

Post Primary Diocesan Advisers R.E. News Update March 2022

Dear Chaplain and R.E. Teacher,

Welcome to the March issue of the R.E. News. I hope that you are renewed and ready for a new term. It is often said variety is the spice of life and this month we have an abundance of celebrations. We begin with Ash Wednesday, fasting, and reflecting on our inner relationship with God. Midway through the month we celebrate the Feast of St Patrick, and this year we thank God for all the people who have cared for and supported us during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We then move to that wonderful Feast of the Annunciation and focus not just on the quiet presence that Our Lady is in our lives but also on our own Mothers who gave us life and we have an opportunity to thank them on Mother's Day.

The R.E. News has the calendar of events for this month and reflections that may be of assistance to you and your students as we begin our Lenten Journey in preparation for Easter.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance to you in your work as Religious Educators. Thank you to all the R.E. Co-ordinators and Chaplains who have returned their school contact forms. Your co-operation in updating our records is invaluable.

Pope Francis says that "Lent is a journey of return to God" may the Holy Spirit guide each of you in the work you do with and for the young people you encounter each day.

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On March 13th we celebrate the 9th Anniversary of the election of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Papacy.

Please remember him in your prayers.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/scripture-and-tradition/church-leadership/pope-francis>

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges, may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action

March 1st World Day of Prayer



In March every year, women in over 170 countries, join in a common Day of Prayer. Throughout the year, we come closer in fellowship, understanding and action. As we prepare to celebrate the Season of Lent, we can begin in solidarity with our fellow Christians.

March 1st Feast of St David

St David was born in the year 500, the grandson of Ceredig ap Cunedda, King of Ceredigion. According to legend, his mother St Non gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during

a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.

St David became a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and southwest England – including, possibly, the abbey at Glastonbury. St David reputedly made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, from which he brought back a stone that now sits in an altar at St Davids Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery.

St David and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, rather than using oxen, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water – which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales.

St David died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589. He was buried at the site of St Davids Cathedral, where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'

March 2nd Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent is a highlight in the Catholic calendar. It is an opportunity for "spiritual self-improvement". Lent focuses on an increased emphasis on prayer, fasting and alms giving.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting the practise includes the wearing of ashes on the forehead the ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return". Alternatively, the priests may say "Repent and believe in the Gospel". Ashes also symbolise grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass

Resources for use in the classroom and prayer room during the holy season of LENT can be accessed at the following website:

<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/2012/06/24/pplentenresources/>

ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION A Crowley RSM

Dust you are
And into dust you will return.

We are stardust
In a state of consciousness,
Come from Heaven.
We cannot be destroyed,
Only reborn constantly.

Like the rainbow in the sky –

Stardust in the air, shining –
Dancing through the earth.
By God's breath we are made –
Made of wonder, Made of dreams.

We leave a residue everywhere we rest.

We are travellers
On a cosmic journey,
Stardust dancing
In whirlpools of Infinity.

We are filled with cosmic dust.
We have calcium in our bones,
Iron in our veins,
Carbon in our souls,
Nitrogen in our brains,
With souls made of fire.

Be humble, you are made of earth,
Be noble you are made of Heaven.

You are light,
You are wonder,
You are life. Dust you are,
And into dust you will return.

Dust and ashes touch your forehead today Holy Spirit come.
Breathe your life into us.
Speak the truth of our humanity –
The humility of our beginning,
The simplicity of our departure.
How simple and sublime we are.

Dust you are,
And into dust you will return –
A creation of God's eternal love.

Awaken us to the beauty
That holds and enfolds us.
Open our eyes to who we can become.

Signed with the Cross of Ashes,
May we bless the Father who creates us,
The Son who transforms us.
The Spirit who energises us.



March 4th Feast of St Casimir

Patron saint of [Poland](#) and Lithuania. He was born in 1458 or 1460, the third of thirteen [children](#) of King Casimir IV and [Elizabeth](#) of Austria, daughter of Albert II of Habsburg. He was born on October 3, 1460, in the royal palace at Cracow, Poland. The young prince was trained in [spirituality](#) and displayed [holiness](#) at an early age. When Casimir IV ordered Casimir to lead an army against King Matthias I Corvinus of [Hungary](#) in 1471, he refused. Casimir believed an attempt to seize the Hungarian [throne](#) was unjust and refused to take part in it. He was confined to the castle of Dzoki as punishment, and there he refused as well to marry, as his father commanded. When his father was away from [Poland](#) from 1479-1483, Casimir served as regent of the nation. Casimir died of consumption on March 4 while visiting Grodno, Lithuania. Buried at Vilnius, Lithuania, his [tomb](#) became famed for miracles, and he was canonized in 1522 by Pope Adrian VI. Casimir is also patron of the Knights of [St. John](#) and is invoked against enemies of [Poland](#) and the faith.

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint>

March 8th Feast of St John of God

Saint John of God was born in Montemor O Novo, Portugal, in 1495. When eight years old, John was placed into a family in Oropesa in Spain and later became a shepherd. Twice he enlisted in the Spanish army against the French and later the Turks. After being discharged from the army, he ultimately made his way in 1538 to Granada, where he made a living as a bookseller.

John's life was totally changed after hearing a sermon preached by Saint John d'Avila in Granada. His response was very dramatic when he became acutely aware of God's love for him and the emptiness of his life in return. His distressed appeal to God for mercy and forgiveness led to his incarceration in the Royal Hospital for the mentally ill. As a result of this experience, John took up the call to serve the poor and the sick because of the mistreatment of patients he had witnessed and experienced in the hospital. He was offered shelter in the porch of the home of Don Miguel Venegas where he brought his first patients. It was through this venture that John came to gather the support of many people and particularly the encouragement of the Bishop of Granada who gave him a distinctive form of clothing, thus sowing the seeds of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God. Others followed in his work, and his way of life continued after his death in 1550.

In 1630, John was declared Blessed by Pope Urban VIII and was later declared a Saint and canonised in 1690 by Pope Alexander VIII. In 1886, he was proclaimed patron of hospitals and the sick, and in 1930 he was further proclaimed patron saint of nurses and their associations by Pope Pius XI.

“For the love of God, do good for yourselves by doing good for others.”
Saint John of God.

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint>

March 8th Feast of St Senan

Senan was born of Christian parents at Munster, Ireland. He was a soldier for a time and then became a monk under Abbot Cassidus, who sent him to Abbot St. Natalis at Kilmanagh in Ossory. Senan became known for his holiness and miracles and attracted great crowds to his sermons. He made a journey to Rome, meeting St. David on the way back. He built several churches and monasteries, and then settled on Scatterry Island, where he built a monastery that soon became famous. He died at Killeochailli on the way back from a visit to St. Cassidus monastery. His feast day is March 8.



March 11th Feast of St Aengus

Called Dengus and "the Culdee," a hermit and author of the Festology of the Saints of Ireland, The Felire. The term Culdee refers to Aengus' love of solitude: Ceile De was a name given to the hermits of the time. Aengus, born in Clonengh, Ireland, became a solitary monk on the banks of the river Nore, where he communed with angels. In time he sought a more remote site near Maryborough, erecting a small hermitage there. Visitors drawn by his reputation for holiness drove Aengus to the monastery of Tallaght, near Dublin, then under the control of St. Maelruain. He tried to enter as a simple lay brother, not telling anyone who he was. Aengus, along with Maelruain (who had discovered the Culdee's real identity), wrote the Martyrology of Tallaght together in 790. Aengus completed his Felire in 805 in his Maryborough hermitage, having returned there when Maelruain died. Aengus passed away on March 11, 824, and was buried in Clonenagh.

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint>

March 15th Feast of St Louise de Marillac

Born near Meux, France, Louise lost her mother when she was still a child, and her father when she was but 15. Her desire to become a nun was discouraged by her confessor, and a marriage was arranged. One son was born of this union. But Louise soon found herself nursing her beloved husband through a long illness that finally led to his death.

Louise was fortunate to have a wise and sympathetic counsellor, Francis de Sales, and his friend, the bishop of Belley, France. Both men were available to her only periodically. She understood that she was to undertake a great work under the guidance of another person she had not yet met. This was the holy priest Monsieur Vincent, later to be known as Saint Vincent de Paul.

At first, he was reluctant to be her confessor, busy as he was with his “Confraternities of Charity.” Members were aristocratic ladies of charity who were helping him nurse the poor and look after neglected children, a real need of the day. His work needed many more helpers, especially ones who were peasants themselves and therefore, close to the poor and able to win their hearts. He also needed someone who could teach them and organize them.

Only over a long period of time, as Vincent de Paul became more acquainted with Louise, did he come to realize that she was the answer to his prayers. She was intelligent, self-effacing, and had physical strength and endurance that belied her continuing feeble health. The missions he sent her on eventually led to four simple young women joining her. Her rented home in Paris became the training centre for those accepted for the service of the sick and poor. Growth was rapid and soon there was the need for a so-called “rule of life,” which Louise herself, under the guidance of Vincent, drew up for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Monsieur Vincent said that he had never had any idea of starting a new community, that it was God who did everything. “Your convent,” he said, “will be the house of the sick; your cell, a hired room; your chapel, the parish church; your cloister, the streets of the city or the wards of the hospital.” Their dress was to be that of the peasant women. It was not until years later that Vincent de Paul would finally permit four of the women to take annual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. It was still more years before the company would be formally approved by Rome and placed under the direction of Vincent’s own congregation of priests.

Many of the young women were illiterate. Louise was busy helping wherever needed despite her poor health. She travelled throughout France, establishing her community members in hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions. At her death on March 15, 1660, the congregation had more than 40 houses in France. Six months later Vincent de Paul followed her in death.

Louise de Marillac was canonized in 1934 and declared patroness of social workers in 1960.

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint>

LENTEN REFLECTION

Repent and Believe the Good News. Come back to me with all your heart.

Springtime calls us to start afresh. Winter’s long cry is over.
New light and warmth fill our world. Come back to me with all your heart.

A new birthing season is at hand.
It says ‘Now’, Now is the time to cleanse,
To empty out the clutter in our hearts. New hopes and blessings are at hand.
Trust the stirring of Lent, The spirit of renewal,
Echoing in our souls.

In the heart’s Springtime, The inner self awakens.
Visions, dreams and yearnings For a better future germinate.

The frozen loves. The sorrow,
The hopelessness, The fear, all drift away.
Trust and joy await. Spaciousness expands the heart,
Inner freedom is discovered.

Lent stretches our human spirit.
In this season of the soul, There is awe and wonder
At the changes taking place.

Journey with me, Lord, In the flowering places.
The Gospel of Good News Calls me, nurtures me.

Come, Come,
Encourage what needs to be born in me. Teach me to believe in
My unopened buds, Find God's movement in my life.

Wakened by this Lenten calling, Lead me through the desert sands
Of my deepest heart. I do not live on bread alone
But on the faithful Word of God.

Let it be Your Bread we eat. Let it be Your Love we serve.
In these days of challenge, Make us strong in you.

ACTS OF LOVE FOR LENT

*“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit;
the Sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their
fragrance for themselves.*

*Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each
other.*

No matter how difficult it is....

*Life is good when you are happy;
but much better when others
are happy because of you.” Pope Francis*

March 17th St Patrick's Day

St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland was born into a British family in the fourth century. He was captured as a teenager by Niall of the Nine Hostages who was to become a King of all Ireland. He was sold into slavery in Ireland and put to work as a shepherd. He worked in terrible conditions for six years drawing comfort in the Christian faith that so many of his people had abandoned under Roman rule.

Patrick had a dream that encouraged him to flee his captivity and to head South where a ship was to be waiting for him. He travelled over 200 miles from his Northern captivity to Wexford town where, sure enough, a ship was waiting to enable his escape.

Upon arrival in England he was captured by brigands and returned to slavery. He escaped after two months and spent the next seven years travelling Europe seeking his destiny.

During this time he furthered his education and studied Christianity in the Lerin Monastery in France. He returned to England as a priest. Again a dream greatly influenced him when he became convinced that the Irish people were calling out to him to return to the land of his servitude.

He went to the Monastery in Auxerre where it was decided that a mission should be sent to Ireland. Patrick was not selected for this task to his great disappointment. The monk that was selected was called Paladius, but he died before he could reach Ireland and a second mission was decided upon.

Patrick was made a Bishop by Pope Celestine in the year 432 and, together with a small band of followers, travelled to Ireland to commence the conversion.

Patrick confronted the most powerful man in Ireland Laoghaire, The High King of Tara as he knew that if he could gain his support that he would be safe to spread the word throughout Ireland. To get his attention Patrick and his followers lit a huge fire to mark the commencement of Spring. Tradition had it that no fire was to be lit until the Kings fire was complete, but Patrick defied this rule and courted the confrontation with the King.

The King rushed into action and travelled with the intention of making war on the holy delegation. Patrick calmed the King and with quiet composure impressed the King that he had no other intention than that of spreading the word of the Gospel. The King accepted the missionary, much to the dismay of the Druids who feared for their own power and position in the face of this new threat. They commanded that he make snow fall. Patrick declined to do so stating that this was God's work. Immediately it began to snow, only stopping when Patrick blessed himself.

Still trying to convince the King of his religion Patrick grasped at some Shamrock growing on the ground. He explained that there was but one stem on the plant, but three branches of the leaf, representing the Blessed Trinity. The King was impressed with his sincerity and granted him permission to spread the word of his faith, although he did not convert to Christianity himself.

Patrick and his followers were free to spread their faith throughout Ireland and did so to great effect. He drove paganism (symbolised by the snake) from the lands of Eireann.

Patrick was tempted by the Devil whilst on a pilgrimage at Croagh Patrick. For his refusal to be tempted, God rewarded him with a wish. Patrick asked that the Irish be spared the horror of Judgement Day and that he himself be allowed to judge his flock. Thus, the legend that Ireland will disappear under a sea of water seven years before the final judgement, was born.

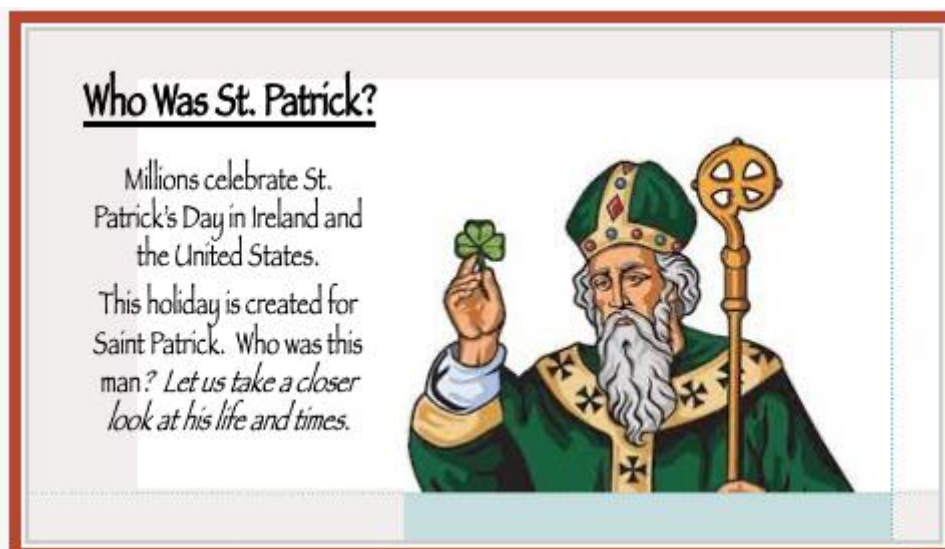
Patrick died on March 17th in the year 493. It is not known for sure where his remains were laid although Downpatrick in County Down in the North of Ireland is thought to be his final resting place.

His influence is still felt to this day as Nations the world over commemorate him on March 17th of every year.

Through his endeavours within a century of his death Ireland became a powerhouse of faith. Through his two surviving letters one his "Confession" and the second a letter excommunicating the soldiers of the slaver Coroticus we learn of his simple holiness. Patrick is the father of Irish Christianity, and our Patron Saint.

For a short film on the biography of St Patrick, which can be viewed in one class period, see:

[Saint Patrick of Ireland \(full film - 25 minutes\) biography, Apostle of Ireland - YouTube](#)



March 19th Feast of St Joseph

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him.

We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the sceptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, 20 "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25).



Pope Francis described St Joseph “as a beloved father, a tender and accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows”. What better role model for our students today.

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint>

<https://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-joseph-1st-century>

March 21st Feast of St Enda

Enda succeeded to the kingdom of his father Conall Dearg of Oriel (south and mid-Ulster today), which he successfully defended against raids from neighbouring clans. On his return from a successful engagement he was passing the community of his sister Fainche and was attracted by one of her young virgins. Whether the girl died or Enda was prevented from carrying her off by his sister, he decided to embrace the monastic life and studied first at St Ailbe's monastery at Emly. He then founded some monasteries in the Boyne valley and later studied at Ninian's Candida Casa in Scotland, where he was ordained. These connections are not mentioned by Professor Pádraig Ó Riain in his article on Éanna in *A Dictionary of Irish Saints* (2011).

Foundation on Inis Mór, Aran Islands

On his return to Ireland, his brother-in-law Aengus, the king of Munster, wanted him to settle in a fertile spot in the Golden Vale, but Enda chose the lonely, unproductive Aran islands as more suitable for his ideal of the monastic life. He founded a monastery at Killeany (*Cill Éanna*) on Inishmore. Among those who came there for formation were Ciarán of Clonmacnoise, Jarlath of Tuam, and Carthage, who later had monasteries at Rahan and Lismore. Because of his many followers, Enda along with Finian of Clonard are regarded as the patriarchs of Irish monasticism.



<https://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-enda-of-aran>

Lenten Reflection

Lent calls us to our inner room,
To our desert place.
If today you hear God's voice,
Soften your heart.
Listen to the voice of God –
The still, small voice,
That waits and whispers within,
Calling us to return;
Calling us to faithfulness;
Calling us to begin again;
Calling us to our journey back to God.

Recognise your frailty.
Come back to God with all your heart.
Fast from what keeps you from loving. Look with kindness on all of life.
Be people of Good News.
There is more to life.
We have miles to go.
Be open.
Be gentle.
Be still.

Welcome Jesus into your heart.
Let Jesus strengthen you;
Let Him remove the greed and selfishness. Let Jesus challenge you.
Let Him lead you
To choose love, life and God.

In every moment God gifts us –
Gifts of courage and healing;

Gifts of wisdom and love;
Gifts of growth and change;
Gifts of new opportunities;
Gifts of insight and understanding.

Lord I love my desert places,
For it is there,
Your treasure dwells.

March 25th The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



What is the Annunciation and when is it celebrated?

It is celebrated on 25 March each year. More importantly, since it occurs 9 months before the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, the Annunciation marks the actual incarnation of Jesus Christ - the moment that Jesus was conceived and that the Son of God became the son of the Virgin.

The Annunciation refers to the passage found in Luke 1:26-36. Here, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her that she will become pregnant with the Son of God. Mary questions how that can happen because she's been saving herself for her fiancé Joseph. Gabriel tells her the Holy Spirit will come upon her and she will be with child. She ultimately says, "I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled."

During the season of Lent, Catholic churches are adorned in purple, symbolizing repentance and solemnity. There are at least two occasions during Lent, however, when the liturgical colours change, at least briefly. One such occasion is the fourth Sunday of Lent, which used to be called Laetare Sunday. On that Sunday, churches can use rose-coloured vestments. The second occasion to put away the purple for the day is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. This event has been one of the classic religious subjects of Western art for centuries. You'll find hundreds of paintings of the Annunciation. Most of these depict the archangel appearing to Mary. She is depicted holding a book a visual reference to the fact that her child would fulfil the Old Testament prophets' predictions. The coming of the Holy Spirit is portrayed by a descending dove or by a ray of light shining from heaven. On the feast of the Annunciation, we switch to white vestments and pray the Gloria at the beginning of the Mass, both are symbols of the joy that accompanies the Incarnation—Christ becoming human and choosing to be born as one of us. Even during the season of Lent, the Church acknowledges the coming of the Saviour with hope and joy.

The Angelus



The Angelus is a special prayer recited by Catholics three times a day, at 6am, noon, and 6pm and is accompanied by the ringing of the Angelus bell. The name comes from the Latin word for Angel and the prayer itself reminds us of how Jesus Christ assumed our human nature through the Mystery of the Incarnation.

The Pope recites the Angelus prayer in St Peter's Square every Sunday at midday.

He also gives a brief reflection on the Gospel of the day and often comments on some issue of international concern. The Pope's words are broadcast all over the world on radio and television and widely shared on social media.

From Easter to Pentecost the Regina Coeli is prayed instead of the Angelus. This prayer commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and, like the Angelus, concludes with the recitation of the Gloria three times.

THE ANGELUS

V: The Angel of the Lord declared
unto Mary.
R: And she conceived of the Holy
Spirit.
Hail Mary, etc.
V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R: Be it done unto me according to
Thy Word.
Hail Mary, etc.
V: And the Word was made flesh,
R: And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary, etc.
V: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R: That we may be made worthy of
the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O
Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that
we, to whom The Incarnation of
Christ Thy Son was made known by
the message of an Angel, may by His
Passion and Cross, be brought to the
glory of His Resurrection. Through
the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Perhaps in the week of the Annunciation you might consider praying the Angelus with your Students.

<https://www.catholic.org/lent/story.php?id=40820>

Other Feasts and Significant Dates:

On March 18th the Hindu festival of Holi is celebrated. It lasts for a day and a night, which starts in the evening of Purnima or the Full Moon Day in the month of Falgun.

<https://www.holifestival.org>

March 21st International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



This year, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination highlights the important role of youth, who have been in the forefront of the fight against racism.

António Guterres

March 22nd World Water Day

World Water Day, on 22 March every year, is about focusing attention on the importance of water. This year's theme 'groundwater', draws attention to the hidden water resource that has always been critically important but not fully recognized in sustainable development policymaking. Under the title 'Groundwater – Making the invisible visible', this year's campaign will explain groundwater's vital role in water and sanitation systems, agriculture, industry, ecosystems and climate change adaptation. The 24th March overarching message of the campaign is that exploring, protecting and sustainably using groundwater will be central to surviving and adapting to climate change and meeting the needs of a growing population.

[Learn more about the World Water Day 2022 campaign here.](#)

March 24th St Oscar Romero

Archbishop Romero was one of the most remarkable figures of the 20th century, who deserves to be commemorated alongside the likes of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi as a peacemaker who sacrificed his life standing up to injustice. The world today desperately needs more figures like Romero – leaders with the courage, faith, and love to stand up for the poor against injustice.

Romero is an inspirational figure to hundreds of millions of Catholics around the world. He didn't simply talk about the need to love your neighbour, but courageously named the injustices that plagued his country. He reminded us that Christ is found in people living in poverty, and that we cannot ignore the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need. We can all celebrate

Romero's legacy by following his example: by challenging injustice wherever we see it and by refusing to stay silent about the issues that keep people in poverty.

<http://www.romerotrue.org.uk/who-was-archbishop-oscar-romero>

March 28th Mother's Day / Laetare Sunday

Mother's Day began as a Christian Festival during the Middle Ages. It was encouraged that people who moved away from their home town should return back home to visit their 'mother' churches - and their mothers - on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Childhood wasn't defined as it is today, so children as young as 10 years of age would leave home to work. And the fourth Sunday of Lent - known as Laetare Sunday - gave the opportunity for families to reunite. The actual date Mother's Day falls on changes each year depending on when Lent falls.

<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/2017/03/22/mothers-day-resources/>

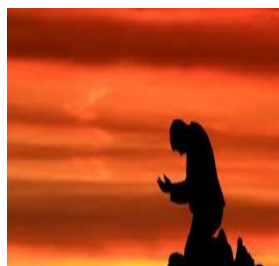
Trócaire's Lent 2022 resources. On this page you will find:

- [A resource for use in any parish setting](#)
- [A prayer service for those in Ireland and Zimbabwe affected by Covid-19](#)
- [Reflections on the Way of the Cross](#)
- [Scripts for use during mass](#)
- [Homily notes](#)
- [A religious education resource for children](#)

Archdiocese of Dublin

See the Archdiocese of Dublin website for information on events which take place throughout the diocese.

<http://www.dublindiocese.ie>



Living Lent Daily

Take a few minutes to reflect on the Word of God this Lent. Each day's message includes a quotation from the day's Scripture reading and a brief reflection for meditation and prayer.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily>

Our Synodal Journey Continues <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>