

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR LENT 2019 (Part I)**

**“For the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God” (Rm 8: 19)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (*Preface of Lent I*). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ’s paschal mystery – “for in hope we were saved” (*Rom 8:24*). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (*Rom 8:19*). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. *Rom 8:29*) is a priceless gift of God’s mercy.

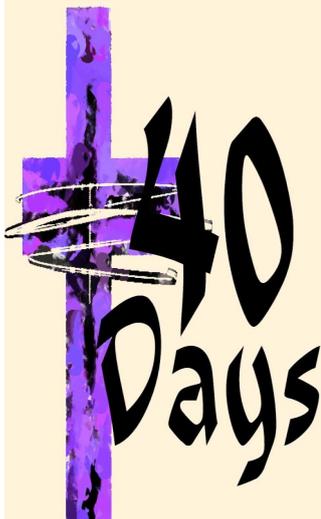
When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom 8:14*) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God’s law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, *we also benefit creation* by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus’ paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticle of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “*I want it all and I want it now!*” and “*Too much is never enough*”, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. *Gen 3:17-18*). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God’s law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. *Mk 7:20-23*) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip. (*to be contd.*)

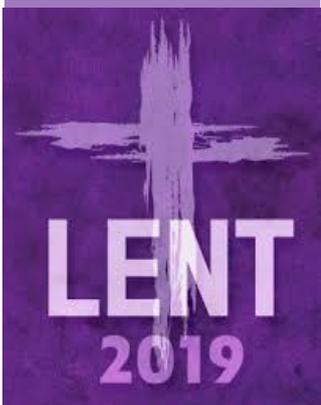


**St Mary’s
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Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

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“This Lent- Our Baptism”

Lenten Letter of Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am writing to ask each parish in the diocese to highlight Baptism this Lent. I invite you to a renewed appreciation of what it means to be baptised.

In the early days of Christianity, Lent was the time of final preparation for adults who were to be baptised at the Easter Vigil. In recent years, some parishes have had a similar experience – welcoming adults into the Church and accompanying them towards their baptism at Easter. This has a powerful effect on others in the community, putting them back in touch with their own Baptism.

My invitation for this Lent is that all of us, across the diocese, would take this time to come to a new sense of being baptised in Christ. If we take this opportunity, we can then renew our Baptism promises at Easter in the most meaningful way.

Some parishes have done great work to make Baptism more visible and prominent in their churches. But, more often than not, it is not visible. It can even be absent from our consciousness. Baptism can be something that happened ‘back then’ rather than something we are living now. I hope that this Lent many of us will move from thinking that ‘I was baptised’ to realising that ‘I *am* baptised’. I hope that this will be a time for many of us to reconnect with our own Baptism and to reawaken its power.

Today, our churchgoing communities are surrounded by a larger community where many were baptised but, for one reason or another, are not now in touch with that grace. A Christian community which has a living sense of being a baptised people will be a more attractive witness to others. Its attractiveness can prompt others to re-awaken Baptism in their lives.

I wish to express my appreciation for the wonderful ministry of the Baptism teams in our parishes. Their engagement with young families is critically important. When we as a Christian community are animated about our own Baptism, it reinforces what they do and multiplies its effect.

I encourage you to avail of the resources now available here. I hope that you will find them helpful as we seek to bring Baptism to the centre of our Christian lives and our Christian communities.

With prayerful good wishes

+Diarmuid Martin

Archbishop of Dublin

Trocaire:
Mercy in Action

TROCAIRE LENTEN APPEL 2019

We need to raise funds to challenge serious human rights abuses and provide immediate humanitarian relief. All Romero Fund contributions are used directly to support activities in Gaza, DRC, Guatemala and Pakistan.

Envelopes available at back of Church
<https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>

The Lenten Holy Hour After Saturday Vigil Mass 7pm-8pm

St Mary's March Diary

Saturdays in Lent, 7pm	Lenten Hour of Prayer: after Vigil Mass
Wednesday 13 March:	8:00pm: Dublin Concert Band
Sunday 17 March:	St. Patrick's Day
Monday 25 March:	5:45pm Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday 26 March:	7:00pm St. Brigid's Service of Light
Wednesday 27 March	7:00pm St. Conleth's Service of Light (Confirmation ceremony)

In Memoriam

11am: Patricia Dunne (Anniversary)
Josephine Walshe (Anniversary)

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm
Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm
Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only
-**Rosary** daily after 10am mass
Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

Church Collections Last Week

1st Collection: €1,332
Share Collection: €652
Weekday collections: €465

THANK YOU