



Archdiocese of Dublin
Education Secretariat

Post Primary Diocesan Advisers R.E. News Blog – April 2024

Dear Chaplain and R.E. Teacher,

Welcome to the latest issue of the R.E. Blog. I know that you are looking forward to your Easter holidays and I trust you will be returning renewed and ready for the final term. As we travel through the Season of Eastertide there will be many ceremonies taking place in your schools, and we are here to support you in any way that you feel is beneficial. As a resurrected people may we be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and imbued with the evangelising traits of the Apostles.

We have an abundance of celebrations, not least the graduation of your Leaving Certificate Students, whom we hold before the Lord in prayer in the coming weeks.

We begin by reflecting on our inner relationship with God and what our vocation in life is. We extend our sincere congratulations to our newly appointed Auxiliary Bishop Donal Roche, who has taught in the Post Primary Schools of the Diocese.

Our Church needs vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, please invite your students to consider this as a possible life choice. We invite you to consider travelling to Knock Shrine for the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Archbishop Farrell on 27th April 2024.

The R.E. News has the calendar of events and reflections that may be of assistance to you and your students as we continue our Easter Journey. Please note the information on the John Paul 11 Awards and Ember programmes on offer to all schools.

A wonderful evening of Music was held in the Helix on the 12th – 14th March with in excess of 1800 students singing together at the Emmanuel Concerts. Well done to all the teachers who worked with the students and accompanied them on the day.

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 welcomed us into their schools so far this year. We look forward to meeting many more teams this term.

We thank you for your openness and above all your care for the students you support daily. May the Lord and His Blessed Mother keep you safe and well in the days ahead.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

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Pope Francis names new Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Dublin



Statement of Archbishop Dermot Farrell:

I am very pleased that Pope Francis has appointed Fr Donal Roche as Titular Bishop of Cell Ausaille and Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin.

In light of the rapidly changing needs of the Archdiocese, I asked Pope Francis to consider appointing an Auxiliary Bishop to assist me in the ministry to a diocese that has a population of over 1.5 million, of whom a million identify

as Catholics, spread over 197 parishes. Today I give thanks for the appointment of Fr Donal Roche. To the leadership of the Church in Dublin, Fr Donal brings extensive pastoral experience, as well as an inspiring personal witness and fidelity to the gospel. I am very grateful to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and to His Excellency Archbishop Montemayor, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, for facilitating my request.

I thank Fr Donal for generously accepting this new call to leadership responsibility in the Church. Since his ordination to priesthood in 1986, Father Donal has made a significant contribution to the life of the Church in Dublin as priest-teacher, priest, episcopal vicar, and, most recently, as Vicar General. My ministry – as priest and bishop in these challenging times for the Church in Ireland and for our mission, has brought me to the conviction that when we are open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, new life and hope comes to our parishes. Just as the Lord waited for Mary’s “Yes”, so the Lord waits for ours. The word of the Lord is an invitation; it is a call, and God is as patient as he is faithful and true. May the Holy Spirit inspire, strengthen, and guide Fr Donal as he is called to be a bishop in this time of fundamental, far-reaching renewal of the Church’s life.

Since the appointment of the first Auxiliary Bishop in Dublin in 1883, the Auxiliary Bishops have made a significant contribution to the life of the diocese. I have no doubt Fr Donal will bring his many gifts, fresh ideas and deep motivation to the Church’s work – that of proclaiming the promise and hope of the Gospel and witnessing to joy and consolation in this time and place.

May we carry Fr Donal in our prayer, not only in coming weeks and months, but in the years of his episcopal ministry which are about to begin. May the Lord keep him close to Himself all the days of his life.

FR DONAL ROCHE: LIFE AND MINISTRY

Born in 1958 to Sheila and Joe Roche, Fr Roche grew up in Drimnagh in Dublin, one of a family of seven children. He attended both primary and secondary school at Drimnagh Castle CBS.

Fr Roche worked for four years as a clerical officer in Dublin County Council before entering Clonliffe College in 1980 to study for the priesthood. He was sent to Maynooth to study for a degree in theology and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Dublin in 1986 in his home parish of Mourne Road.



His first appointment was a period of six years as a priest-teacher in Coláiste Dhúlaigh, Coolock. He then spent five years as a diocesan adviser for religious education in primary schools. This was followed by eight years as chaplain to St Mark's Community School, Tallaght. After a total of 19 years involved in religious education, he still retains a great interest in the evangelisation of young people and has an active involvement in sacramental preparation programmes. During this time, Fr Roche also served for about six years as assistant vocations director in the Archdiocese.

Fr Roche's first parish appointment was in Lucan South, where he spent seven years. This was a time of broadening the experience of ministry beyond schools to accompany people of all ages on the journey of faith, from baptisms, weddings and funerals to the everyday experiences of parish life, building and strengthening the faith life of the community.

This was followed by 11 years in Wicklow Town, also looking after the surrounding areas of Kilbride, Barndarrig and Brittas Bay for four of those years. This mixture of town and rural areas gave him a great experience of the richness of the Archdiocese and its many different and distinct communities.

His current appointment is in the Cabinteely-Johnstown grouping of parishes, with additional responsibility for the growing area of Cherrywood. This provides the new challenge of creating a Catholic community in an area where there is no plan for a church building but many people who wish to belong to the Church.

Fr Roche was appointed Episcopal Vicar by then Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin in 2019 and continues in this role under Archbishop Farrell, with responsibility for the deaneries of Bray, Donnybrook and Wicklow. This is very much a pastoral role, supporting priests and parishioners in times of challenge and times of celebration.

Fr Roche is a fluent Irish speaker and is often called on to celebrate Mass and the sacraments in Irish in various parts of the Archdiocese.

His appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin brings a new challenge in these changing times. With fewer clergy and greater lay involvement in parishes, the new Auxiliary Bishop will be supporting the Archbishop in his role of leading the Archdiocese along the synodal pathway: clergy and lay faithful working together to bring the message of the Gospel to a new generation.

An Auxiliary Bishop is given a titular see. Fr Roche's will be that of the ancient diocese of *Cell Ausaille*, which is situated in Killashee near Naas, Co. Kildare. St Auxilius was said to be a nephew of St Patrick and there are monastic ruins in Killashee that are believed to date back to the fifth century.



Walking the Path to Pentecost



The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Catholic Church because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a pilgrim traveling along the road, making their way to the desired destination.

The destination is Jesus, who is our home.

As we journey from Easter to Pentecost we do so knowing we never travel alone.

Let the reflection and the time you give to it each day be your gift to yourself as we grow, strengthened in the shared experience of faith of those who travel with us.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Easter to Pentecost</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: gold; font-weight: bold;">2024</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">WALKING THE PATH TO PENTECOST</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Daily Scripture Calendar</p>			<p>"Without Pentecost the Christ-event - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus - remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now." <i>Henri Nouwen</i></p>	
<p>31</p> 	<p>1 Easter Monday Mt 28:8-15 What in your life brings you joy? Bring to prayer things that do not bring you joy. Praise God for the joyful things in your life.</p>	<p>2 Easter Tuesday Jn 20:11-18 Today reflect on where you see the Risen Christ in the world around you, in the encounters with others?</p>	<p>3 Easter Wednesday Lk 24:13-35 Jesus walks with the disciples on the road to Emmaus where they are at, not where he would like or expect them to be. Let Jesus know where you truly are today!</p>	<p>4 Easter Thursday Lk 24:35-48 Jesus' first words to the disciples were "Peace be with you." Entrust to God all that does not bring peace. Say a prayer for Peace in our world today.</p>	<p>5 Easter Friday Jn 21:1-14 Who is the Christ you are looking for? How would you recognize him as he stands among you?</p>	<p>6 Easter Saturday Mk 16:9-15 Mark's summary of the Resurrection encounters seems to rush to the key point, He is Risen and this IS Good News!!</p>
<p>7 Divine Mercy Sunday Jn 20:19-31 Mercy is love in action, Love that dispels all fear. How are we being witnesses to that Mercy & Love in our Church, family, communities & world today?</p>	<p>8 The Annunciation Lk 1:26-38 Bring all your burdens to God. Repeat in prayer - Lord, my trust is in you</p>	<p>9 Jn 3:7-15 We can either live in the shadows of others or we can break away and live in the light of the Lord. Which will it be?</p>	<p>10 Jn 3:16-21 Jesus came into our world to throw the spotlight onto the infinite grace and truth of God - God's Love, mercy & forgiveness. Yet many preferred not to believe. Why?</p>	<p>11 Jn 3:31-36 Today give thanks for the Gift of Your Faith. Ask yourself - Would others who do not know God, come to know God because they know you?</p>	<p>12 Jn 6:1-15 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." How will you deepen your relationship with Jesus?</p>	<p>13 Mk 16:15-20 Hear the words Jesus speaks to you - Do not be Afraid. Entrust all your worries & fears to God.</p>
<p>14 3rd Sunday of Easter Lk 24:35-48 'Peace be with you' Pray for peace in your life.</p>	<p>15 Jn 6:22-29 What gives you life and brings true life to others? Bring this to prayer.</p>	<p>16 Jn 6:30-35 I am the bread of Life. What is our world, your community, your Church... What are YOU hungry for?</p>	<p>17 Jn 6:35-40 Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, ... Bring any worries or trouble you have to prayer today knowing that your God walks with you.</p>	<p>18 Jn 6:44-51 It is not we who find Jesus but rather it is the Father who finds us and leads us to Jesus as the way to God. Do we create opportunities to be found?</p>	<p>19 Jn 6:52-59 This passage continues where yesterday's left off. The Eucharist is the great sign of the Christian community. What is the community we celebrate?</p>	<p>20 Jn 6:60-69 Faith is a gift, a grace. How do you share that gift with others?</p>
<p>Don't be afraid of the newness that the Holy Spirit works in us! – Pope Francis</p>						
<p>21 4th Sunday of Easter Jn 10:11-18 You are loved. You are truly loveable and you are capable of sharing that love with others. This is the Good News!</p>	<p>22 Jn 10:1-10 Jesus knows, walks with and cares for you personally & intimately.</p>	<p>23 Jn 10:22-30 Trust in the God who loves you unconditionally. Leave your worries & fears in God's hands.</p>	<p>24 Jn 12:44-50 Look at your life, your community, your Church, our World... Where do you see God at work? Say a prayer of Thanks!</p>	<p>25 St Mark Mk 16:15-20 "Go Into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature". How do you live the Gospel each day?</p>	<p>26 John 14:1-6 "Do not let your hearts be troubled" Think of all the things you have to be thankful for.</p>	<p>27 Jn 14:7-14 When your faith has no room for doubt, then you are just left with religion, that can become something soft & comfortable. <i>Doubt is God's way of helping you not go there.</i></p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 5th Sunday of Easter Jn 15:1-8</p> <p>"I am the vine; you are the branches" Ask for the courage to bear fruit...</p>	<p>29 Mt 11:25-30 St. Catherine of Siena</p> <p>Today pray for those who suffer for their faith. Those people who believe even though they have not seen. Those who inspire our faith</p>	<p>30 Jn 14:27-31</p> <p>Today pray for Peace in our world</p>	<p>1 Jn 15:1-8 Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world...</p>	<p>2 Jn 15:9-11 St Athanasius</p> <p>"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete". Thank God for the blessings in your life</p>	<p>3 Jn 14:6-14 SS Philip & James</p> <p>"If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it." Open your heart to God in prayer</p>	<p>4 Jn 15:18-21</p> <p>We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.</p>
<p>5 6th Sunday of Easter Jn 15:9-17</p> <p>Love is the Greatest commandment. Love is the mark of the disciple. Love is the purpose, reason and answer. To Love is our call. What does this ask of you?</p>	<p>6 Jn 15:26-16:4</p> <p>It is a strange paradox but the message of Christian love, mercy & forgiveness, the message of peace & justice is found by many to be very threatening and must be attacked. Why?</p>	<p>7 Jn 16:5-11</p> <p>We have been provided for even before we were born. All that we have to do is to recognize the Love that surrounds us every minute, every second of our lives. Bring this to prayer.</p>	<p>8 Jn 16:12-15</p> <p>The spirit will not be taken away from us in the times we are least able to trust, understand, or persevere. Dare to trust that God is at work in you!</p>	<p>9 Jn 16:16-20</p> <p>Lord, teach me to trust you when I don't see you, when I don't hear you, and life won't stop and let me off. Let me live in Joy.</p>	<p>10 Jn 16:20-23</p> <p>The Lord pours out his love in abundance. What would your song of Joy be?</p>	<p>11 Jn 16:23-28</p> <p>Bring what your heart truly desires to the Lord today in the sureness that if you ask, you shall receive!</p>
<p>12 The Ascension Mk 16:15-22</p> <p>We become like Christ himself as we receive this bread of life, called to be His witnesses. By what we say and do, in all we are.</p>	<p>13 Jn 16:29-33</p> <p>Jesus speaks these words to you today. "My love for you is unconditional and I will never abandon you"</p>	<p>14 John 15:9-12 St Matthias</p> <p>We are a people of joy and it is good news that we bring. What is the joy you have to share?</p>	<p>15 Jn 17:11-19</p> <p>Today pray for Christian Unity</p>	<p>16 Jn 17:20-26</p> <p>We are one in Christ whether we agree with each other or not. We are one in Christ whether we like one another or not. To become a part of Christ is to become a part of the community; a part of the one. Pray for your Community of faith!</p>	<p>17 Jn 21:15-19</p> <p>Jesus entrusts Peter with his message even though Peter had denied him. Jesus does not love you because you are perfect but because you are YOU!</p>	<p>18 Jn 21:20-25</p> <p>God choose you to spread his joyful message of Love, Mercy & Forgiveness. Can you be that message, that Good News for others?</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Our Pentecost Prayer</p> 	<p>My School, my school community, our school network and our World is made up of people like ME. I help make it what it is. It will be open to the Spirit <i>if I am</i>. Its corridors, staffrooms, halls, classrooms and streets will be filled with compassion and kindness, <i>if I am</i>. It will do great work, <i>if I work</i>. It will build a culture of service and a be welcoming community <i>if I show inclusiveness and openness</i>. It will be a place that promotes empathy and a global vision <i>if I mirror these</i>. It will be a centre of learning <i>if I am generous in sharing my experience and am open to learning from others</i>. It will be a place known for the development of the whole person – Spiritual, emotional, physical, relational & academic - <i>if I am doing this for myself</i>. It will make generous gifts to many causes <i>if I am generous with my time, talents, and treasure</i>. It will bring others into its worship and fellowship <i>if I invite & bring them</i>. It will tirelessly care for and advocate on behalf of those most vulnerable <i>if I also do</i>. It will be a school community of loyalty & love, of mercy & compassion, of fearlessness & faith, and a network with an inspiring spirit, <i>if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things</i>. Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my School, my school community, our school network and our world to be. Amen</p>					

Easter Sunday (31st March) to Pentecost Sunday (19th May)
this year we invite you to join us as we

Walk the Path to Pentecost

as one community joined in faith with the help of the daily scripture readings following mainly John's Gospel.

You can download the 'Daily Scripture Calendar' with the scripture reading of the day and a short thought for each day from

<https://www.spiritaneducation.ie/2024/03/13/walking-the-path-to-pentecost-2024/>

and every day of our journey there will be a short, online reflection prepared by staff, students, and friends from schools all across Ireland of joint Schools Trustees/Patrons group available from

<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritaneEducationTrust/>

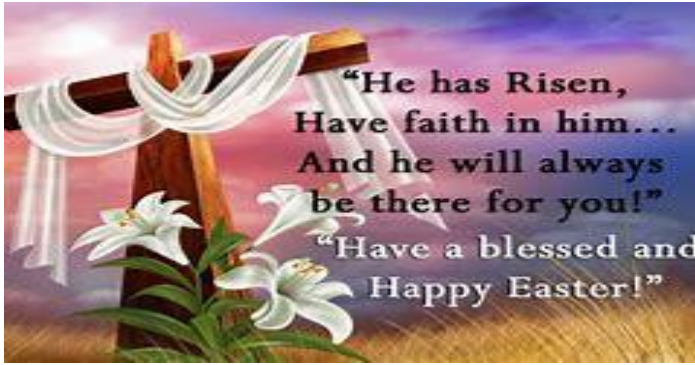
We are delighted to be part of this initiative and look forward to praying with you.

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock - Saturday April 27th 2024

Join with Archbishop Farrell in prayer at Knock

Theme: “Whatever you ask for in my name, I will do it.”

11:00am	Tea & Coffee available in St John’s Rest & Care as pilgrims arrive.		
12.00pm	Welcome and introduction to workshops		
12:05pm	Workshops – St John’s Rest & Care Centre		
	<p><u>Nurturing Parish Volunteers – Serving in a Fragile World</u></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Brian Grogan S.J.</p>	<p><u>Laudato Si Update</u> What it means for our parishes</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> To be confirmed</p> <p><u>Outdoor Stations of the Cross</u></p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Deacon Declan Colgan, Archdiocese of Dublin</p>	<p><u>Prayerful Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation based on the Gospel of the Woman at the Well</u></p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i> Beatrice Reilly & Cathy Burke, Archdiocese of Dublin</p>
1:00pm	Pilgrimage Picnic in St John’s with tea and coffee available for a small donation. <i>Pilgrims are asked to bring their own packed lunch or avail of local restaurants and cafes.</i>		
1:45pm	Opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation, quiet time or to pray the Rosary.		
2.30pm	Sacrament of the Sick in the Basilica.		
3.00pm	Pilgrimage Mass Chief Celebrant: Archbishop Dermot Farrell Choir of many voices from around the Diocese.		
4.30pm	Departure		



Easter is not just one Sunday or week in the Churches Year. It is the time when the disciples were coming to terms with the new reality of the Risen Christ in their midst and being prepared for their many missionary journeys to come. We begin to reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit and his many gifts to us.

April 7th Second Sunday after Easter - A Reflection

Cry Out with joy to Christ The Risen Lord, Alleluia.

Lift up your hearts to Him.

Lord of the Dance, Morning Star, Leap of Faith,

Stillness of joy, Radiance of the Face of God.

Living God, from whom no door is closed,

No heart is locked against, Awaken me.

Come, meet me in the garden of my life.

Open my heart to hear Your voice,

O Bringer of Truth. Roll away the stone of my indifference.

Sacred Teacher, Make of our hearts one heart.

Invite us to growth and hope, To be a partner in a new dance.

Bring Springtime to our hearts. Season of Resurrection –

So much has yet to be born in us, Broken open and set free.

Reach us with Your everlasting joy.

Open the tomb of our heart. Wrap Your compassion around us.

Breathe Your love in us. We are seekers of Your Presence,

O Mystery of God. We are disciples of Jesus,

Our Beloved Friend.

We see the depth and breadth Of Divine Generosity.

O Holy One dwelling in us, Bring beauty to our world.

Teach us to walk confidently In times of uncertainty,

To set aside the unloving, To trust in Your guiding light,

To walk in freedom. Cry out with joy to Christ,

The Risen Lord. Alleluia.

April 8th Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25 every year in the Catholic Church, except when the day falls during the Easter Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday – in which case the feast is transferred to the most suitable day during Eastertide. However, the date never changes in Eastern Orthodoxy and Eastern Catholicism, even if it falls during Easter. When Easter and the Feast of the Annunciation fall on the same day, it is called Kyriopascha.

The Story of the Annunciation of the Lord

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).



Mary has an important role to play in God’s plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God’s decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God’s instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God’s grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God’s grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfils Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

11th April Feast of Saint Stanislaus

Anyone who reads the history of Eastern Europe cannot help but chance on the name of Stanislaus, the saintly but tragic bishop of Kraków, patron of Poland. He is remembered with Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for vigorous opposition to the evils of an unjust government.

Born in Szczepanow near Kraków on July 26, 1030, he was ordained a priest after being educated in the cathedral schools of Gniezno, then capital of Poland, and at Paris. He was appointed preacher and archdeacon to the bishop of Kraków, where his eloquence and example brought about real conversion in many of his penitents, both clergy and laity. He became bishop of Kraków in 1072.

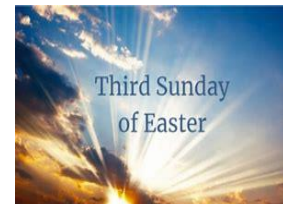
During an expedition against the Grand Duchy of Kiev, Stanislaus became involved in the political situation of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II. The king first excused himself, then made a show of penance, then relapsed into his old ways.

Stanislaus continued his open opposition despite charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. Enraged, the latter ordered soldiers to kill the bishop. When they refused, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands. Forced to flee to Hungary, Boleslaus supposedly spent the rest of his life as a penitent in the Benedictine abbey in Osiak.



April 14th Third Sunday of Easter - A Reflection

Cry Out with joy to Christ The Risen Lord, Alleluia.
Lift up your hearts to Him.
Lord of the Dance, Morning Star,
Leap of Faith, Stillness of joy,
Radiance of the Face of God.
Living God, from whom no door is closed,
No heart is locked against, Awaken me.
Come, meet me in the garden of my life.
Open my heart to hear Your voice, O Bringer of Truth.
Roll away the stone of my indifference.
Sacred Teacher, Make of our hearts one heart.
Invite us to growth and hope, To be a partner in a new dance.
Bring Springtime to our hearts.
Season of Resurrection – So much has yet to be born in us,
Broken open and set free.
Reach us with Your everlasting joy. Open the tomb of our heart.
Wrap Your compassion around us. Breathe Your love in us.
We are seekers of Your Presence, O Mystery of God.
We are disciples of Jesus, Our Beloved Friend.
We see the depth and breadth Of Divine Generosity.
O Holy One dwelling in us, Bring beauty to our world.
Teach us to walk confidently In times of uncertainty,
To set aside the unloving, To trust in Your guiding light,
To walk in freedom. Cry out with joy to Christ,
The Risen Lord. Alleluia.



April 21st World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Pope Francis on Tuesday released his message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations, reflecting on the Christian pilgrimage as a synodal journey that is rooted in hope and aimed toward discovering God's love.



The theme for the this year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations, "**Called to Sow Seeds of Hope and to Build Peace,**" reflects the universal Christian call to "base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out will never be in vain," the pope said.

"This ultimate calling is one that we must anticipate daily," the pope observed. "Even now our loving relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is beginning to bring about God's dream of unity, peace, and fraternity." The Pope noted that this process of discernment assumes a "synodal character," as the Church has a "polyphony of diverse charisms and vocations." Amid the variety of our charisms, we are called to listen to one another and to journey together to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all," the pope observed.

Francis reinforced this observation by pointing to the **theme of the 2025 Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope."**

"We can become for our world messengers and witnesses of Jesus' dream of a single human family, united in God's love and in the bond of charity, cooperation, and fraternity," the Holy Father said. For the pope, the pilgrimage is a journey that has a regenerative effect as man carries "only the essentials" while "striving daily to set aside all weariness, fear, uncertainty, and hesitation" in order to "discover the love of God."

"Being a pilgrim," Francis continued, "means setting out each day, beginning ever anew, rediscovering the enthusiasm and strength needed to pursue the various stages of a journey that, however tiring and difficult, always opens before our eyes new horizons and previously unknown vistas." But the pope also noted that this journey is a process of self-discovery, which is "nourished by our relationships with others." "We are pilgrims because we have been called, called to love God and to love one another," he said.


The Holy Father emphasized that this pilgrimage, or process, is "far from a pointless journey or aimless wandering" but is instead a process by which humans can work "toward a new world where people can live in peace, justice, and love."

Francis also directed this call to today's youth — especially those who feel estranged or suspicious of the Church — with the pope encouraging them to bring Christ the "important questions." "Let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him."

The “Year for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood” will conclude on Vocations Sunday (21st April) which will mark the 61st **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The mass will be broadcast on RTE One Television at 11am.

Is God Calling You?

“Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”
- Pope Francis



Find out who you can talk to about priesthood in our diocese on www.vocations.ie

The role of a Priest within the Catholic Church is multifaceted and carries significant responsibilities. Let’s delve into the various aspects of their role:

1. Proclaiming, Teaching, and Guarding the Word of God:

- **Co-Worker with the Bishop:** A priest collaborates with the bishop and shares in the Church’s mission. [One of their primary duties is to proclaim, teach, and guard the word of God found in Scripture and authentic Catholic tradition](#)¹.
- **Spiritual Guidance:** Priests provide spiritual counsel and instruction to their parishioners. They offer guidance on matters of faith, morality, and Christian living.

2. Celebrating the Sacraments:

- **Eucharist:** Priests celebrate the **Eucharist** (Holy Mass), where they consecrate bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.
- **Reconciliation:** They hear confessions, offer absolution, and guide penitents toward reconciliation with God.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Priests administer the sacrament of anointing to the sick and dying.
- **Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage:** Priests officiate at baptisms, confirmations, and weddings.

3. Pastoral Care:

- **Parish Ministry:** Priests serve as pastors in parishes, caring for the spiritual needs of their community.
- **Visiting the Sick and Homebound:** They visit hospitals, nursing homes, and homes to provide spiritual comfort.
- **Funerals:** Priests conduct funeral services and offer solace to grieving families.

4. Leadership and Administration:

- **Parish Administration:** Priests oversee parish operations, manage finances, and coordinate activities.
- **Liturgical Leadership:** They lead worship services, organize liturgical celebrations, and prepare homilies.

- **Catechesis:** Priests educate parishioners about the faith through catechism classes and religious education programs.

5. Intercessory Prayer:

- **Praying for the Faithful:** Priests intercede for their parishioners, praying for their well-being, intentions, and needs.

6. Living a Life of Holiness:

- **Modelling Holiness:** Priests strive to live virtuously, imitating Christ's love and self-sacrifice.
- **Chastity and Celibacy:** Diocesan priests commit to celibacy, dedicating themselves fully to God's service.

Training and Formation for Priests in Ireland is a comprehensive process that prepares individuals for the sacred responsibilities of priesthood. Let's explore the key aspects of this training:



1. Seminary Formation:

- **Seminary or College:** Future priests receive their formal training at a seminary. [In Ireland, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth serves as a Pontifical University and National Seminary where candidates undergo spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation.](#)
- **Holiness and Commitment:** The seminary aims to help students grow in holiness, deepen their commitment to Christ, and develop a caring attitude toward God's people.
- **Coursework:** Students study subjects such as **philosophy, theology, and scripture**. They also engage in pastoral work, gaining practical experience by living and working in a parish.
- **Deaconate:** After initial theological study, candidates are **ordained as deacons**. They may then serve in a parish for a year before their priestly ordination.

2. Specific Responsibilities:

- **Ministry of the Word:** Priests are called to **preach the Gospel** and explain the Catholic faith. They undergo rigorous study of Scripture, Church teaching, and effective communication techniques.
- **Caring for the Flock:** Priests work closely with bishops to care for the Lord's flock. This involves understanding people's needs, visiting the sick, supporting families, and engaging with various groups within the community.
- **Consecration and Prayer:** Priests consecrate their lives to God for the salvation of His people. [Regular prayer, spiritual direction, confession, retreats, and reflection are essential components of their journey.](#)

3. **Ordination Questions:** On their ordination day, candidates answer three specific questions:
- **Ministry of the Word:** Are you resolved to exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, preaching the Gospel, and explaining the Catholic faith?
 - **Presbyteral Order:** Are you resolved to discharge without fail the office of the priesthood in the presbyteral order, conscientiously caring for the Lord's flock?
 - **Consecration:** [Are you resolved to consecrate your life to God, uniting yourself closely to Christ the High Priest](#)

In summary, the training process equips future priests with the knowledge, virtues, and practical skills necessary for their sacred ministry. It's a journey of faith, learning, and service to God and His people. 🙏☩



The **ordination** of **Joseph Keegan** to the **priesthood** was a significant event in the life of the **Archdiocese of Dublin**. On **February 20, 2022**, Archbishop **Dermot Farrell** presided over the ordination ceremony at the **Church of the Most Precious Blood** in **Cabra**.

The **diaconate** holds a significant role within the Catholic Church, yet it is often overlooked. Let's delve into its purpose and responsibilities:

1. **Transitional Deacons vs. Permanent Deacons:**

- **Transitional Deacons** are seminarians on their path to priesthood. They are ordained as deacons about a year before their priestly ordination.
- **Permanent Deacons**, on the other hand, are not studying to become priests. They receive ordination as deacons permanently. They can be married, have families, and often work secular jobs alongside their clerical duties.

2. **The Sacrament of Holy Orders:**

- The sacrament of holy orders has three degrees: diaconate, priesthood, and bishops.
- Bishops have the fullness of holy orders, responsible for sanctifying, governing, and teaching.
- Priests participate in the bishops' ministry, serving in persona Christi capitis (in the person of Christ, the head).
- Deacons serve in persona Christi servi (Christ the servant), participating in their local bishop's ministry.

3. The Role of Deacons:

- Ministry of the Word: Deacons proclaim the gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church. They help spread the good news.
- Ministry of the Liturgy: Deacons assist during Mass, administer sacraments (except for the Eucharist and confession), and perform baptisms.
- Ministry of Charity: Deacons engage in acts of service, caring for the poor, sick, and marginalized. They embody Christ's servant role.

4. Historical Context:

- During the Second Vatican Council, the Church recognized the need for new ways to proclaim Christ to the world.
- Pope Paul VI reestablished the diaconate as a permanent rank in 1967. This indelible character of service aligns with Christ's example.
- **In summary, deacons play a vital role in service, bridging the gap between the Church and the world through their ministry of word, liturgy, and charity.**

The permanent deacons from the Archdiocese of Dublin held their retreat weekend at Mount St Joseph. They are pictured here with Abbot Richard after Sunday Mass in the Abbey Church.



Please pray for Vocations with your students in the coming weeks.

Tommy Tiernan recently interviewed Fr David Vard, "the youngest priest in Ireland": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9o0UuWW_rI The full interview is found in the RTE Player, Season 6, episode 12.

On Sunday 14th April you are invited to travel with the seminarians and formation staff of St. Patrick's College Maynooth to the Monastic site of Clonmacnoise.

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intention

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



[The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2024 | USCCB](#)

[Pope Francis' Prayer for Families – Millennial \(millennialjournal.com\)](http://millennialjournal.com)

21st April Fourth Sunday After Easter - A Reflection

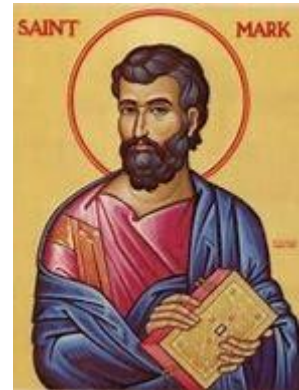


O Risen Lord, How numerous are the ways
You invigorate and enrich our lives.
Your love fills all the earth. We birth Your love into life.
The reflection of Your light In the depths of our hearts,
Gives birth to new hope.
We are continually dying to old ways And rising to newness.
You Lord have risen – The sunrise of wonder,
The touch of Love, The gift of Truth.
Into the lost, Into the heartache,
Into the hopelessness, Into the tomb
You come, alive and risen.
A new dream is born – The promise of resurrection.
All of life is used for wholeness and healing.
Life has come from death. Love from hate,
Forgiveness from condemnation, Eternal joy from sadness.
God is for us in all of life. Jesus is among the living.
God has said “yes” to Jesus. It is God’s dream –
A cosmic transformation; A path to a transformed self.
Dying to an old way of being; Being reborn to a new life.
When we are overcome by doubt, He calls us to hope.
When we are overwhelmed by fear, He refreshes and restores us.
When we despair, The reality of Easter,
Empowers us to action.
Enter into a relationship With the Risen One –
A life lived in the Spirit, Lived in Wisdom and Grace;
Transformed in love, Bring about the dream of God.

25th April Feast of St Mark

St. Mark the Evangelist is an important figure in the Christian tradition, author of the second Gospel and disciple of St. Peter.

This article presents 10 fun facts about St. Mark that will help deepen your knowledge and appreciation of this fascinating saint, whose feast the Church celebrates on April 25.



1) Cousin Of St. Barnabas

According to tradition, St. Mark, also called John Mark, was a cousin of St. Barnabas, an influential leader in the early Church and companion of St. Paul on his missionary journeys. ([Col. 4:10](#))

2) The House Of Saint Mark

St. Mark's house in Jerusalem is believed to be the site of the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist, and also the place where the disciples gathered after the Resurrection ([Acts 12:12](#)).

3) Disciple Of St. Peter

Christian tradition holds that Saint Mark was a disciple of Saint Peter and that his Gospel was based on the apostle's teachings and testimonies.

4) The Shortest Gospel

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, with only 16 chapters. It is believed to have been written around 65-70 AD.

5) First Gospel Written

Many scholars believe that the Gospel of Mark was the first of the four gospels to be written, serving as the basis for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

6) The Winged Lion

The iconography of Saint Mark is often represented by a winged lion, symbol of Christ's royalty and resurrection. This symbol is inspired by the book of Ezekiel and the Apocalypse.

7) Founder Of The Church In Egypt

Saint Mark is considered the founder of the Church in Egypt, specifically the Coptic Orthodox Church. He would have been the first bishop of Alexandria, where, according to tradition, he suffered martyrdom around AD 68.

8) Relics In Venice

The relics of St. Mark were supposedly taken from Alexandria to Venice in 828 AD and deposited in St. Mark's Basilica, built especially to house them.

9) Patron Saint Of Venice

Saint Mark is the patron saint of Venice, and his figure is closely associated with the city's history and identity. The winged lion of Saint Mark is an iconic symbol of Venice and is found on many of the city's buildings and monuments.

10) St. Mark And The Young Early Church

St. Mark played a crucial role in the young early Church, not only as an evangelist, but also as a traveling companion to St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their missions.

The Acts of the Apostles reports that there was a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas about taking Mark on a missionary journey, due to Mark's earlier desertion (Acts 15:36-41).

However, later, St. Paul recognized the value of St. Mark and asked for his presence in his prison in Rome, showing that the relationship between them was restored (2 Timothy 4,11).

This highlights the humanity of early Church leaders and how they overcame challenges and disagreements in their mission to spread the Gospel.

Saint Mark the Evangelist is a complex and multifaceted figure in the Christian tradition

Knowing these facts about his life, work and legacy helps us better understand the context and motivations behind his Gospel and appreciate the lasting impact of his contribution to the Christian faith. As we reflect on the stories and symbols associated with St. Mark, we are invited to deepen our own faith and explore the mysteries of Jesus' life and his message of salvation to the world.

28th April Fifth Sunday After Easter - A Reflection

Risen One, You are divine. We meet You everywhere.
You come to us again and again In our love for each other,
In our worship and prayer, In creation,
In our daily experiences.
You invite us to a full life with God – You are ever close to us.
Love's penetrating light breaks through;
Love's healing presence prevails,
O Come and see, O Come and hear,
All who desire life. You are our Bread from Heaven.

Listen in the temple of your heart And Christ will speak peace to you.
Gentle us, Compassionate One, That we tread the earth lightly,
Spreading peace, goodness, and love. Show us our divine destiny.
May we be a blessing to the universe And see divinity in everything.

Come, walk with us. Let us give birth to a new earth.
You raise us up, You dry our tears. Your promise inspires us.
We fear neither life nor death. Lead us into tomorrow,
Restoring what is broken,
Reaching down into our lives. We are an Easter people,
An unfolding story of grace, A Resurrection yet to dawn –
A hope that holds us through the night.
Risen One, Walk with us today.

The words of Jesus at the Last Supper, include the new commandment, "Love one another, just as I have loved you." The word Jesus used for "love" (Agape) is the selfless love of laying down one's life for others. In *The Four Loves*, CS Lewis distinguished it from three other Biblical words for "love": *philia* (friendship); *eros* (romance) and *storge* (the family bond).

There is a neat, animated version of the distinction here, suitable for Senior Cycle Classrooms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsnMsSK--OU>

The film *Fr Stu* was released in 2022. Mark Wahlberg plays Fr Stuart Long who died in 2016 at the age of 50. He had been a boxer, an actor in Hollywood and a stand-up comedian, when a motor-bike accident led to his religious conversion and becoming a Catholic. In 2010 he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Helena, Oregon. Mel Gibson plays his alcoholic father and there is a star turn by Jacki Weaver as his cynical mother. Trailer:

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

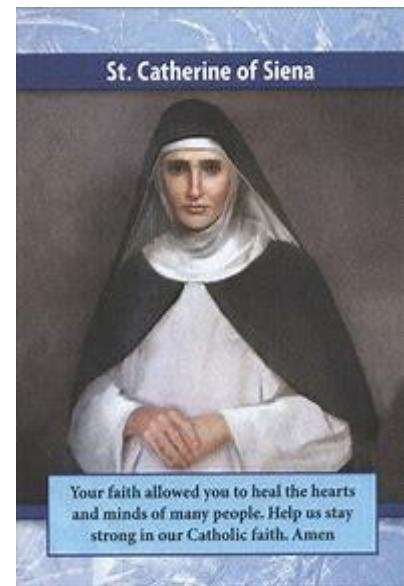


29th April Feast of St Catherine of Siena

St. Catherine of Siena was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. She was the 25th child born to her mother, although half of her brothers and sisters did not survive childhood. Catherine herself was a twin, but her sister did not survive infancy. Her mother was 40 when she was born. Her father was a cloth dyer. At the age of 16, Catherine's sister, Bonaventura, died, leaving her husband as a widower. Catherine's parents proposed that he marry Catherine as a replacement, but Catherine opposed this. She began fasting and cut her hair short to mar her appearance.

Her parents attempted to resist this move, to avoid marriage, but they were unsuccessful. Her fasting and her devotion to her family, convinced them to relent and allow her to live as she pleased. Catherine once explained that she regarded her father as a representation of Jesus and her mother as Our Lady, and her brothers as the apostles, which helped her to serve them with humility.

Despite Catherine's religious nature, she did not choose to enter a convent and instead she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, which allowed her to associate with a religious society while living at home. Fellow Dominican Sisters taught St. Catherine how to read. Meanwhile, she lived quietly, isolated within her family home. St. Catherine developed a habit of giving things away and she



continually gave away her family's food and clothing to people in need. She never asked permission to give these things away, and she quietly put up with their criticisms.

Something changed her when she was 21. She described an experience she referred to as her "mystical marriage to Christ." There are debates over whether St. Catherine was given a ring with some claiming she was given a bejewelled ring, and other claiming the ring was made of Jesus's skin. St. Catherine herself started the rumour of the latter in her writings, but she was known to often claim the ring itself was invisible.

Such mystical experiences change people, and St. Catherine was no exception. In her vision, she was told to re-enter public life and to help the poor and sick. She immediately rejoined her family and went into public to help people in need. She often visited hospitals and homes where the poor and sick were found. Her activities quickly attracted followers who helped her in her mission to serve the poor and sick.

St. Catherine was drawn further into the world as she worked, and eventually she began to travel, calling for reform of the Church and for people to confess and to love God totally. She became involved in politics and was key in working to keep city states loyal to the Pope. She was also credited with helping to start a crusade to the Holy Land. On one occasion, she visited a condemned political prisoner and was credited with saving his soul, which she saw being taken up to heaven at the moment of his death.

St. Catherine allegedly was given the stigmata, but like her ring, it was visible only to herself. She took Bl. Raymond of Capua as her confessor and spiritual director. From 1375 onwards, St. Catherine began dictating letters to scribes. She petitioned for peace and was instrumental in persuading the Pope in Avignon to return to Rome. She became involved in the fractured politics of her time but was instrumental in restoring the Papacy to Rome and in brokering peace deals during a time of factional conflict and war between the Italian city states.

She also established a monastery for women in 1377 outside of Siena. She is credited with composing over 400 letters, her Dialogue, which is her definitive work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is one of the most influential and popular saints in the Church.

By 1380, the 33-year-old mystic had become ill, possibly because of her habit of extreme fasting. Her confessor, Raymond, ordered her to eat, but she replied that she found it difficult to do so, and that possibly she was ill. In January of 1380, her illness accelerated her inability to eat and drink. Within weeks, she was unable to use her legs. She died on April 29, following a stroke just a week prior.

St. Catherine's feast day is April 29, she is the patroness against fire, illness, the United States, Italy, miscarriages, people ridiculed for their faith, sexual temptation, and nurses.

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Act Justly...Love Tenderly...Walk Humbly with God

Reading

Micah 6:8

What does the Lord require of you?

To act justly, to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

ACT JUSTLY

Song

The Water of Life (Marie Dunne CHF)

All sing: Come to the water you who are thirsty, come to the water of life.

Though you have nothing, I am your all, I will hear you when I call.

Reflection

What is Water Justice?

'Water is Life. People not having clean water is very much a justice issue. They spend hours getting water for their household needs – then there are health concerns around the water they drink. I try to make a difference where I can, even little things '

Father Phillip - Lingoni Parish Malawi. (Pause)

Reading

Amos 5.24

Let justice flow like a river,

Righteousness like a never-failing stream

'Even where poverty bites deep. Even in a changing climate. Solar powered

water pumps, and boreholes. Simple drip irrigation pipes, and hardy diverse seeds for planting. Each a ripple of justice, a tenacious ray of hope.'

All say: Let justice flow like a river,

Righteousness like a never-failing stream

'Multiple times a day, over steep terrain, Malita (mother of twins Patricia and

Patrick) hauls two 20-litre buckets – up to 40 kilos of water. Its backbreaking

work for water that sometimes makes her family sick.'



All say: Let justice flow like a river,

Righteousness like a never-failing stream

(Pause)

What can we do?

One example of justice in action is from Blessed Maria Celeste Crostarosa, who founded the Redemptoristines. In her early years, she set up an orphanage, where she not only provided shelter but also ensured that children received an education. She believed in the power of small acts of justice and calls us to do the same.

Act of Sorrow

We are sorry for the continued draining and destruction of our seas through overfishing **Kyrie**

We are sorry for our pollution of the rivers and lakes **Christe**

We are sorry for failing to prioritise clean water as a common good for all **Kyrie**

(Pause)

LOVE MERCY

Song

Remember, Remember (Paul Inwood)

All sing:

Remember, remember, your mercy, Lord.

Remember, remember, your mercy, Lord.
Hear your people's prayer as they call to you.
Remember, remember, your mercy, Lord.

Reflection Prayers of Hope and Healing (Liam Lawton)

Lord, forgive my blindness in failing to see your abundant
blessings, Given daily from your kindness,
Forgive me Lord and let my shame now end,
Forgive me Lord that I might live again.

Reflection ctd. Prayer for Forgiveness (Liam Lawton)

Lord help me to be humble, for I have wandered far from your
goodness, And lived just for myself,
So, give me the courage to be self-effacing and honest,
Forgive me for the times that I have imprisoned myself selfishness,
greed, in envy, in arrogance, in anger, in despair, in mistrust,
Forgive me for falling in self-pity, self-doubt, self-destruction, and self-
containment, In these times of falling and failing, lead me to a greater
understanding of myself, In a new appreciation of your infinite goodness and
mercy, And bind me from the dark clouds that veil my life in fear, From the
allurement of empty promises, of self-satisfaction, or from the paralysis of
self-loathing, To be humble, is to come close to you.

Song Kyrie (Byrd) (Pause)

Reflection Lord, if only you could listen

Lord if only You could listen and hear confusion in my mind
Would you break down and cry for me;
Would you break down and die for me?
And Lord, if you could know the feeling
when life begins to get me down,
Would you break down and cry for me;

Would you break down and die for me?
And Lord, to live from day to day
Would never help me find my way,
O Lord would you take my hand and lead me there,
To your side forever, 'ever my Lord

Song

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (Ed Bolduc)

All sing:

So be merciful just as our God is merciful.

Be merciful just as our God is merciful to us.

Let there be a wideness in our mercy.

Let there be a kindness in our hearts.

Oh, may our lives be merciful.

(Pause)

Reading

1 Samuel 15.22

But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

Reflection

Mercy not Sacrifice (Max Lucado)

"Lord," I said, "I want to be your man, not my own.

So to you I give my money, my car—even my home."

Then, smug and content, I relaxed with a smile

And whispered to God, "I bet it's been a while

Since anyone has given so much – so freely?"

His answered surprised me. He replied, "Not really.

"Not a day has gone by since the beginning of time

That someone hasn't offered meagre nickels and dimes,

Golden altars and crosses, contributions and penance,

Stone monuments and steeples; but why not repentance?

"The money, the statues, the cathedrals you've built,

Do you really think I need offerings of guilt?
What good is money that's meant only to save
The hurting conscience that so many of you have?
"Your lips know no prayers. Your eyes no compassion.
But you will go to church (when churchgoing's in fashion).
"Just give me a tear – a heart ready to mould
And I'll give you a mission, a message so bold
That a fire will be stirred where there was only death,
And your heart will be flamed by my life and my breath."
I stuck my hands in my pockets and kick at the dirt
It's tough to be corrected
But it was worth the struggle to realize the thought
That the Cross isn't for sale and Christ blood can't be bought.

Song: The Power of the Cross (Keith and Kristyn Getty

(Pause)

WALK HUMBLY

Prayer of Reconciliation:

Dear God,

I come before you humbly, seeking your guidance and grace.

I acknowledge my own shortcomings, and I ask for your forgiveness for any words or actions causing harm.

Lord, I pray for reconciliation and a resolution to conflict.

Help me to set aside pride and ego, and to approach situations with a heart full of love and forgiveness.

Grant me the wisdom to listen with empathy and the courage to extend forgiveness.

May your grace and mercy be the foundation upon which we built trust and harmony.

Help us to be an instrument of your love and reconciliation in this world.

The Humility of Saint Patrick (Confessions)

‘Before I was humbled I was like a stone lying in deep mire, and he that is mighty came and, in his mercy, raised me up and, indeed, lifted me high up and placed me on top of the wall. And from there I ought to shout out in gratitude to the Lord for his great favours.’

(Pause)

Prayer of Saint Patrick

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me.

Song The Deer’s Cry (Shaun Davey)

Walking Humbly with God

To “walk humbly with God” is the basis for loving mercy and doing justice. Because of what God has done, we fully invest in healing the world around us through mercy and justice. Cultivating our walk with God provides the power and passion for us to fully engage—it grounds everything else we do.

Song Shalom

(Pause)

Reflection Footprints in the Sand (M. Stevenson) Réiltín

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene, I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,

other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during

the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from

anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,

‘You promised me Lord, that if I followed you,

you would walk with me always.

But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life

there have only been one set of footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most,

have you not been there for me?’

The Lord replied,

‘The times when you have

seen only one set of footprints,

is when I carried you.

Resolution

Micah 6:8

All say: What does the Lord require of you?

To act justly, to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

Song

On Eagle's Wings (Michael Joncas)

April 5th International Day of Conscience

The preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people." Moreover, article 1 of the Declaration states that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."



The task of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society.

Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the General Assembly declared 5 April the International Day of Conscience.

The General Assembly invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to build the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience in accordance with the culture and other appropriate circumstances or customs of their local, national and regional communities, including through quality education and public awareness-raising activities, thereby fostering sustainable development.

[International Day of Conscience | UNESCO](#)

Ember Faith Development Teams 2023/24

Would you like to have an Ember Team in your school. If the answer is yes - contact either Sr Bernadette or Sr Concepta for details.



“Fan into flame the gift of God within you”



The Pope John Paul II Awards are open to young people of all abilities between the ages of 16 and 18 years. There are four awards:

The Papal Cross Award

The Gold Award

The Silver Award

The Bronze Award

The Award requires a commitment from the young person and a lead person in the school. For more information, contact either:

Sr Bernadette Carron
bernadette.carron@dublindiocese.ie

Sr Concepta Foley
concepta.foley@dublindiocese.ie

<https://thepopejohnpauliiaward.com/the-pope-john-paul-ii-award-explained/>

EMMANUEL CONCERTS 2024

Congratulations to the schools listed below who participated in this year's three concerts in the Helix. This music programme serves as a source of inspiration for prayer services, Graduation ceremonies and Opening Year Masses that schools use throughout the year. The diverse repertoire encompasses lively worship songs and reflective pieces that embody Christian values and principles. Our sincere thanks to the Emmanuel Team and you the Teachers for your exceptional dedication to your students.



Tuesday 12th March

Coláiste Mhuire, Cabra
Le Chéile Secondary School, Tyrrelstown
Loreto Secondary School, Bray
Mount Anville Sec School, Stillorgan
Muckross Park College, Donnybrook
St. Benildus College, Stillorgan
St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush
St. Michael's College, Ailesbury Rd
St. Vincent's College, Castleknock

Edmund Rice College, Castleknock
Loreto Abbey, Dalkey
Manor House School, Raheny
Mount Carmel Sec School, Kings Inn St.
Pobalscoil Iosolde, Palmerstown
St. Conleth's College, Ballsbridge
St Mary's Holy Faith, Glasnevin
St. Seton's Sec School, Ballyfermot
The Teresian School, Stillorgan

Wednesday 13th March

Arklow CBS
Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin
Deansrath Community College
Knockmitten Choir
Loreto College, Swords
Maryfield College, Grace Park Road
Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont
Skerries Community College
St. Michael's Holy Faith School, Finglas

CBC Monkstown
Coláiste Cois Life, Lucan
Dominican College, Griffith Ave
Kylemore College, Ballyfermot
Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan
Mercy College, Coolock
Sancta Maria College, Ballyroan
St. Dominic's College, Cabra

Thursday 14th March

Ardgillan Community College
Blakestown Community College
Coláiste Lorcáin, Castledermot
Holy Faith Secondary School, Clontarf
Oldbawn Community School, Tallaght
Pobalscoil Rosmini, Grace Park Road
St. Joseph's College, Lucan
St. Joseph's Secondary School, Stanhope St
St. Raphaela's Secondary School, Stillorgan

Avondale Community College
Cabinteely Community School
Collinstown Park Community School
Loreto College, Foxrock
Pobalscoil Neasain, Baldoyle
Scoil Chaitríona, Mobhí Road
St. Joseph of Cluny Sec School, Killiney
St. Mary's Secondary School, Baldoyle

[Emmanuel 2024 \(dublindiocese.ie\)](http://Emmanuel2024.dublindiocese.ie)

Let us pray for all students in our care undergoing examinations:

Lord, pour out your Spirit of Wisdom on these students:
help them to remain calm,
to attend carefully to the questions asked,
to think clearly, to remember accurately,
and to express themselves well.
Grant that they may reflect on the best of the work they
have done
and the best of the teaching they have received.
Accept their best efforts in these examinations
and in the great test of life on earth.
May your love be upon them, O Lord,
as they place all their trust in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN