people who are homeless, in exile or seeking refuge.

We weep for the old who are forgotten. We weep for the young who cannot find a job or their way in life. We weep for the children who are neglected or abused.

Lord, open our hearts to the suffering of all people. Give us the generosity of spirit to help us recognise their pain, the courage to challenge the systems that place intolerable burdens on them and the compassion to support them.

Ninth Station: Jesus Falls for a Third Time

Jesus falls for a third time, broken and exhausted physically and emotionally.

What causes us to struggle in our lives? What does Jesus mean when he says we must take up our cross and follow Him?

The third fall of Jesus reminds us that even in our moment of complete helplessness, in our own struggle, we can stand up again. Jesus is with us and Jesus is our strength.

Lord, we pray that when our strength fails, when our hope fades and when our spirit grows weary that we will put our trust in you.

Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Clothing

We look at Jesus and the indignity inflicted upon him by society.

When have you been stripped of your dignity? How have I taken away the good name of another?

Jesus continues to be stripped of his dignity in those who have their good name taken from them and the intimate details of their lives exposed through the media.

We ask forgiveness for being people of gossip under the name of 'news' either in person or through social media. May we respect the dignity of others and leave judgement to God.

Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to The Cross

Jesus stretches out His hand to be pierced by heavy nails....

Who has been with you in time of great need? Have you ever felt abandoned?

The hand that has wiped blindness from the eyes; the hand that opened the seal of deafness, the hand that touched a heart and cured a leper, the hand that blessed children and those with a disability is nailed to a cross.

Jesus, we pray for all victims of violence; those who suffer it and those who inflict it. We pray especially for children, for the elderly and those too vulnerable to defend themselves.

Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on The Cross

As the life of Jesus ebbs away, his words are not of condemnation or of pity for himself, but of forgiveness; 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do'.

What deaths have you encountered in your life? Do I really forgive others who have hurt me?

In the midst of his anguish and suffering, Jesus calls upon his Father to forgive those who are putting him to death. This is the real challenge of the cross, forgiveness even of those who hurt us most.

We can take some time to be quiet before the cross and make our own response to God's love who gave himself for us by dying on the cross.

Jesus, you have said that true love is laying down your life for your friends. Teach me to live my life in unselfish ways.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Mary's grief is our grief too. As Mary cradles the lifeless body of her son and offers him back to the Father, she stands with all parents who have held their children close to them in death.

How do we comfort one another in time of need? What do I do to reach out to others in times of great sadness?

Jesus leaves behind a grieving mother and his disciples.

Jesus, help me to comfort my friends, members of my family and those whose lives I share when they are in need of support.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in The Tomb

There are times when we are overcome by the darkness of the tomb. Jesus promised he would be with us always; “and know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.” Matthew 28:20

How I can live a good life? Do I give up anything to help those in need?

Joseph of Arimathea carried the body of Jesus to the grave. Mary, who had gone to the tomb with Joseph, left her son there, believing that she would never see him again.

Jesus, help us always to choose life. We pray for all those we have known who have died, and for those who have no one to pray for them. We ask for the gift of faith when we are faced with the darkness of the tomb. May we have eyes to see the promise of new life that the darkness can hold.

Fifteenth Station: Jesus is Raised from The Dead.

The joy of the Resurrection is something we must be open to experience. We must learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

What is the good news? How can I become a follower of Jesus?

In striving to be a follower of Jesus;

SEE - become aware of others and become aware of poverty and oppression.

CONSIDER - look at the particular situation, as Jesus would.

ACT - respond by doing something.

Lord, give us eyes to see that a new creation is begun and a new earth and a new heaven are proclaimed and a new beginning for humanity is announced in your Son's Resurrection. May this new beginning come to life in me and in each one of us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeDkqlaTEdU> Stations of the Cross

<https://phillymissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/TeenStationsoftheCrossEnglish-PHL-2016.pdf>

<https://young-catholics.com/4210/what-is-my-cross-reflection-and-small-group-discussion-questions/>

April 16, Holy Saturday



On Holy Saturday, we gather in a darkened Church for the Easter Vigil. The Easter fire is lit and from this the paschal candle reminding us that Jesus, Our Light has risen from the dead. Each person is given a candle lit from the paschal flame, the same light that was given us in Baptism and which will accompany us as we pass from this world to the next. The paschal candle, central to the Easter Vigil, reminds us that as disciples we must become windows of Christ's light for our darkened world. It is for this reason that the light of the candle, the flame of faith, the fire of the Holy Spirit, is symbolically passed to all the Faithful at the Easter Vigil and to new Christians at every baptism.

April 17, Easter Sunday



WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE – ALLELUIA IS OUR SONG

"The stone is rolled from the tomb
Death that we once knew
Is gone forever"

Prayer for Easter, The Hope Prayer, Words to Nourish the Soul, Liam Lawton

Where does resurrection begin? It begins with the empty tomb, with the women who come and go again, puzzled, perplexed, in wonder at the angel's message. It continues with the men who race eagerly to the tomb to see for themselves. Jesus is not dead. He offers peace to the fearful disciples in the upper room and breaks the bread at the table in Emmaus.

All our crosses, all our pain, all our sins, are healed, forgiven and transformed. Christ is risen! Although his risen body bears the marks of his suffering, his pain is gone. Mourning turns into dancing, grief turns into joy, despair turns to hope and fear turns to love. A voice rings out, 'He is not here, He goes before you, He is risen, He is risen...' 'Tell Peter, James and John that I go before them into Galilee'. The eternal dance of new life goes on and on and on.....

“This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad”. (Ps. 118 : 24)



Listening to Spring.

*I am listening to the growing in the garden of my heart.
I am listening to my heart singing songs of resurrection.
I am listening to the colours of life.*

Macrina Wiederkehr

Just Being - Secondary School, Episode 12 - from Christian Meditation Ireland

<http://www.christianmeditation.ie/>

The Octave of Easter Monday, April 18 - Saturday April 24

The Easter Octave offers us a rich tapestry of encounters between the Risen glorified Jesus and his friends. The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus contains many of the characteristics of meetings with the Risen Jesus and is in itself a symphony of hope. The journey with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus shows the transforming power of the presence of the Risen Lord through the gifts of Scripture and in the celebration of the Eucharist.

One of the most beautiful depictions of the supper at Emmaus is the painting of the servant girl by the Spanish painter Velazquez which hangs in the National Gallery in Dublin.



"The Servant Girl with the Supper at Emmaus"

We see Jesus and the disciples in the background. They may not have recognised Jesus yet but the girl who is listening intently seems to recognise Him.

The woman is badly distracted. In her left hand she holds a ceramic jug of wine. She is glancing over her right shoulder, listening carefully to the back room conversation. She bends over to support herself. The stunned expression on her face indicates that her eavesdropping has confirmed her suspicion. She is in a state of shock at having recognized the man she is serving.

Whereas the men had been blind to the identity of Jesus even when he was with them for a seven-mile walk, the Moorish maid recognized the risen Christ while working in the mundane context of a kitchen. "God is found in the pots and the pans," said Teresa of Avila.

As the woman listens to the men in the back room, she realizes that she has encountered Jesus before. At first it is his voice, then his gaze, his healing hands that now took the bread from her, and finally his face.

The poet Denise Levertov was inspired by the painting to tell the story of the Servant Girl at Emmaus.

She listens, listens, holding her breath.
Surely that voice
is his—the one
who had looked at her, once,
across the crowd, as no one ever had looked?
Had seen her?
Had spoken as if to her?

Surely those hands were his,
taking the platter of bread from hers just now?
Hands he'd laid on the dying and made them well?
Surely that face—?

The man they'd crucified for sedition and blasphemy.
The man whose body disappeared from its tomb.
The man it was rumoured now some women had seen this morning,

alive?

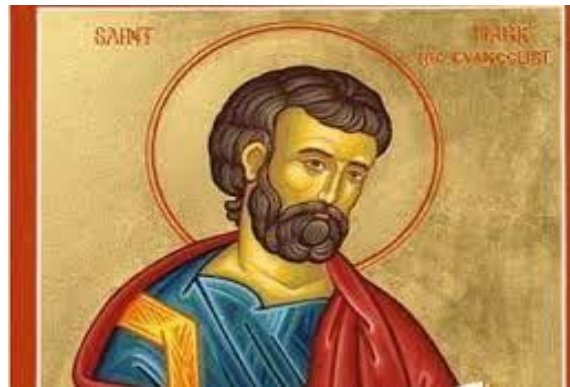
Those who had brought this stranger home to their table
don't recognise yet with whom they sit.

But she is in the kitchen,
absently touching the wine jug she's to take in,
a young Black servant intently listening,
swings round and sees
the light around him
and is sure.

The repetition three times of "surely" indicates her shocking realization that this is Jesus risen from the dead.

Perhaps as Denise Levertov suggests in her beautiful poem she has met Jesus at some stage.

25 April, St Mark the Apostle



St Mark is the author of the earliest of the four gospels which is written in a concise and accessible way. Mark was close to St. Peter and accompanied him on some of his missionary journeys. He also travelled widely with St. Barnabas and with St Paul. We know that he and Paul may have disagreed at some stage as Paul relates that he will not have Mark in his party but they soon sorted out their differences as we find Paul sending for Mark to visit him in prison.

Mark founded the Christian community in Alexandria in Egypt. He died there but was later said to have been transferred to Venice where he is reputed to be interred in the great basilica which bears his name.

Mark's life was given to bringing the good news of Jesus to all. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole of creation". (Mark 16: 15-20)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Hek-xU96So>

April 28, St. Peter Chanel



Peter Chanel was a Catholic priest, missionary and martyr. He was a member of the Society of Mary or Marists and was sent as a missionary to Oceania. Here he worked tirelessly to bring the Good News of the Gospel to a people who still practised cannibalism and were enslaved to evil practices demanded by worship of pagan deities. His humble caring and compassionate nature attracted many believers and it was the jealousy of a local leader which resulted in his martyrdom at the age of 37. His death seems to have served to strengthen the spread of the faith and some five years later almost all the citizens of Oceania had converted to Christianity. His Marist confreres have continued his great work and continue to make a rich contribution to education both here in Ireland and all over the world.

Our Marist schools are characterised by how they strive to live out not only the Gospel values, but also, the five Marist values: *Family Spirit, Presence, Love of Work, In the Way of Mary, Simplicity*, giving special emphasis to nurturing family spirit and cultivating Presence in all relationships. They want all their students to share their sense of the importance of hard work, excellence in what they do, how they do it whilst being inspired by Mary's acceptance of God's will in her life and her simplicity in accepting God's will.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWKljsB-1UI> Who is St. Peter Chanel?

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SODApr28.mp3>

Saint of the Day – St. Peter Chanel's Story

Peter Chanel's story is a lesson in faith and generosity. It is a human story, blending the availability of Mary with the life of her son, Jesus. Peter Chanel is known as "the man with a kind heart."

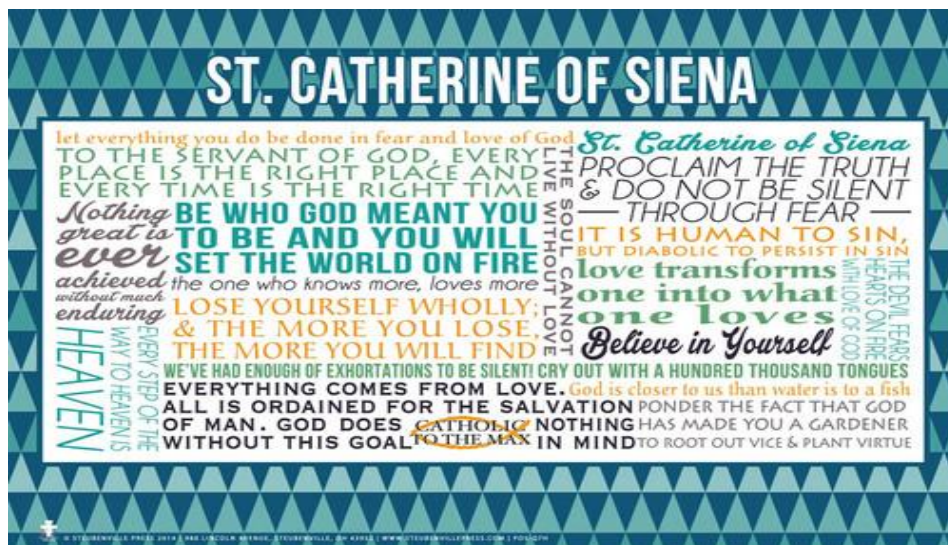
"He loves us. He does what he teaches. He forgives his enemies. His teaching is good." -one of St. Peter Chanel's (1803-1841) catechumens explaining why he believed Peter's teachings.

"The figure of Saint Peter Chanel, as much a missionary, a martyr as a priest animated with a great Marial spirit has a lot to offer for all Christian communities." (St. John Paul 11)

29 April, St Catherine of Siena



St. Catherine of Siena was born on March 25, 1347 during the outbreak of the plague in Siena. She became a strong voice of the Church during one of the darkest most turbulent periods of Christian history. She gave her short 33 years of life in service to God during the chaos of the great western schism, of two duly elected Popes, the bubonic plague, a papacy relocated to France and great political upheaval and wars in her native Italy. Canonized in 1461 her bull of canonization reads. " She assisted the unfortunate and the oppressed, counselled sinners and attracted them to penance by the mildness of her discourse, she gave counsel with joy ...she calmed disputes, appeased a great number of violent hatreds and terminated many bloody enmities... Popes, princes and sinners as well as the sick flocked to her..... no wonder she was named Doctor of the Church and patron of the nursing Profession.



Catherine, sound woman, healer and reconciler heal the wounds of all nations, countries and victims of war and violence as experienced today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duOnmIJuNJQ>

Hallelujah, Leonard Cohen's song for Ukraine with new lyrics, 2022.

“Our world today knows much indifference, hatred and evil. The task of Christians is to overcome hatred with love, falsehood with truth, evil with sheer goodness. In doing so, we become Easter people, not just during the fifty days of the Easter season, but each day of our lives.”

The Easter Earthquake - Fr. Michael Bennett
Africa, St. Patrick's Missions, April 2022

Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/>

- Presidencies of Ireland, Scotland and England & Wales call for prayer and peace for Ukraine
- 'My heart is with the people of Ukraine whose lives and land are being torn apart' – Archbishop Farrell
- Never take peace for granted. Work for peace; pray for peace; make sacrifices for peace. – Archbishop Eamon Martin

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.

