

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2019M (Part II)

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

3. The healing power of repentance and forgiveness

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, *creation itself can celebrate a Pasch*, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. *Prayer*, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. *Almsgiving*, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the "lenten" period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the *desert* of creation had the goal of making it once more that *garden* of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be "set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

From the Vatican, 4 October 2018

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi



**St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road**

**Serving
the
Community**

**Serving
the
Family**

**Serving
the**

**LENT
2019**



odb.org

Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C. Fr Josip Levaković C.C. Tel 01-6600075

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

Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Thoughts for a Day

As far as the education of children is concerned, I think they should be taught not the little virtues but the great ones. Not thrift but generosity and an indifference to money; not caution but courage and a contempt for danger; not shrewdness but frankness and a love of truth; not tact but a love of one's neighbour and self-denial; not desire for success but a desire to be and to know."

-Natalia Ginsburg, 1916-1991

Forgiveness is the answer to the child's dream of a miracle by which what is broken is made whole again, and what is soiled is made clean again. The dream explains why we need to be forgiven, and why we must forgive. In the presence of God, nothing stands between him and us – we are forgiven. But we cannot feel his presence if anything is allowed to stand between ourselves and others.

-Dag Hammarskjöld 1905-1961

Purging the soul is a lifetime effort. There is no reason to be upset by our imperfections, for perfection is nothing more than fighting against them. How can we resist them unless we see them? How can we overcome them unless we face them?

- Francois de Sales 1967-1622

If I am soft to myself and slide comfortably into self-pity and self-sympathy, if I do not by the grace of God practice fortitude, then I know nothing of Calvary love. If I myself dominate myself, if my thoughts revolve round myself, if I am so occupied with myself I rarely have "a heart at leisure from itself," then I know nothing of Calvary love....That which I know not, teach Thou me, O Lord, my God.

- Amy Carmichael 1867-1951

St Mary's Spring Diary

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)
Thursday 28 March	7:00pm St. Mary's Service of Light
Thursday 11 April	10:45am Confirmation Day: Parish Schools and St. Conleth's
Sunday 14 April	Palm Sunday: SVP Advocate Collection
Sunday 21 April	Easter Sunday
Thursday 25 April	7:15pm Education Lecture: "St. Mary's: the Art and Craft of Stained Glass." William Earley
Saturday 27 April	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock
Sunday 4 May	Share Appeal Sunday
Saturday 11 May	First Communion: St. Conleth's College
Saturday 18 May	First Communion: St. Mary's and St. Brigid's Schools
Friday 31 May	First Communion: St. Declan's Special School
Sunday 2 June	Feast of the Ascension: World Communication Day

In Memoriam

Masses on 23rd /24th March 2019
9.30am: Michael and Maureen Lyons (Anniv)

Masses and Confession

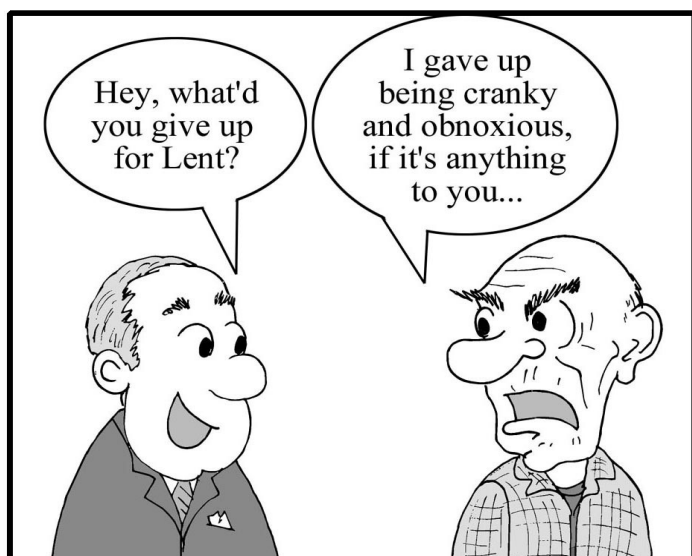
Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm
Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm
Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only
-Rosary daily after 10am mass

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

Church Collections Last Week

1st Collection: €1,060
Share Collection: €815
Weekday collections: €805

THANK YOU



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C. Fr Josip Levaković Tel 01-6600075
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
Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign