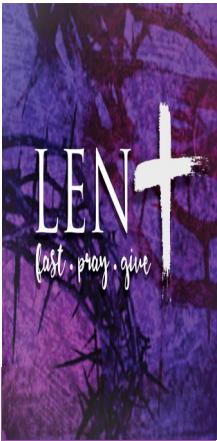


Pope Francis stresses reconciliation in Lenten message

Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Lent is a time for deeper dialogue with God through prayer, for renewed gratitude for God's mercy and for increased compassion for people whose lives are under attack, Pope Francis said.

Also, people must not only show generosity through charitable giving, but they should also work for a real structural change to today's "economic life," the pope said in his annual message for Lent. Contemplating the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus and putting it at the centre of one's life "means feeling compassion toward the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence," the pope said in his message. These wounds are "likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry," he said.

St Mary's
Parish

Not only are Christians called to generously share the richness of the Gospel and gifts from God, "today, too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world," he said. "Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness," he said.

Serving
the
Community

"We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life," he said. That is why, the pope said, he called for a meeting during Lent with "young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy." The meeting was set to take place in Assisi March 26-28.

Serving
the
Family

The theme of the pope's message, "We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God," was taken from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (5:20), which reflects the invitation to return to God through constant conversion and reconciliation, and experience new life in Christ.

Serving
the
City

"Life is born of the love of God our father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance," Pope Francis wrote. "If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the 'father of lies,' we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness," he said.

"Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives and in the life of the church and the world," he wrote, "this opportunity to change our course expresses God's unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us" and his desire that people also engage in fruitful dialogue with each other.

God's dialogue with humanity "has nothing to do with empty chatter," which "characterizes worldliness in every age; in our own day, it can also result in improper use of the media," he said.

Pope Francis asked in his message that the Lenten season lead to people opening their hearts "to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him" so that everyone become "what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world."

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DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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TROCAIRE
Working for a Just World

Lenten Appeal 2020

Trocaire was established in 1973 as the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The organisation was created as a response to the widening gap between rich and poor and our collective duty to reduce it. Around the world, families are living under constant threat of conflict, drought and land grabs. In the face of these threats, many women hold their families together, battling enormous odds to provide for their children. Lent 2020 highlights the different ways in which women keep their families safe and protect their futures.

Boxes are available in the church. You may also wish to find out more about our work and contribute online <https://www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/lent>

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR VITAL LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Guidance when seasonal flu or a more serious epidemic is circulating.

The present Covid-19 Coronavirus raises a number of concerns and how we react to it should not impact negatively on the celebration of the Liturgy.

Communion on the Tongue In the past, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) has said receiving Holy Communion directly on the tongue "should be discouraged" during flu season. However, if it does occur, priests or ministers of the Eucharist should clean their hands using an alcohol based hand gel. No one is to be refused communion because they wish to receive on the tongue.

Sign of Peace The HPSC has said that the handshake at the time of the "sign of peace" involves a low risk of spreading the virus. However, since even under ordinary circumstances some people are not able to shake hands due to medical conditions, one might choose among a number of other options of shaking hands to make a bow of the head to the people around you and say "Peace be with you"

LENTEN ADORATION

Following the 6pm Vigil Mass
EVERY SATURDAY DURING LENT

In Memoriam

Masses on 29th Feb/1st March 2020

6pm: Margaret Walsh and Michael Lyons

11am: Pat Dunne (Anniversary)

Masses on 7th/8th March 2020

11am: Jo Walsh (Anniversary)

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Messe en français 12.30 (2^e et 4^e dimanche du mois)

Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only

-Rosary daily after 10am mass

Confession: Tuesdays 12.00-13.30

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection: €1,525

Share Collection: €925

Weekday collections: €365

THANK YOU