



Archdiocese of Dublin
Education Secretariat

Post Primary Diocesan Advisers R.E. News Blog, March - 9 April 2023

Dear Chaplain and R.E. Teachers,

March is a time of new beginnings, of leaving the old and moving into the new, of being on the fringes of old and new. The great English writer, Charles Dickens writes in [*Great Expectations*](#), *“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.”* Nature seems to send a call to all living things to reawaken and to allow new life to take over and to once more embody and share the abundance for which it was created.

The Church too calls each one of us to come alive more fully, to allow transformation to happen in us and through us. We too are called to experience springtime. This call is extended to all of us so that we may become all we can be. Sometimes we can get impatient when our “inner springtime” seems slow in arriving. Spring is a time of great growth. It is a time to refresh, to clean and empty out the clutter in our lives, giving space for new life.

Each call is different but each call is about offering life to those whose lives we share in our homes, in our school communities and in the world. We, as Church, must be outward looking, never turned in on ourselves. It often happens that the desire to reach others with the Good News of the Gospel diminishes, grows weak and even withers. We must strive to be reaching out so that we can radiate God’s light and life to a world in shadow.

Let us be aware of the energy and movement in creation as spring begins to greet us.



*First a howling blizzard woke us,
And then the rain came down to soak us:
And now before our eye can focus,
CROCUS!*

Lilja Royers

Beannachtaí an Earraigh leat!

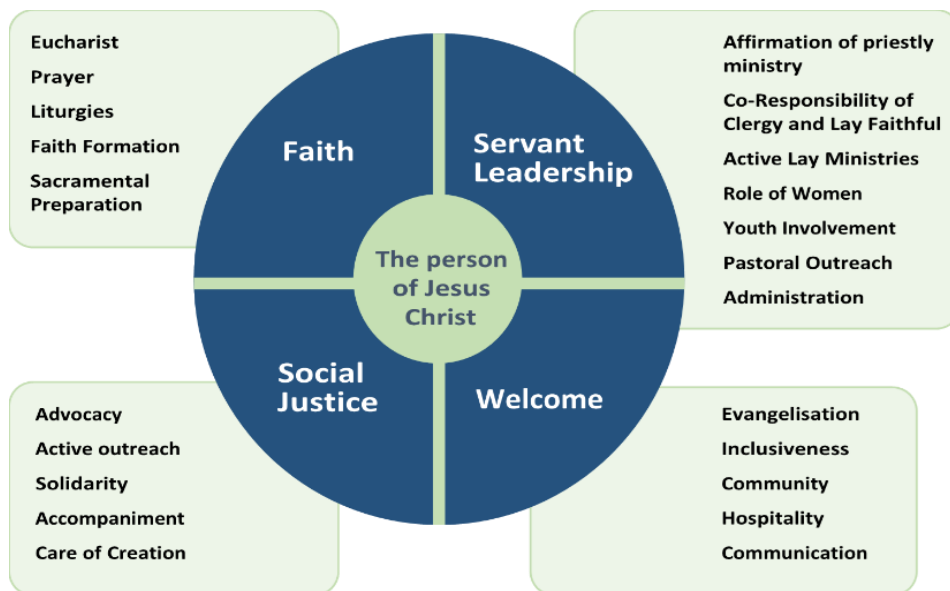
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Building Hope

The first phase of the implementation of *Building Hope* – pastoral renewal in the Archdiocese of Dublin - was an invitation to dialogue in parishes, reflecting on the four dimensions of the ‘Framework for Pastoral Renewal’ drawn from the *Building Hope* Task Force [Report](#) of 28th October 2021.

Parish communities were invited to come together at *Building Hope* gatherings in their parish during May/June 2022 and reflect, in a synodal manner, on the four dimensions - **FAITH, SERVANT LEADERSHIP, SOCIAL JUSTICE** and **WELCOME** and on the question of **PARISH PARTNERSHIP**.



Parishes responded generously to the Archbishop with the fruits of that initial conversation (80% response rate across the Archdiocese) including proposals for partnership with neighbouring parishes.

In September 2022, the Archbishop published his initial response to the collated parish material in a document entitled *Feedback on Easter 2022 Strategic Planning Process* (available [here](#) on the diocesan website), which all are asked to reflect on deeply.

More recently, in Advent, Archbishop Farrell wrote to confirm the [parish partnerships](#) across the Archdiocese – ‘part of the work to enable our parishes to continue the mission of the Church in our time’. Every parish will be in partnership. Parishes will seek, with diocesan supports and pastoral aids, to nurture a close and creative partnership and a coherent pastoral strategy across parish and partnership in response to the call we each received in Baptism. Now in early 2023, parish teams and parish pastoral councils within their partnership are meeting together to begin this work.

Archbishop Farrell spoke of the *Building Hope* strategic initiative in his recent video interview with iCatholic (available [here](#)). We look forward in hope to sharing our faith journey and our mission at this exciting time of renewal in the Archdiocese.

We pray together...

“May the Holy Spirit working in and through us do much more than we can dare to imagine as we live out our baptismal calling in humble and loving service”

[From the *Building Hope Prayer*]

Source: The Building Hope Pastoral Strategy Implementation Group

Email: buildinghope@dublindiocese.ie

Irish Synodal Pathway launches weekly series of video reflections on the Sunday Gospel

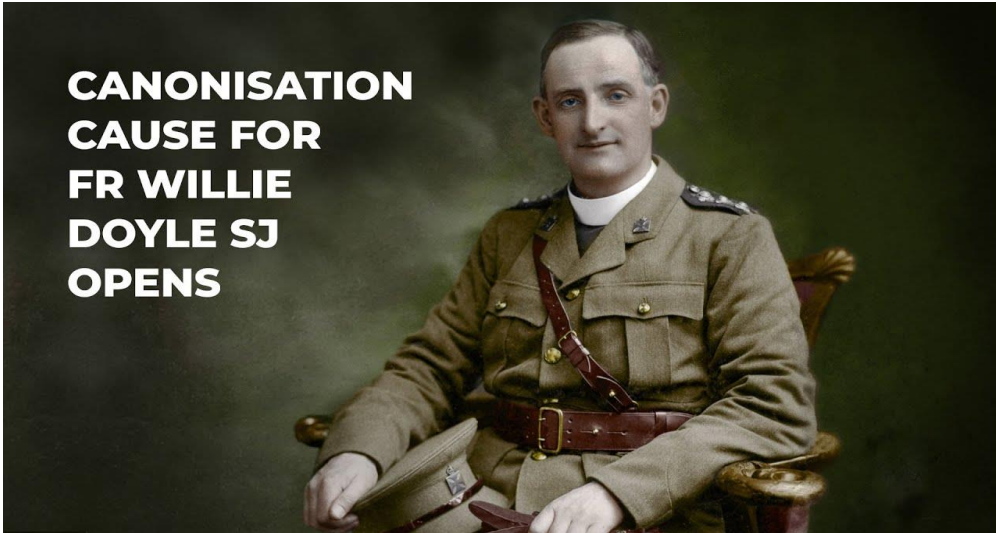
During the diocesan stage of the Universal Synod last year, participants called for courses, resources, and dynamic spaces where they could explore or deepen their own faith, their spirituality, and their understanding of Scripture on a more personal level as well as on an academic level. One initiative being made available in 2023 is a series of short video reflections on the Sunday Gospel each week.

“Synodal Sundays” was launched on 1 January this year. The reflections are being offered throughout the year by lay men, lay women, priests, religious and bishops.

A new reflection on the theme of synodality, in light of the upcoming Sunday Gospel appears each Thursday on the homepage of the Synodal Pathway website, www.synod.ie and its YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@irishsynodalpathway3254>. They can also be found on the Synodal Pathway’s social media platforms each Sunday.

Source: <https://catholicnews.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CNLogo-1.png>

CANONISATION CAUSE FOR FR WILLIE DOYLE SJ OPENS



DUBLIN PRIEST TO BE MADE SAINT

Fr. Willie Doyle was killed while serving as a military chaplain in the First World War. He volunteered as a military chaplain with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the First World War from late 1915 until his death in 1917. He was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery at the Battle of the Somme. Born in Dalkey, Co Dublin in 1873, he was educated at Ratcliffe College, Leicester.

He was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1907 and killed in action on 16th August 1917 at Passchendaele while rescuing two wounded Anglican soldiers from Ulster. His heroism during the war, as well as the holiness of his life in general, led to an outpouring of devotion to him in the years after his death.

According to Patrick Kenny, by the early 1930s more than 50,000 letters testifying to devotion to him were received, more than 6,000 of which alleged favours and healings through his intercession.

Speaking about Fr. Willie's Cause, Fr. John Hogan noted that just one Irish person, St. Oliver Plunkett, has been canonised in the past 500 years. Ireland has many great candidates for sainthood, and Fr. Willie Doyle is one of the most fascinating of all. His attractive personality and his love for God and for others, shines through his writings.

“The Church in Ireland needs hope and encouragement,” said Father Hogan. “The saints offer all of this in abundance through the example of their lives and their intercession. Father Willie, a man of great faith and heroism, possessed of a warm and engaging personality: He would certainly be a saint for the Church in Ireland as it seeks to renew and evangelize.”

Fr. John Hogan, ocds - Postulator for Cause of Fr. Willie Doyle SJ

Opening the Canonisation Cause

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=470VtXYsG8o>



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

<https://popesprayerusa.net/>

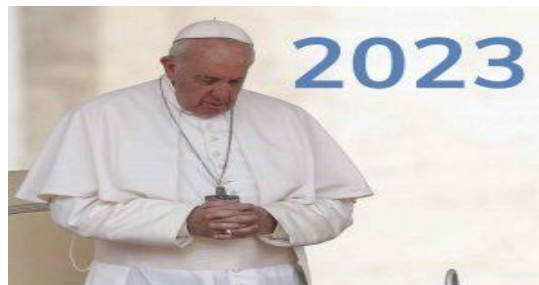
Small Group reflection

<https://popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions/>

MARCH

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



Texts of Pope Francis in connection
with his prayer intentions



TOWARDS PEACE - Source - Catholic Communications Office – Archdiocese of Dublin

Towards Peace was established in October 2014 by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Association of Leaders of Missionary & Religious Leaders of Ireland. (AMRI) It is a pathway, a safe space where people who have been hurt can connect with their own spirituality, their sense of God and their own journey Towards Peace. The service is free and is also available to the families of those who have been affected. Towards Peace understands spirituality as a way of being in, and relating to the world, connected to God and to ones deepest self. Through one to one meetings with a trained and qualified spiritual companion – an anam cara or soul friend – Towards Peace offers safe spaces for people to attend to their own spiritual life.

The Towards Peace office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9am - 4pm and Wednesday 9am - 12noon. For further information phone 01 5053028 or 086 7710533 or visit www.towardspeace.ie or <https://www.facebook.com/TowardsPeaceSpiritualSupportService/>.

APRIL

For a culture of peace and non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Lent, Ash Wednesday, 22 February - Holy Thursday, 6 April

"AS LENT IS THE TIME FOR GREATER LOVE,
LISTEN TO JESUS' THIRST...
'REPENT AND BELIEVE' JESUS TELLS US.
WHAT ARE WE TO REPENT?
OUR INDIFFERENCE, OUR HARDNESS OF HEART.
WHAT ARE WE TO BELIEVE?
JESUS THIRSTS EVEN NOW,
IN YOUR HEART AND IN THE POOR --
HE KNOWS YOUR WEAKNESS.
HE WANTS ONLY YOUR LOVE,
WANTS ONLY THE CHANCE TO LOVE YOU."

~ BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA



The Meaning of Lent

The English word 'Lent' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Lencten, meaning 'Spring'. In other languages, the word comes from the Latin, Quadragesima – a period of 40 days. In the Christian tradition, the forty days is understood to refer to a time of intense prayer and preparation; we remember the biblical stories of Noah and the flood of 40 days, the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness and Christ's forty day fast in the desert in preparation for his earthly ministry. **Source: Irish Catholics Bishops Conference**

Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection at Easter.

"Unless there is Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday." Fulton J. Sheen

Lent is a time of knowing God's mercy and love. It is a time of repentance and of turning our hearts and minds back to God. Lent gives us an opportunity to renew our relationship with God. It is a time to reflect truthfully about ourselves, to discern God's plans for us in the everyday routine of our lives and to make changes. Every Lent, we are on a journey with Jesus.

During this Lent, we can pray with a line of God's Word each week and express that Word in action every day.

In the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, we are encouraged to read the Scriptures and to do so with imagination and feeling. We can place ourselves in a scene from Scripture of the Lenten liturgies as we journey towards God, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. In drawing from a scene of the Gospel, we can ask, what do I/you see? what do I/you hear and what do I/you feel?

“Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and, in this way, to know the fundamental truth: Who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life.” Pope Benedict XV1

We can respond to God’s love in our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

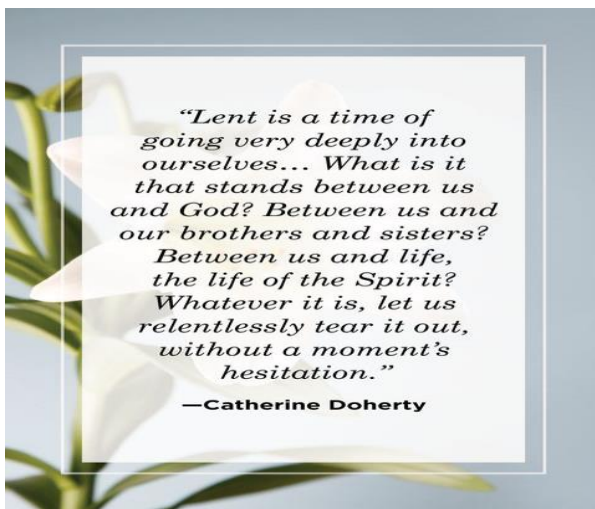
Pope Francis’ on Twitter: *Prayer, charity and fasting are not medicines meant only for ourselves but for everyone: they can change history, because they are the principal ways for God to intervene in our lives and in the world. They are weapons of the spirit.* @Pontifex

Lent Fast Day Prayer

Loving God, we thank and praise you for all the gifts you have given us.

But in a world of plenty too many people go hungry.

We pray that you may work through us, so our small acts of love make a big difference and everyone has enough to eat. Amen.



As we journey through Lent, let it be a time when we put others before ourselves, in order that we might live more fully in the Lord Jesus, whose passion, death and resurrection is the integral focal point of Lent.

A Lenten Reflection:

Lent is...

A time to struggle with our selfishness.

A time to struggle with our lack-lustre performance on many fronts, a time to improve.

A time to struggle with insensitivity in our dealings with family, with teachers, with friends.

A time to struggle with attitudes that are negative.

A time to struggle against our compulsions – to eat too much, to smoke, to waste time, to talk too much, to talk too little.

A time to struggle with the things that knock us off the path of friendship with God.

A time to struggle to be more of what we might be.

A time to struggle to life our life-act onto a new level.

A time for new timetables and good resolutions.

<https://www.stcolmans.org.uk/the-season-of-lent>

March 2023, Calendar

3 March, Women's World Day of Prayer



World Day of Prayer

Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This is a worldwide Ecumenical organisation whose purpose is to promote prayer and understanding amongst women. Its motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action."

In March every year, women in over 170 countries join together in a common Day of Prayer.

<https://www.wdpireland.org/>

6 - 12 March, Food Waste Action Week



The theme for Food Waste Action Week 2023 is 'Win. Don't Bin.'

Reflecting on the theme will help us to become more aware how valuable food is in our lives, how it unites people and how using up everything we buy saves money, time and the planet.

Food and water sustain us and give us life. Yet in a world of plenty, one in nine people go to bed hungry each night. Trócaire

Food & Resources Rights – Trócaire <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/food-resources-rights/>



Source: USDA.gov on Visual Hunt / CC BY

Frightening Facts on Food Waste

<https://www.bordbia.ie/industry/news/food-alerts/frightening-facts-on-food-waste/#:~:text=If%20food%20waste%20were%20a,of%20CO2%20emissions%20a%20y>

How to observe Food Waste Action Week

5 important facts about Food Waste

Why Food Waste Action Week is important

<https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/citizen-behaviour-change/love-food-hate-waste/key-campaigns/food-waste-action-week>



STOP FOOD WASTE

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fstopfoodwaste.org%2Ftips%2Fblog%2F25-ways-to-reduce-food-waste-0&psig=AOvVaw0P2CP3Q0DeUzibYVB8ftXg&ust=1673716797989000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=2ahUKewjg-6Kh8X8AhUbVaQEHTk4DpsQr4kDegUIARC7AQ>



Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2023-2025



Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2023 – 2025

<https://assets.gov.ie/240909/35f9082e-d734-4c55-b31b-83670f92aeda.pdf>



Don't waste food

'Don't waste food' is a common say
But how many of us are eager to obey?

Food has been wasting by leaps and bounds
In parties of fellows financially sound

Starving faces say many things
Why are empty stomach compelled to sing?

Why are children bestowed on bowls?
Being poor is not their foul.

Birth accident deprives them of food
Hunger does not make them sooth

They bear so many sleepless nights
They set out for food with the first morning light

But we don't care of their pain
Our humanity by ourselves is slain

So, whenever you leave some food in your plate
Remember who stands starved at your gate.

Bhaskar Mukharjee



“
**Respect for food is a respect for life, for who we
are and what we do**

~ Thomas Keller

trvst

8 March, International Women's Day



Over 100 years ago in 1910, International Women's Day was first celebrated, with the aim to have equality for men and women across the world.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

Marked annually on **March 8th**, International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- educate and awareness raise for women's equality
- call for positive change advancing women
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for **female-focused charities**

The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2023 is 'Embrace Equity.'

International Women's Day – Dublin.ie

<https://dublin.ie/whats-on/listings/international-womens-day/>

International Women's Day 2023 – Info & Teaching Resources

<https://www.twinkl.ie/event/international-women-s-day-2023>

Society's dire need for the 'female soul' – Pope Francis speaks to women

"The qualities of gentleness, of particular sensitivity and tenderness, which is abundant in the female soul, represent not only a genuine force for the life of families, for the irradiation of a climate of peace and harmony, but also a reality without which the human vocation would be unfeasible."



The season of Lent is punctuated by three great feasts which we celebrate right in the middle of the month, St. Patrick on 17 March, St. Joseph on 19 March and the Annunciation of the Lord, Mary's 'Yes' on 25 March.

Each one had a moment of Annunciation which led them to make a life choice and a response. Each of them heard the message in a different way but they were all given the reassurance, "Do not be afraid..."

Joseph heard his call in a dream **"Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife..."** **Mary** heard and saw God's angel Gabriel, **"Do not be afraid, you have found favour with God..."** and **Patrick** heard not an angel but the people of Ireland **calling him to come back and to bring the Good News of the Gospel and set them free.**

They are feasts of extraordinary great people who responded to God's call to allow His Love to be made manifest through them. Lent is a time for creating the environment in which we can attend to our call and allow the Holy Spirit to rekindle the flame of God's love within us. It is a time to make choices and to respond anew like Mary, Joseph and Patrick to God's personal invitation to us today. The circumstance and detail of our call will differ from person to person but it will always be marked by a call to leave mediocrity, to be more than we are and to choose to live courageously rather than cautiously.

Mary and each of these great saints struggled with their call. Mary said, "How can this be?" Joseph had to rethink his earlier choice to put Mary away quietly. Patrick had to go back to a land from which he struggled to escape. Each one finally arrived at a "Yes" that was heartfelt in its generosity. "Here I am Lord, I come to do your will" in the words of the young Samuel.

May we suggest that during this Lent, we pray these words "Here I am Lord" until they take root in our lives so that we too become channels of God's love for the people whose lives we share and for the world around us.



throughout the country and, though opposed fiercely by the pagan Druids converted many. The people of Ireland practised pagan religions. They believed they could bring evil spirits down on those they wanted to harm.

Patrick used the three-leaf clover to show people there are three persons in one God.

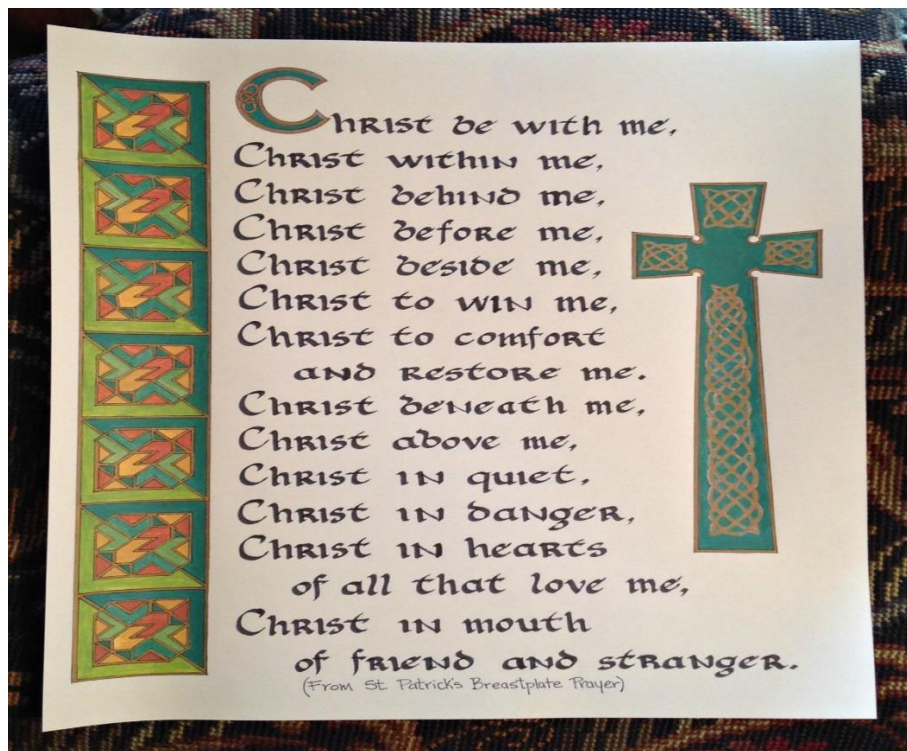
In 444, after visiting Rome, Patrick established his episcopal see in Armagh, which became the focal point of the Catholic Church's ministry in Ireland.

Patrick spent over 30 years as a missionary in Ireland. Despite serious difficulties, he achieved much success. He worked to make Ireland a Christian island by the end of the fifth century.

His own account of his conversion and missionary life is known as the *Confessio*. In it he saw himself as a humble instrument in God's hands. He died in 461 AD at Saul on Strangford Lough, County Down and is buried somewhere in Downpatrick, possibly within the grounds of Downpatrick Cathedral.

Patrick's most famous prayer shows us how close a relationship he had with God.

It is called "St. Patrick's Breastplate."



"We could surround ourselves with the Breastplate of St. Patrick but not only around ourselves but also around our country and the world. Write it out and say it daily or many times daily and envisage it surrounding you like a kind of aura of protection."

Dom Augustine McGregor ocso

What can we learn from St. Patrick today?

To entrust ourselves, our Church, our country to God's protective care

To have full confidence in the Lord's healing presence and power. "The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples" Ps 23

To give thanks for God's special care and call to each of us, knowing that God took the initiative in our vocation and will sustain us day by day

To be devoted to reading the Gospels so that we take on the mind and heart of Christ Jesus and make decisions according to the mind of Christ

To be receptive to God's will in all our trials, to trust him unreservedly, God uses these trials to shape our hearts and conform us to Christ Jesus

To be alert to all the opportunities we are given each day to proclaim the Gospel, and to know that whatever good we do is through God's boundless grace

To believe in the importance of intercession for our people and all people at this time

Towards the end of his Confession, Patrick makes perfectly clear that he "never had any reason, beyond the Gospel and its promises, ever to return to the people from whom I had formerly, barely escaped."

Source: Mother Marie Fahy, Abbess of St. Mary's Abbey, Glencairn. Co. Waterford

An Old Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's Day

May your days be many and your troubles be few.

May all God's blessings descend upon you.

May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.

May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.

May your salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore. Amen

A Prayer For Those Away From Home

*Loving God, We pray for those whom we love but who are absent from us.
Keep them safe from all harm and danger.*

Bless them with peace, laughter, wisdom, love and joy. Grant that we may be reunited in the fullness of love; in Christ's name we pray.

19 March, St. Joseph



The Husband of Mary - The Protector of the Holy Family – The Guardian of the Church

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
REDEMPTORIS CUSTOS
OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF
JOHN PAUL II
ON THE PERSON AND MISSION OF
SAINT JOSEPH
IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST AND OF THE CHURCH.

http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_15081989_redemptoris-custos.html

Joseph, husband of Mary, foster father of Jesus, was a descendent of King David, according to the genealogy presented by the Gospel. Betrothed to Mary, he decided to divorce her quietly when he found she was with child. An angel told him to take Mary as his wife. He assisted at the birth of Jesus and became his support and guide through childhood. He accompanied Mary and the child Jesus to the temple. He searched for Jesus when he was lost.

He responded to the call of God through the mysterious circumstances that surrounded the birth of Jesus.

“At her side in the Holy Family of Nazareth, stands the figure of St. Joseph. Through his work and generous presence, he cared for and defended Mary and Jesus, delivering them from the violence of the unjust by bringing them to Egypt. The Gospel presents Joseph as a just man, hard-working and strong. But he also shows great tenderness, which is not a mark of the weak but of those who are genuinely strong, fully aware of reality and ready to love and serve in humility. That is why he was proclaimed custodian of the universal Church. He too can teach us how to show care; he can inspire us to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us.” **Laudate Si 242**

Hymn to St. Joseph - Sr Kate Cleary, St. Mary's Abbey, Glencairn, Co. Waterford

The image shows an open spiral-bound hymn book. The left page is numbered 138 and titled 'Vespers Hymn' with the subtitle 'Glencairn'. The right page is numbered 139 and titled '19 March, Vespers 2'. Both pages feature musical notation in G major (one sharp) and lyrics in English. The lyrics on the left page include: 'We praise you, Fa-ther, for your ser-vant / Be-trothed to Ma-ry, ar-dent-ly he / Your ho-ly an-gel came while Jo-seph / Jo-seph, A no-ble / wait-ed Their wed-ding / slum-bered, And turned that / Son of Da-vid's ro-yal line. / day now swift-ly draw-ing near, / fear to joy be-yond com-pare: / A man of ho-nour, just in ev-'ry / Then mys-t'ry, awe-some, deep, his life in - / 'Be not a -fraid, con-ceived by God's own / ac-tion, To whom a / vad-ed. An-ti-cj- / Spi-rit Is Ma-ry's'. The lyrics on the right page include: 'charge u-nique you did as-sign. / pa-tion was trans-formed to fear. / Son, the Sa-viour she will bear.' followed by numbered sections 4, 5, and 6.

'Your holy angel came while Joseph slumbered'...



"In giving time to our dreams" as St. Joseph did, "we are really listening to our deepest desires and listening to the Holy Spirit who helps us to interpret our deepest desires in the light of God's truth and of God's desires for us."

Mother Marie Fahy,

St. Mary's Abbey, Glencairn, Co. Waterford

"We must rest in prayer and dream... The Scriptures seldom speak of St. Joseph, but when they do, we often find him resting, as an angel reveals God's will to him in his dreams... In each moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our any daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us... Do not forget St. Joseph who sleeps! Remember, Jesus slept sweetly under the protection of St. Joseph." Pope Francis

19 March, Mother's Day



Mother's Day is a day that is celebrated in many countries around the world, including Ireland. It is a day to honour and appreciate mothers and mother figures, and is typically marked by the exchange of cards, gifts, and other tokens of affection.

The origins of Mother's Day can be traced back to ancient civilizations, where it was common to honour mothers and mother figures with special celebrations and rituals. In Ireland, Mother's Day has a long history that dates back to ancient Celtic times, when mothers were celebrated and honoured as the head of the household and the centre of the family.

Mother's Day was officially recognized in Ireland in the early 20th century, when the Irish Mothers' Union began campaigning for a day to be set aside to honour mothers and motherhood. The holiday gained widespread recognition in Ireland in the 1970s, when it became more commercialized and began to resemble the way it is celebrated in other countries. In Ireland, Mother's Day is typically celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent, which is the same day that it is celebrated in many other countries.

A mother is a picture of God's love.

Loving God, we thank you for all the mothers in the world.

Bless them so that they may always give life and nourishment to their children through their firm faith, generous and selfless love, good example and constant concern for their bodily and spiritual health.

Grant that we, their children, may honour them always with a spirit of profound love, respect and thanksgiving. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Rolly Arjonillo



Because You Loved Me, Celine Dion

https://th.bing.com/th?id=OVP.BJuybiGZKF2IYjRqbdTV_AHgFo&w=289&h=163&c=7&pid=VidRel&rs=1

21 March, UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, held on the 21st March every year, is a day organised by the United Nations which aims to stop people being discriminated against because of their race.

“Racism is a virus that quickly mutates and, instead of disappearing, goes into hiding, and lurks in waiting. Instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think”. Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (97)

Schools involved in the campaign – Tackling discrimination

https://www.coe.int/en/web/campaign-free-to-speak-safe-to-learn/tackling-discrimination/-/asset_publisher/4a3esYbkstv9/content/ireland-schools-involved-in-the-campaign?inheritRedirect=false

Junior Cycle

<https://www.twinkl.ie/event/international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination-2023>



<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rte.ie%2Fnews%2Feducation%2F2020%2F0621%2F1148713-schools-racism%2F&psig=AOvVaw30isFsy3akG4LfAY3WdeN&ust=1675265749951000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=2ahUKEwiNg9uwkfl8AhVEsycCHZhRCDoQr4kDegUIARDYAQ>

Racism in Secondary Schools – Emma O’Kelly

“Racism is based in a fundamental inability to see the world from the perspective of ‘the other’. Sometimes this racism does not need to be aggressive, abusive or angry. It can be quietly, complacently apathetic or just indifference. Racism is not natural to human beings, but rather is something that is created, nurtured, taught and encouraged.”

Refugees and Racism: Now is not the time to be silent – Phil Glendenning

“There is only one race, the human race.” Fr. Micheál Mac Gréil SJ

“To his eternal credit I have to say that he was always one who focused on the issue. He never allowed personalities to distract from the central issue. His integrity and openness did so much to influence people of different faiths and no faith.”

Excerpt from the homily of Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop Emeritus of Tuam at the funeral Mass for Fr. Micheál Mac Gréil SJ (Recently deceased)

Racism hurts people in many ways, ranging from violence to barriers that deny rights and needs.

Racism in Ireland today: What are the issues?

<https://inar.ie/racism-in-ireland-today-main-issues/>

Anti-Racism - Immigrant Council of Ireland

<https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/campaign/anti-racism>

“We must all do our part to watch out for it and overcome it, in whatever form it arises. There is more we can all do and it starts with the Golden Rule – love your neighbour as yourself.”

Racism must be overcome – Bishop Leahy – Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference



How do I work with young people on the issue of racism?

<https://www.youth.ie/articles/how-do-i-work-with-young-people-on-the-issue-of-racism/>

Intercultural Education in the Post-Primary school - NCCA

https://ncca.ie/media/1976/intercultural_education_in_the_post-primary_school.pdf/

Videos of Racism for Teenagers – You Tube

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=c2047cc943151b65JmldHM9MTY3NTk4NzlwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTU5OTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmW5zaWQ9NTEzMW&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&u=a1L3ZpZGVvcy9zZWYyZg_cT1yYWNpc20rZm9yK3RlZW5hZ2Vvcyt5b3UrdHVlZSxcHZ0PXJhY2lzbStmb3lrdGVlbnFnZXJzK3lvdSt0dWJlJkZPUk09VkRSRQ&ntb=1

Prayer for Racial Justice



Father, you created each one of us in your own image.

Yet yours is a world made glorious by its rich diversity.

This we sometimes misunderstand, sometimes fear.

Give us the patience to build on what unites us, to celebrate our differences and to learn from them.

Grant us the wisdom to recognise your Church, beyond the walls of a building, reaching out across all communities, countries and cultures.

Give us the courage to offer refuge to those in need, to challenge prejudice and seek justice for all.

Help us see that you created us in your image. Neighbour or stranger, always our brother or sister. Amen

Prayer by Yashoda Sutcliffe/CARJ (Catholic Association for Racial Justice)

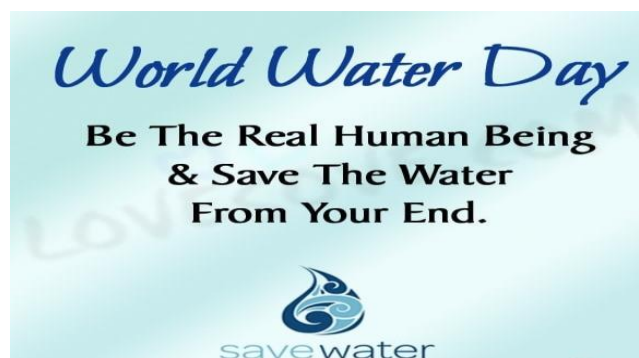
22 March, World Water Day



<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

"We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations." **David R. Brower**

The global campaign, called [Be the change](#), encourages people to take action in their own lives to change the way they use, consume and manage water.



- World Water Day 2023 will be the 30th anniversary of this important event.
- World Water Day aims to help as many as two billion people access fresh water.

World Water Day 2023 - Messages

World Water Day 2023 - Quotes

<https://www.edudwar.com/world-water-day/>

Water is precious and essential for all of God's creation.

Pope Francis has asked us through the words of ‘Laudato mi’ Si’ – ‘Praise be to you, my Lord’ to care for our common home and he invites us “to discover what each of us can do” as we build a better future together. (LS 19)

“But water continues to be wasted, not only in the developed world but also in developing countries which possess it in abundance. This shows that the problem of water is partly an educational and cultural issue, since there is little awareness of the seriousness of such behaviour within a context of great inequality.” (LS 30)



Water is essential to life but most of us take it for granted.

Sometimes, we can use water in a careless way.

The care for water is a critical issue of our time.

Water is all around us and within us. It covers 71% of the earth’s surface.

More than 60% of our bodies is made up of water.

Access to clean water is a human right .

How do you think it would feel not to have safe water to drink? Have you ever gone more than a day without drinking something?

Is it our fault that someone we’ve never seen or met is sick or dying because they lack clean drinking water? Why or why not? What do you owe a person in that situation?

What is the impact of our daily actions, attitudes and habits in protecting our common home?



Water is Life Teen Quiz-Christian – Pro-Profes

<https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=water-is-life-teen-quizchristian>

Water is Life



Praised be You my Lord through
Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and
pure
St. Francis of Assisi,

"Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon"

Let us give thanks to God for water so precious and scarce for many. Each drop is so small but is life giving for all. Jesus, you taught us that whenever we give a drink to people who are thirsty, we are helping you. Open our eyes, minds and hearts to the needs of our sisters and brothers who experience water poverty. May we not only recognize you in the people we encounter, but share with them your compassion through our loving actions and sacrifices. Rain down your love on your people. Amen.

Water 2022 to 2023 – Green Schools

Water Ambassadors

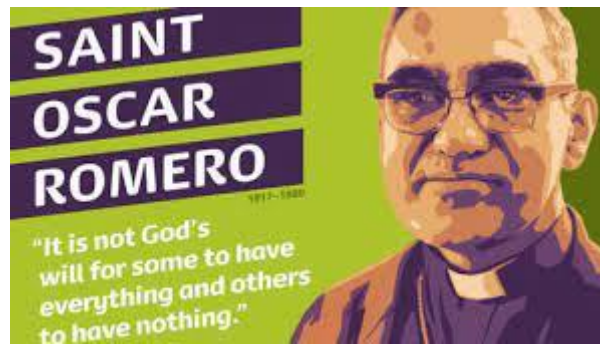
The aim of this programme is to engage directly with second-level students on the topics of water, water conservation, treatment and the marine environment and provide them with the tools, information and support to act as ambassadors for Green-Schools and pass on what they learn in their own schools and local communities.



This year's theme "The Mysterious Deep" invites students to contemplate the undiscovered wonders of our ocean. The piece may take the form of either a short story or a poem and must be no more than 500 words in length.

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/themes/water/>

24 March, St. Oscar Romero



St Oscar Romero was an Archbishop from El Salvador who campaigned for the rights of poor people and spoke out against violence during El Salvador's civil conflict. He saw the exploitation and repression of the poor at the hands of the government and the military.

He had a weekly broadcast on radio, speaking and calling out for justice, peace, freedom and forgiveness.

He was killed by a sniper from a right-wing death squad linked to the country's military government. It happened while he was celebrating Mass.

Oscar Romero Life timeline

1917, Oscar Arnulfo Romero was born into a family of ten on 15 August in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador. His father was in charge of the local telegraph office. Sometimes the young Romero helped his father to deliver telegrams. Oscar learned to be a carpenter, making tables, chairs and doors.

1930, When he was 14 years old, Oscar wanted to be a priest so he went to study at junior seminary. When his mother was ill and they needed money for medicine, Oscar left the seminary for three months and worked in the gold mine in Potosí. He earned about 4p a day.

1937, Oscar went to Rome to study and stayed there during World War II. His father and brother died while he was in Rome.

1942, Romero was ordained a priest and returned to El Salvador. He became famous for his sermons. He also did a lot of parish work like visiting prisons, organising catechism classes and working with others in the Church to provide help and food for the poor.

1970, Romero was made a bishop on 21 June.

1974, Violence increased in El Salvador by the mid 1970s, as the government and army began killing poor people who stood up for their rights. When the army killed three people in the village of Tres Calles in Romero's diocese, he comforted the families and wrote to the President to protest about the murders.

1977, Romero became Archbishop of San Salvador. Some rich people were happy because they thought he would stop priests from helping the poor to stand up for their basic rights. But a few weeks later, his friend Fr Rutilio Grande was shot and killed, along with two companions. The following Sunday, Romero allowed only one Mass in the whole diocese – at the Cathedral – where he spoke out against the murders.

1977/80, As the violence in El Salvador continued, Romero continued to speak out. Every Sunday his sermon was broadcast by radio. The whole country listened. Romero’s life was often threatened. CAFOD supported Romero’s work and when his radio station was bombed, CAFOD rebuilt it.

1980, In his sermon on 23 March, Romero ordered the army to stop killing people: “In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!”

1980, The next day, a shot killed Romero as he said Mass. A UN report later found that Major Roberto D’Aubuisson, had ordered Romero’s death. Thousands came to the funeral. The army fired into the crowd. 30 people died and hundreds were injured. There was civil war in El Salvador until 1992.

2009, On 15 March, the new president of El Salvador announced that his government would be inspired by Romero and the “option for the poor” (choosing to put the most vulnerable people first).

2015, Pope Francis confirmed Oscar Romero was a martyr, killed out of hatred of the faith. He was beatified on 23 May.

2018, Pope Francis approved a miracle which was attributed to Oscar Romero. This meant he could now be canonised. The canonisation date was 14 October.

Saint Oscar Romero, pray for us.

Source: CAFOD

Background on Saint Oscar Romero, prayer, reflection questions and information.

<https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/24491/175828/version/4/file/St%20Oscar%20Romero%20Saint%20Card.pdf>

Share your knowledge - Questions for Reflection

- **Write a letter that Oscar Romero might have written to the government of the day.**
- **You are asked to give a talk on Oscar Romero. Prepare the talk that you would deliver on radio to listeners who know very little about his life or what he did for the people of El Salvador.**
- **Think of a situation in a particular part of the world today. Using your own thoughts and those of Oscar Romero, draft an article for an assembly urging listeners to be a voice for the rights of innocent people.**

“Those who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless.” Oscar Romero

25 March, Earth Hour



www.earthhour.org

The theme for Earth Hour this year is:

Take Action.

Be a part of the green revolution.

For

Earth Day 2023, we need to act (boldly),
innovate (broadly), and implement
(equitably).

Earth Hour provides a moment of solidarity, of unity, and a reminder that we must work together to look after each other and our common home which we all share.

On the last Saturday of March every year at 8.30 p.m. local time, people in more than 190 countries unite in switching off the lights for one hour. Earth Hour is all about inspiring people to take better care of the planet. We are invited to spend this hour mindfully: take time to reconnect with nature, talk to our loved ones, or reflect and pray.

The point of Earth Hour is not just to save energy for one hour; it is also a symbolic global event that shows we can all make a difference in the fight against climate change. If we all work together, even small changes can make a big difference!

Learning Resources

Junior Cycle

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https://www.twinkl.com/2Fevent%2Fearth-hour-uk-2023&psig=AOvVaw1jXEzEb-MPDiD-ciqTOUfQ&ust=1673971838562000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=2ahUKEwjQn9eXvcz8AhWJIMAKHStTAjoQr4kDegUIARC4AQ>



For the beauty of the Earth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmqhbZivfWM>

Earth Hour 2023: 8.30 p.m. Sat., 25 March <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPLK2dnRwCQ>

In This Earth Hour - 2023 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSfl9Ay6d90>

25 March, The Annunciation of the Lord



“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life.” John 3:16. At the Annunciation, God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what he promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God’s invitation calling her to be the Virgin Mother of his Son.

This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as his mother, would nourish and care for him. This call meant that she had a special place in God’s plan for salvation. Mary replied, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38. In saying ‘Yes’, Mary agreed to God’s plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain, all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world. Mary said ‘Yes’ to the Word made flesh.

In the Gospel reading of Luke 1:26-38, for the Solemnity of the Annunciation, we are invited to reflect upon a simple word, the word ‘Yes.’ At the Annunciation, Mary says ‘Yes’ when the angel comes to her with astonishing news. Because she was open, she accepted in faith what God asked of her. Mary accepted God into the core of her being with tremendous courage and with a heart open to say ‘Yes’ to God.

During the course of our lives, we say ‘yes’ many times in response to all sorts of questions, situations and requests. There are only a few times in life when our ‘yes’ means a total commitment for life. This response happens at a marriage, a commitment to religious life or at some other significant point. Our commitment is personal and on-going.

May we embrace the events of each new day and find meaning in them.

The Annunciation

*Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,
only asked
a simple, "How can this be?"
and gravely, courteously,
took to heart the angel's reply,
the astounding ministry she was offered.....*

*This was the moment no one speaks of,
when she could still refuse.*

*She did not cry, 'I cannot. I am not worthy,'
Nor, 'I have not the strength.'
She did not submit with gritted teeth,
raging, coerced.
Bravest of all humans,
consent illumined her.
The room filled with its light,
the lily glowed in it,
and the iridescent wings.
Consent,
courage unparalleled,
opened her utterly.*

Excerpts from 'The Annunciation' - Denise Levertov

*Mary, Woman of Nazareth fill the void of incompleteness in our lives with the presence of your Son,
Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. Monsignor Dan O'Connor*

Cardinal Dolan on the Annunciation of the Lord - You Tube

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

Why the Blessed Mother Matters - You Tube-Life Teens - YM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwqKLCyYk9o>

Lent and Holy Week

Our world is in a fragile state. War and violence are still painful realities. Everything can seem at times to be overwhelming. We can be filled with restlessness. Life's demands often come upon us at a fast pace. Along with the realities of war, political unrest, poverty and ecological disasters, we are a people wearied by life. In the midst of these challenges, we live through the season of Lent. This is a time where we are given space, a time inviting us to pause, draw back, take a break from life's daily grind and drink more deeply of Jesus' story - his Life, Passion and Resurrection.

The Prayer Corner (www.filles-de-la-charite.org) attempts, using St. Vincent de Paul's words and Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace, to lead us deeper into our hearts as we pray for the PEACE we long for... the PEACE that Jesus brought, the PEACE that begins with and in us... PEACE who is Jesus Himself. Reflection on You tube: https://youtu.be/NTkxga_OnE

The World Community for Christian Meditation

www.wccm.org

WCCM Online 2023



The season of Lent invites us to purify and let go, which reminds us of an important lesson:
we have the freedom to change.

By giving up our attachments and letting go of our unwholesome habits, we can find the
freedom to change and become who we are truly meant to be.

Join Laurence Freeman on this retreat as we explore this aspect of the Lenten season.

REGISTER →

Stations of the Cross



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

Archdiocese of Dublin

<https://dublindiocese.ie>

Lent 2023 film for young people – CAFOD – You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2pobJlkoVk>

Lent 2023 resources for young people - CAFOD

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Lent-resources-young-people>

AMRI / Trocaire Webinars: Gospel Reflections, Meditation and Liturgical Resources

<https://www.amri.ie/lenten-resources/>

MUSIC FOR LENT

1. Do not be afraid I am with you – You are Mine (Haas) with lyrics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sgm9lkTNQmc&list=PL7sKqneS6RJ5o5JAf6Q8-Q2FANhtwZiWP>

2. Be with me Lord (Haugen) with Lyrics

Hymns for Lent (also useful for background music) list of 23 – no images

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls65v67zi9A>

3. What wondrous love is this – (with lyrics)

https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube+catholic+hymns+for+lent&rlz=1C1GCEA_enIE1014IE10

4. We live again (40 days of Lent)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewl73aMD_AQ

5. Songs of Lent (8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2r9ucRtbLA>

HOLY WEEK



<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/len/placeholder-holy-week>

In Holy Week, we celebrate the Mystery of our Salvation as we ponder the suffering and glory of Jesus.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, 2 April



'Love drove him to Jerusalem – to the cross'

Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week, beginning with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as we recall the events surrounding the death of Jesus on Good Friday.

Jesus made careful preparations for his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. The prophets had foretold that the Messiah would come... "Look, your king is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey" ... Zechariah 9:9

Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem - Palm Sunday

<https://th.bing.com/th?id=OVP.JhNT9OWohKbJX4F2STYw5QHgFo&w=289&h=163&c=7&pid=VidRel&rs=1>

Holy Thursday, 6 April



Thursday of the Lord's Supper



Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion. It also commemorates His institution of the priesthood. The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples in Jerusalem. During the meal, Jesus predicts his betrayal.

Before his death, Jesus seemed determined to demonstrate the extent of his love. He chose to demonstrate it through the washing of feet during the Passover Supper: John 13:4,5. Jesus shows his love in action, when he washed the feet of his disciples and asked them to do the same: John 13:1-15. He wanted to leave his disciples with an example of service to one another.

Holy Thursday – Bishop Fintan Monahan

<https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/holythursday>

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

The Paschal Triduum is spread over three days, from the passing of Jesus from this world to the Father, destroying the power of death and sin, and bringing us eternal life.

On Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ crucified, buried and risen.

Good Friday, 7 April - The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord



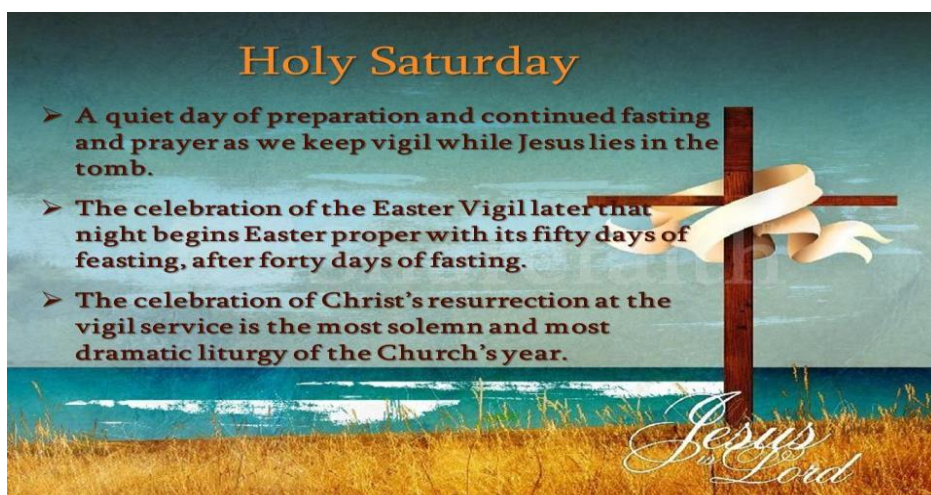
Jesus' entire life was a journey to the cross. On Good Friday, we commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The celebration of the Lord's Passion consists of three parts, the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

We give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ who died that we might live and have eternal life.

Good Friday with Bishop Barron

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcolKi2PLuw>

Holy Saturday, 8 April - The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night



The Liturgy of the Easter Vigil unfolds in four parts.

The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle, a sign of Christ, who is our light.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Baptismal Liturgy

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection, 9 April



Very early on Easter Sunday, Mary Magdalene and some other women made their way to the tomb. None of them remembered the scripture which said that Jesus must rise from the dead: John 20:9. While Mary was alone at the tomb, she saw Jesus standing there without know who he was. *"Why are you crying?" Jesus said to her. "Who are you looking for?" She, supposing that he was the gardener, said, "Oh, sir, if you have carried him away, please tell me where you have put him and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!"* John 20:16

"The joy of the Resurrection is something we... must learn to experience, but we can experience it only if we first learn the tragedy of the Cross".

Anthony Bloom – Meditations on a Theme

"I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia."

Entrance Antiphon – Easter Sunday – Mass During the Day

Easter Blessing

"On this Easter morning, let us look again at the lives we have been so generously given and let us let fall away the useless baggage that we carry -- old pains, old habits, old ways of seeing and feeling -- and let us have the courage to begin again.

Life is very short, and we are no sooner here than it is time to depart again, and we should use to the full the time that we still have.

We don't realize all the good we can do. A kind, encouraging word or helping hand can bring many a person through dark valleys in their lives. We weren't put here to make money or to acquire status or reputation.

We were sent here to search for the light of Easter in our hearts, and when we find it we are meant to give it away generously. The dawn that is rising this Easter morning is a gift to our hearts and we are meant to celebrate it and to carry away from this holy, ancient place the gifts of healing and light and the courage of a new beginning."

John O'Donohue

Dawn Mass Reflections at Corcomroe Abbey

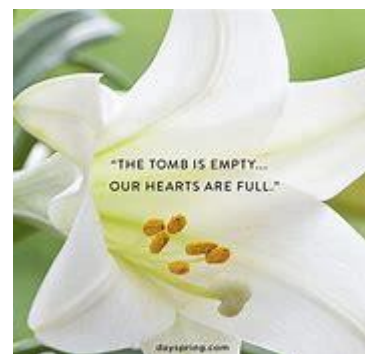
On Letting Easter In

Easter's standing at your door again,
so don't you see that stone has got to go?
that stone of fear
of selfishness and pride
of greed and blindness
and all the other stones we use
to keep Jesus in the tomb.

So here's to rolling stones away
to give our Lord the chance He needs
to rise and touch
a troubled, lonely world.
Some call it *Resurrection*.
It's wild with wonder,
It's beautiful and real
Intent on throwing life around
it touches and it heals!

Yes, Easter, you can come
An angel of life I'll be.
I'll roll the stone away
and set you free.

*Seasons of your Heart
Macrina Wiederkehr*



To conclude:

Let us look for signs of resurrection!

Easter celebrates new life and comes alive in us.

Easter calls us to hope – to hope in one another.

Easter is alive in all the ways we reach out to one another.

Easter lives when people of all faiths share in a spirit of love and hope.

We are the Easter people: "Alleluia!" is our song. Let us rejoice! Let us sing out: "Jesus is risen! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Words: Tom Leigh. Music: Tom Leigh and Betty Sharpe

Live with the 3 E's.....

Energy

Enthusiasm

Empathy

And the 3 F's

Faith

Family

Friends

Happy Easter!

May the Risen Lord shower you with blessings, love and peace this Easter.

Beannachtaí na Cásca ort!

"May this Easter grandeur that Spring lavishly imparts

Awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts." Helen Steiner Rice

