

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:8-9



Lenten messages and activities

■ P4 & P19



Helping flood victims rebuild their lives

■ P5



Squash queen, Nicol David, gives back

■ P12



Prayer for the Synod  
*Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

# Lent is about eternal rewards, not appearances

**VATICAN:** Pope Francis cautioned on Ash Wednesday against the temptation to allow Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving to be taken over by an "illness of appearances" that cares more about earthly than eternal rewards.

In a homily read by Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, on March 2, the Pope said that the rite of receiving ashes was an "austere sign, which leads us to reflect on the transience of our human condition."

He added that it was "like a medicine that has a bitter taste and yet is effective for curing the illness of appearances, a spiritual illness that enslaves us and makes us dependent on the admiration of others."

Cardinal Parolin presided over a live-streamed Ash Wednesday Mass, as well as the blessing and imposition of ashes, in Pope Francis' place on Wednesday, after the Pope was unable to attend due to knee pain.

During the Mass at the first-century Basilica of Santa Sabina, on Rome's Aventine Hill, the cardinal read the homily prepared by Pope Francis.

"The ashes bespeak the emptiness hiding behind the frenetic quest for worldly rewards," he said. "They remind us that worldliness is like the dust that is carried away by a slight gust of wind. Sisters and brothers, we are not in this world to chase the wind; our hearts thirst for eternity."

"Lent," he underlined, "is the time granted us by the Lord to be renewed, to nurture our interior life and to journey towards Easter, towards the things that do not pass away, towards the reward we are to receive from the Father."

Pope Francis added that "Lent is also a journey of healing. Not to be changed overnight, but to live each day with a renewed spirit, a different 'style.'"

Prayer, fasting, and charity, also called almsgiving, are aids to this spiritual healing, he said.

"Purified by the Lenten ashes, purified of the hypocrisy of appearances, they become even more powerful and restore us to a living relationship with God, our brothers and sisters, and ourselves," he said.

Reading Pope Francis' homily after the proclamation of the Gospel, Cardinal Parolin said: "Today, as we embark on the Lenten season,



The rite of receiving ashes is an "austere sign, which leads us to reflect on the transience of our human condition." – Pope Francis. (Photo/Michael Teoh, CDM Sg Ara facebook)

the Lord says to us: 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven (Matthew 6:1).'"

In his homily, the Pope gave some indications for how Catholics can carry out prayer, fasting, and almsgiving without falling into the "hypocrisy of appearances."

Hidden prayer, he said, "becomes the secret to making our lives flourish everywhere else."

"During this Lenten season, let us pray, above all, by looking at the Crucified Lord. Let us open our hearts to the touching tenderness of God, and in his wounds place our own wounds and those of our world. Let us not be always in a rush, but find the time to stand in silence before him. Let us rediscover the fruitfulness and simplicity of a heartfelt dialogue with the Lord," Francis advised.

On almsgiving, the Pope said, "if prayer is real, it necessarily bears fruit in charity. And charity sets us free from the worst form of enslavement, which is slavery to self."

Fasting also detaches us from inordinate self-interest, Pope Francis said. "Fasting is not a diet. Indeed, it sets us free from the self-centered and obsessive quest of physical fitness, in order to

help us to keep in shape not only our bodies but our spirit as well. Fasting makes us appreciate things for their true worth."

Pope Francis' homily concluded by recalling his appeal for Ash Wednesday to be a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine.

Prayer, charity, and fasting, he said, are not only spiritual medicine for ourselves, but "they can change history."

"First, because those who experience their effects almost unconsciously pass them on to others; but above all, because prayer, charity, and fasting are the principal ways for God to intervene in our lives and in the world," he said.

Prayer, fasting, and charity, he said, "are weapons of the spirit and, with them, on this day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine, we implore from God that peace which men and women are incapable of building by themselves."

"O Lord, you see in secret and you reward us beyond our every expectation," he prayed. "Hear the prayers of those who trust in you, especially the lowly, those sorely tried, and those who suffer and flee before the roar of weapons. Restore peace to our hearts; once again, grant your peace to our days." — **By Hannah Brockhaus, CNA**

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**MY VIEW**

*Breaking the bias* is the theme for the 2022 International Women's Day celebrations on March 8.

It is about working towards a world free of stereotypes and discrimination against women that is diverse, equitable and inclusive, especially for women. It's a world where difference is valued and celebrated. It is also a basic Christian tenet – treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself.

Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias can make it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough, action is needed to level the playing field. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions. We can break the bias in our communities. We can break the bias in our workplaces or schools.

In many parishes, women are the life force. You will see them in numerous areas – from BECs to the different ministries in the parish. They are also the ones who most often transmit the faith to the next generation.

However, how many of them are in leadership positions in the Church? A recent survey conducted by Caritas Malaysia showed that many felt that the presence of women as office bearers or in leadership roles is lacking (Office Review Exercise, Nov 15 to Dec 26, 2021).

Another discovery was that if there were women in leadership roles, they would be in the range of 51-60 years while men are in the 31-60 age. Why the difference?

Do take a look at your own parish and diocese, what is the composition of the top leadership? Are women just token participants to fulfil the so-called quota or are they actually respected and their opinions sought and listened to? Are they part of the decision-making process?

Currently, my organisation is run 100 per cent by women, but ... this is an anomaly. There is still much that can be done in the workplace.

There is growing research that a gender diverse workforce drives better results in your organisation across all areas.

For many, the Church is a male hierarchical organisation. But there are certainly more opportunities for women's leadership in the agencies of the Church (which has a long history of leadership by women, through female religious congregations.)

Pope Francis has been a prominent champion for women to have a bigger role in Church leadership, noting in *Querida Amazonia* that "women have kept the Church alive ...through their remarkable devotion and deep faith." He has gone further and modified canon law to open the lay ministries of lector and acolyte to women. He has also taken steps to increase women's leadership at the Vatican.

There are also some improvement in the appointment of women to leadership roles in some parishes and dioceses (for example, the role of Chancellor in a diocese is filled by women in some cases).

Hence, increasing the number of women in leadership roles in the Church is also key to evangelisation and mission. In the upcoming Second Assembly of the Plenary Council, many are hoping that the issue of women in the Church will be addressed in a direct manner. There are interesting proposals in relation to women preaching, gender-inclusive governance practices and interest in consideration of a female diaconate. Any steps taken by the Church in the direction of women's equality would be a source of hope for many. So together, let's strive towards breaking the bias.

*"Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."*

– G.D. Anderson

Sandra Ann  
Assistant Editor



NCROnline.org/cartoons

**Put your complete faith and trust in the Lord**

In today's reading of Luke's gospel, after fasting for 40 days, Jesus was tempted in every way by the devil to renounce His divine calling and mission to be our Saviour. The devil preyed on Jesus' most vulnerable moment in the wilderness, waiting for Jesus to fall like the first Adam (pride and disobedience) but Jesus claimed victory over the devil and, in doing so, made the wilderness a triumphant place where God dwells.

In this season of Lent, we too are being led by the spirit into the wilderness of our lives. For God calls us to Himself for a renewing and purifying of hearts. The wilderness is not a bad place, it is a place where we come to recognise the God of mercy and compassion who challenges us to turn away from the snares of the devil. The devil recognises and fears holiness and will do all in its power to drive away holiness from our lives. He will disguise himself to attract hearts to a lifestyle that is in opposition to the kingdom values. The devil is a deceiver, the father of lies who will prey on our weakness to draw us away from God.

As Luke's gospel relates, the devil lured Jesus to doubt the providence of God when he tempted Jesus, who was hungry and weak, to rely on his power as Son of God and not wait for God to satisfy his human needs. The devil lured Jesus to deny his filial relationship with God by enticing Jesus with power and dominance over everything without the need to go to the cross but with the condition that Jesus must subject himself to the devil. The devil mocked Jesus'

identity as Son of God and uses the occasion to manipulate the Word of God. Jesus responded with a total dependence on God and surrendered Himself completely in loving obedience to the Father's will and not on his own ability.

As the devil tried to drive Jesus from the way of obedience and dependence on God, and failed, so too does he with us in the wilderness of our lives. And you know what, the devil will also fail in his conquest with us as long as we put our complete faith and trust in the Lord. While we know that we will never be free from temptation, following Christ every day and from learning to build our life through Him, with Him and in Him, we will reign victorious. Let us be conscious of God's holy presence and make time to deepen our communion with God and with one another through the Lenten observances; an interior penance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Church, during Lent, helps us to recognise our need for purification from our weaknesses, wrongdoings and sin by calling us to a life of prayer. Prayer is a lifting up of our minds and hearts to God, to adore Him, to thank Him for His benefits, to ask His forgiveness, and to beg of Him all the graces we need whether for soul or body. Put God first in your life as you make time for prayer in your homes and in your Basic Ecclesial Community. Participate at daily Mass, the source and summit of our Christian life. Pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, Stations of the Cross that helps us to meditate on the Passion, Death

and Resurrection of Christ. Meet the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament or find a place of solitude to be with the Lord in quiet time, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Fasting helps us put our house in order, that is, draws us closer to God, strengthens our resolve to pray and to grow in virtue. Daily, we are bombarded with the culture of enslavement (alcohol, drugs, sexual promiscuity, internet porn, excessive time spent on social media or with other forms of entertainment) which can cause us to neglect and even reject our relationship with God. When we fast from selfish human desires and deeds, we are in fact detaching ourselves from material things. We also begin to cultivate good habits and we have more energy to devote to God's purposes and order our lives in the image of Christ. During this Lent, practise fasting from the excessive use of social media and other forms of social entertainment and grow in virtues of self-denial, humility and patience.

Almsgiving demonstrates our gratitude to God for all He has blessed us with as we practise acts of charity towards the poor and needy without counting the cost. In giving alms to the poor:

- a. We forgo our own desires and make sacrifices for the good of the other since "everyone should look upon his neighbour (without any exception) as 'another self,' above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity". (CCC #1931)

*Reflecting on our*  
**Sunday Readings**  
with Fr Leonard Lexson

**1st Sunday of Lent (C)**

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:4-10;  
Romans 10:8-13;  
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

b. We depend on God to direct our action for almsgiving "is a witness to fraternal charity...a work of justice pleasing to God." (CCC #2462)

Apart from providing material blessings in cash or kind, let us also be charitable through acts of kindness. Visit the homebound, sick and elderly in your BEC and pray with them. Offer a kind word or thanks to those who go about doing the most menial task unnoticed. Take time to listen to someone who needs a listening ear.

May the renewing and purifying of our hearts through the Lenten observance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving help us embrace the mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. May we always walk humbly, act justly and love tenderly as disciples of the Lord.



**Fr Leonard Lexson, MA Th spec. liturgy, is the parish priest of the Church of the Assumption, Petaling Jaya. He is also the Ecclesiastical Assistant for the Archdiocese Liturgy Commission.**



## KUALA LUMPUR ARCHDIOCESE

Diary of Archbishop  
Julian Leow

## March

- 7 CFM Exco Meeting
- 8 Sri Seronok Board Meeting
- 9 Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Team (Core Team) Meeting
- 11 Peninsular Malaysia Dioceses Finance Meeting



## PENANG DIOCESE

Diary of Bishop  
Sebastian Francis

## March

- 5 Rite of Election for Penang Island and Northern Deanery - Minor Basilica of St Anne, Bukit Mertajam
- 6 Rite of Election for Perak Deanery - Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ipoh
- 8-9 FABC Central Committee and Offices Meeting — Zoom
- 9 Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Team (Core Team) Meeting — Zoom
- 11 Peninsular Malaysia Dioceses Finance Meeting — Zoom



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND BRUNEI

# Bishops call for a stop to violence and war

KUALA LUMPUR: The Catholic Church in this region is deeply concerned over the war in Ukraine and its impact on global peace and justice, affecting the lives of peoples everywhere. Bishop Sebastian Francis said this in a letter released on March 2, 2022.

"The history and causes of war may be complex, but wars in the long term do not benefit anyone, including us. On the contrary, it only brings destruction and leaves a trail of immense suffering and displacements," explained the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

Hence, the Church in this region is "joining the chorus of Christian churches and leaders across Asia, together with all people of faith and goodwill, in humbly appealing for peace and justice. We call upon Russia, Ukraine and all interested parties to put a stop to the madness and violence of war and come to the table of peace and justice.

"Mutual respect, acceptance of differences among all sides, and integrity of nations, are crucial to lasting peace and justice for mutual co-existence. Wherever there is conflict, the world urgently needs to put in place a recovery plan, including now for

the people of Ukraine; and strengthening every effort at peace and reconciliation."

Bishop Sebastian ends the letter by calling on everyone to join the call of Pope Francis to all Catholics and people of faith and goodwill, to dedicate this first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday and beyond, as days of Fasting and Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine and in the world.

"May the Lord touch the hearts of all leaders, decision makers and the people of God, to stop this war and establish peace and justice. May Mary, the Queen of Peace and Justice, turn our steps towards peace and fraternity."



Ukrainians at the border of Poland (Vatican News photo/Caritas Polonia)



## Malacca Johore Diocese News Update #78



Greetings and Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, dear People of God.

Lent is here already. A hundred and forty-five elects in the diocese will go through the Rite of Election this weekend. The Johore State Election is set for March 12, 2022. The Russian Invasion is condemned by the world. The Pope has met the Russian ambassador. The Church, Christians and the suffering pray and appeal for peace. Pray for Ukraine and the troubled world.

**Time for Dying to Self:** Pope Francis, in his 2022 Lenten Message, reminds us "let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal.6:9-10).

Beginning with the image of sowing and reaping, the Holy Father points out that "Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing goodness."

God, he explains, is the first to sow, sowing "abundant seeds of goodness in our human family." During the period of Lent, "we are called to respond to God's gift" by listening to His Word, so that it might "bear fruit in our lives." In this way, we become "God's co-workers," which is the grace of sharing in God's own "bountiful goodness."

Why do we do what we do?

### A Thought for the Week: Looking for the Lion or its tracks!

A hunter, not very bold, was searching for the tracks of a lion. He asked a man felling oaks in the forest if he had seen any marks of his footsteps or knew where his lair was. The man said "I will at once show you the lion himself." The hunter, turning very pale and, his teeth chattering from fear, replied, "No, thank you. I did not ask

that; it is his tracks only I am in search of, not the lion himself."

**CONSIDER THIS:** In our dealings with God and with one another, we are often like this hunter. We profess that we stand for something but when the full implication of what we profess stare us in the face, we draw back or we subscribe to the lesser or, suddenly, we are satisfied with the mediocre. Are you content with glimpses or do you want the fullness?

### Announcements for this Week:

1. The COVID situation appears to be on a rampage. Daily reports on positive cases are alarming, exceeding 30,000 at times. Minimise physical contact, gatherings and dine-ins at "makan places". Monitor your daily health signs. Keep a healthy lifestyle of exercise, open air and good eating habits.

2. In preparation for the MJD50, we recognise our journey began in 1511. We carry a history of joys and sorrows, and victories and defeats. A wounded Church of wounded and hurt people, needing reconciliation with God, with the priests and one another. The March 9 Recollection Service is that time to acknowledge our hurts, forgive each other, and heal the Body of Christ.

3. Malacca Johore Diocese's Lenten Programme includes Caritas-Malacca Johore Diocese Office of Human Development's Lenten Campaign, the Mission Pastoral Institute's Lent Reflections and the Lenten Formation on *Laudato Si'*, initiated by the Creation Justice Ministry. Let your focus be: "stand up for good and do good to all".

### This week's Question and Query:

The Q asked, "How do we vote? What does it mean to 'vote by conscience'?"

1. You and I can only vote once. Only the human conscience can ensure that the ballot booth is *not a place to gamble*.

2. What does conscience look like? It is that part of me that is *bigger than me*. Many issues volley for attention: migrants and refugee concerns; quality education; war; violent crimes; health care; abortion; the hungry and homeless; the environment; human embryonic stem cell research; the dignity of marriage between a man and a woman; economic inequality; escalating prices; and the list is endless.

3. Conscience is not about "what I think" on an issue. It *"thinks about what is just and true"*.

It tells me the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, based not on the truth of circumstances or best intentions, but first and foremost on the truth of things in themselves.

4. To make a decision in conscience is to *consult the truth of the nature of things in themselves*.

Not developed simply by feelings, opinions, circumstance, intentions or movements, but it is formed by deep moral sense and mature reasoning. Conscience realises that when you support torture, abortion, abuse of environment or human life, we have voted for future war, violence and killings.

5. Conscience sees broadly. It *breaks the bubble*, brushes back the curtain, kickstarts the action, and does not compromise honest truth, and sparks change and transformation in the world.

God bless you all. *"Religion feeds on fear. Spirituality feeds on trust and faith"*. Let us continue "Building His Kingdom Together".

Bishop Bernard Paul  
March 4, 2022



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2c\\_y7Hbceo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2c_y7Hbceo)

Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur

# Salt of the Earth, Light of the World

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*Salt of the Earth, Light of the World* – this is our theme for the Lenten Campaign this year.

We follow closely the call of Jesus to become “salt” that gives others a ‘taste’ of God’s love and mercy, and a “light” that gives hope and insight. Our “saltiness” and “brightness” must reach – first, to our families; secondly, to the community to which we belong; and finally, to society at large.

The theme for the Synod of 2023 is “Communion, Participation and Mission”, in-line with our Lenten campaign theme. Through our Communion as a people of one Faith, we experience the covenant that God offers us. Through the Synodal process, we participate by listening to each other and to the Holy Spirit; and then we go on Mission to become witnesses of God’s love, especially to the marginalised and the vulnerable.

My dear friends,

The season of Lent is a time for conversion and renewal. Each week during this Lent, the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur will focus on an area of concern, with an accompanying activity and reflection. During the first week of Lent, we are reminded that Lent is a time to reignite the *Lost* habits of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

During the second week, we focus on the *elderly*. In spite of being blessed with the wisdom of age, they are often the *Last* in society. Because of their age, they may be



unable to participate actively in the parish. Therefore, we involve the elderly to reach out to other elderly and re-connect them back to the parish.

During week three, we focus on *families*. Every home is called to become a ‘domestic church’ in which family life is completely centred on the Lordship of Christ. However, many families these days are experiencing hardships and relationship issues. We must extend our support and care for families in need, whoever they are, so that they won’t feel *alone* in facing the challenges of family life.

During week four, we focus on *Environmental Conversion*. The environment is often the *Least* on our mind because we take it for granted. We assume that Mother Nature will always be in a pristine condition, but in reality, climate change has become a threat to everyone. In December last year, we saw the devastating effects of climate change during the floods that ravaged many parts of Malaysia. This is a wake-up call for an environmental conversion. We

all must play our part in caring for our common home.

During week five, we focus on *Bonding, Community and Fraternity of the Youth*. Young people are the *Little* ones who are often misunderstood and misjudged. But let us remember St Paul’s advice to Timothy: “No one should despise your young age, but be an example to all believers in the way you speak and behave, in your love, your faith and your purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12). I hope young people will build bonds with each other, and through their ideals and enthusiasm, be the catalyst for change!

During week six, we focus on the *BECs*. We can visit our neighbours in our BECs and listen to their stories and struggles. We may be able also to respond to their very needs.

My dear friends, may this season of Lent be a time of grace to deepen our prayer life, fast graciously and give generously to those in need. By keeping to these three pillars of Lent, we can truly become “salt of the earth” and “light of the world.” May we give flavour and illumine the lives of all we meet.

Pope Francis’s Lenten Message for us this year is “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all” (Gal 6:9-10)

+ Most Rev Julian Leow  
Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur



her last two pennies teach us how to trust the Lord’s mercy and providence. Jesus teaches: “I tell you truly, this poor widow in her poverty has put in all she had to live on.” (Luke 21:1-4)

So, during this Lent, though each of us may be struggling from the impact of this pandemic on our economy over the last two years, we can always share what we have. Let us give out of our poverty as we trust in our generous Lord who wants to bless and generously supply our spiritual, emotional and physical needs.

“Give and there will be gifts for you; a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out will be the amount you will be given back.” (Luke 6:38)

+ Most Rev Simon Poh  
Archbishop of Kuching

Archdiocese of Kuching

## Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate (Lk 6:36)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Catholic Church arranges the Readings from the whole Bible in a three-year cycle. For 2022, we use the third Cycle known as Year C. During this year, for the ordinary Green Sundays of the year, the entire Gospel of St Luke, chapter by chapter, will be read on Sundays.

The evangelist Luke, who wrote the Gospel, was a physician and thus uses stories and events of healing to reveal the compassion and mercy of God. “Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.” (Luke 6:36)

Among the many wonderful parables of Jesus, it is only Luke who offers us, “The Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:29-37), and “The Lost Son” often called, “The Prodigal Son” (Luke 15:11-31). In the person of Jesus, our Heavenly Father reveals to humanity His mercy and compassion. Jesus commands us to, “Go and do the same ourselves” (Luke 10:37). Let us be good neighbours to all persons in need. We are not to judge, not to condemn, but instead grant pardon and give generously. (Read Luke 6:37-38)

I would like to thank you for your generous donations and offerings for these past two years. With your donations, our Archdiocese could support all parishes and provide full employment for all our full-time catechists, office staff, sacristans, etc. We could keep the CWS Home of Peace at Jalan Landeh running, directly support charities, purchase sanitisers, face masks and disinfecting equipment to keep all our churches safe. For rural and urban families in need, we donated pandemic food aid, working in partnership with tMigrant Ministry, St Vincent de Paul Society, etc to ensure real needs are met with compassion and food provision.

During this Season of Lent – commencing on Ash Wednesday, March 2, until Good Friday April 15, 2022 – I encourage you to live the Lenten observances by PRAYING, FASTING and PENANCE and ALMSGIVING.

So, in short, during this Lent:

1. Eat Less
2. Eat Simple
3. Give Money saved to the poor and needy

Let the lesson of the poor widow with

### Lenten Sessions available



February 28 to April 12:

Topic: SJCF Weekly Prayer Meeting

Time: 7:45pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94924119204>

Meeting ID: 949 2411 9204

Passcode: SJCF2022

**LENTEN RECOLLECTION 2022**  
BY REV. FR. JOHN ANANDAN, O.F.M. CAP.  
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!  
Psalm 80 : 3  
Diocese of Penang  
**5 MARCH, 2022 (SAT)**  
**9.00 AM - 12.30PM**  
LIVE Broadcast from Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Penang

**LENTEN RETREAT**  
by Fr Joseph Stephen CSsR  
at the Church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ipoh on Wednesdays at 7.00pm.  
March 9 - Holiness      March 23 - Prayer  
March 16 - Fasting      March 30 - Almsgiving

**Lenten Recollection Service**  
Malacca Johore Diocese  
MJD 50 2022  
Reconciliation Service  
MARCH 09, 2022 | 8PM  
AT YOUR RESPECTIVE PARISH  
\*For more information, please refer to your parish bulletin or the parish office.

**Lenten Lunch Talks** by Fr Michael Chua  
Holy Family Kajang youtube  
with Fr. Michael Chua  
The Lenten Season  
4 March 2022 (Friday)  
Lenten Practices  
11 March 2022 (Friday)  
12.30pm - 1.00pm

**HRC Klang Parish Lenten Retreat 2022 (Virtual)**  
Theme : Reflection on the Lord’s Prayer.  
Dates : 19th March 2022 (10:30am-4:30pm)  
20th March 2022 (2pm - 5:30pm)  
Registration link: <https://forms.gle>  
Nffnx4pJ5WLWdcm4A

# Rebuilding the lives of flood victims

*“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples” – St Mother Teresa*

A mee, from Taman Daya, Meru, Selangor was one of many caught unexpected in this situation. Flooding is a norm where she lives, with her housing area being flooded at least once a year but only affecting the areas outside her home. However, this time it was different. The heavy rains continued pounding from December 17, 2021. By Dec 19, the water had reached waist level and she knew she had to evacuate or face worse consequences. After moving her furniture to a higher level, she and her 19-year-old college-going son waded to SMK Meru, where many other families had gathered for temporary relief. However, her son was not so lucky. Carrying his laptop and pushing his bike, the strong currents caused him to fall in the drain. Feeling broken, they continued their journey to the school with the damaged laptop, handphone and bike.

After the flood waters had receded, they went home and found all their furniture destroyed. Grateful that all family members had

**In December 2021, over 18,000 families were severely affected as the country battled one of its worst floods in years. Caritas Malaysia, under the directive of the Malaysian Bishops, held a month-long donation drive to raise funds for the victims. Here are some of the results of the initiative.**

survived this ordeal, they knew that the road to recovery was going to be a long journey. Although they received immediate help of food and new mattresses, A mee still faced the nagging question of how she was going to replace her son's damaged laptop and repair his motorbike so that he can continue his studies.

As COVID-19 had changed the way students learn, many of his assignments and study materials stored in his phone and laptop were lost due to the fall in the flood waters. With both her husband's and her salary as a security guard in the nearby school, they only have enough to cover their family's (including four children) expenses.

Sensing his parents' difficulty in this trying time, her son had tried to persuade her to let him put his stud-

ies on hold temporarily while they sort out replacing all the damaged items. It was then that they were approached by the parish priest from the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Klang with news that Caritas Malaysia (CM) had launched the National Flood Relief Fund to support the flood victims. Thanks to generous donors, the National Flood Relief Fund was able to render help.

The coordinator, Audrey, collected information of affected households and families needing help in Taman Daya and discussed it with the parish priest. (The request was then passed on to the diocese Caritas office for verification, before being sent to Caritas Malaysia and the Bishop for approval.) With the money received from this fund, priority was given to replacing A mee's



*A mee and her son with the items replaced via the National Flood Relief Fund.*

son's laptop, repairing his bike and handphone so that he can still continue his studies.

There is still the question of paying for her other children's school fees, purchase of school books, replacing the furniture and other damaged goods. Nevertheless, she is relieved that at least her eldest

child can still continue his studies and surrenders all her troubles to God, knowing that He will do the rest while they do their best to provide for their four children. She is also grateful to all the donors who had contributed as they had made it possible for her to replace the most important items first.

## Helping Pahang folks start over

Meanwhile, on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia, the state of Pahang was also badly affected. "To my knowledge, the flood that hit Mentakab and Temerloh early this year was the worst in the last 25 years. Probably the worst ever!!" said Prekash Amaldass, PPC Chairman of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH), Mentakab. The water levels reached as high as nine-feet and completely submerged some of the houses. The flood this time came quickly without warning, that the residents in the affected areas were unable to save much of their belongings except for some important documents, medicine and clothes. They left their homes and headed for shelter at the flood relief centre where they stayed for the next nine days. Immediately after the floods subsided, church leaders from OLPH visited the victims in Mentakab, assessed the damages and distributed immediate relief items such as dry food, mattresses and electrical appliances which were delivered by NGOs. Several days after, the OLPH leaders visited the flood victims again



*Extensive damage to houses that were submerged under flood waters for days.*

to assess the damage to their property and houses. The muddy waters remained for a further three days, thus causing major damage to the houses, especially the wooden doors, electrical appliances, wiring and walls.

While the government bodies and NGOs assisted them with nec-



essary household items, what they needed was cash to enable repairs to their houses. When the OLPH leaders visited them, they were all asking for cash aid. The Church of St Francis Xavier (SFX), Petaling Jaya, and Caritas Malaysia had offered their assistance. "We thank all the donors and leaders of SFX and Caritas Malaysia for their LOVE and CARE towards the needy," said Prekash. "Their help is timely for the 27 families we have identified, especially single parents and the elderly. They come from all faiths and walks of life."

Immediate relief of food items and replacement of household items to restart their lives were also provided to 39 families in Bentong through the Sacred Heart Church. The items included kettles, rice cookers, table fans, mattresses and gas stoves.

## Giving aid to locals and migrant communities in Sabah

Across the South China Sea to Sabah; Telupid, Paitan and Beluran are some of the areas hit with continuous heavy rains from December 2021 to January 2022. Church leaders and the parish Caritas in that area had "turun padang" and identified approximately 170 families affected by the floods. Besides the shortage of food, these families also suffered damages to their homes. They received aid in the form of food supplies as well as cash for restoration of their homes through the National Flood Relief Fund. Although it will not completely solve their problems, it will at least alleviate some of their financial burden.

The parish priest was gracious in expressing his gratitude: "The parish of our Lady of Fatima, Beluran would like to express our million thanks and gratitude to Caritas Malaysia and all the donors for the great help received during the floods. On behalf of the victims' families, we really appreciate the contributions from generous donors. I pray for God's blessing on Caritas and all donors for their fruitful service in the Lord. Once again, Big Thank

You, Amen." said Fr Philip Anthony Muji.

Apart from Malaysian citizens, the various migrant communities and families were also affected by the floods. Some of them were stunned and felt abandoned as their homes were inundated with rising flood waters. They were grateful when a few NGOs and human rights organizations came forward to support them by providing relief and shelter. Among these NGOs, North South Initiative (NSI) reached out to the Caritas National Flood Relief Fund to support the migrant communities. A team of five people from different nationalities was set-up by NSI to identify the most affected migrant communities and raise assistance for them. With the funds received, NSI was able to provide essential dry foods such as rice, eggs, noodles, and others to 50 Bangladeshi and 50 Nepali migrant workers. They also received mattresses and pillows, as they too had lost everything in the floods. It is at times like this that we truly know, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).



*Giving aid to the migrant communities.*



*Leaders from the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) visiting flood victims and assessing the damage in Mentakab.*

# A dream, a vision, a reality

## CDM Penang opens learning centre

PENANG: It was a dream come true for the Church of Divine Mercy, Sg Ara, when the doors of the Learning Centre opened on February 27, 2022.

Conceptualised by the previous parish priest, Fr Martin Arlando, the project was greatly encouraged and supported by the present parish priest, Fr Michael Raymond OFM Cap, who strongly believes in small beginnings.

The centre launched its first programme – the Basic Learning Skills Programme which focuses on the 3Rs (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic). The programme is aimed at primary school children aged seven to 12, who are struggling in their studies and generally,

slower learners.

In October 2021, the Learning Centre team headed by Dr Anne Rowena David, conducted a survey and found the primary need among children in the area was a group of “slow learners”. After much discussion and planning, the team outlined the Basic Learning Skills Programme (BLSP) which embodies the philosophy of the La Salle Learning Centre Penang, founded by Bro John D’Cruz.

He advocated ‘A Different Way of Learning’, which focused on getting to know the child as an individual and connecting with him (or her) because he believes “You can’t teach John maths till you know John”. That is the core of

the learning philosophy - helping children learn how to learn. By guiding the child, and nurturing learning in a ‘safe’ environment, it is hoped that the child will fall in love with learning and eventually be independently equipped with basic learning skills. The team of facilitators at the centre will continue to adapt this learning model to suit the needs of the learners in the current programme.

Another reason to start the centre was to utilise the existing classrooms, and not wait for the new community centre to be built. Fr Michael said it is good to have the current programme up and running to enable the core team to “test-waters”, monitor and fine-tune the progress. We hope this project draws children in need, from the surrounding vicinity.

At the launch, six children and their parents were present. The children were given an orientation and engaged in purposeful activities related to the 3Rs, while their parents attended the launching ceremony and were briefed by Dr Rowena. She informed them about the learning philosophy and the focal points implemented by the centre (e.g.: learner-centred, learning through purposeful activities, learning by table concept, fearless atmosphere, positive reinforcement, and affirmation and open to children of different faith and ethnicity).

After addressing the parents and parishioners present during the launch, Fr. Michael planted seeds in a pot of soil with the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Chairman, Zeckry Chan, to symbolise the humble beginnings of



Fr Michael Raymond OFM Cap planting seeds.

the Learning Centre. The launch ended with a parent consultation session with the core team members.

The CDM Learning Centre Penang is open to children and adults of different faiths and ethnic groups, every Sunday from 2.00pm – 4.00pm, except on public holidays and church feast days. For inquiries, kindly email [tlc.cdmsgara@gmail.com](mailto:cdmsgara@gmail.com).

In the spirit of St Francis of Assisi the dreamer, the CDM Learning Centre will continue to dream and explore other ways of serving the community of Penang. — **By Pamela Vinsence**



Orientation for the children at the launching of the Learning Centre.

## Two transitional deacons ordained in Kuching Archdiocese

KUCHING: In 2014, two young men took “a leap of faith” in response to “a calling” and entered St Peter’s College Kota Kinabalu, Sabah to begin their Initiation year to the priesthood.

Seminarians Davie anak Entalai and Henry anak Jimbey returned to Sarawak in 2015 to complete their ecclesiastical studies in Philosophy at St Peter’s College Major Seminary in Kuching. They completed their studies in the theology cycle, from 2017 to 2021, graduating in May 2021.

They were admitted to the Candidacy for Holy Orders and took the Rite of Admission, Oath of Fidelity, and Profession of Faith before Archbishop Simon Poh at a private ceremony in St Peter’s College Chapel on February 10, 2022.

The Diaconate ordination of Seminarian Davie Entalai took place in his home parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) in Simanggang on February 19, and Seminarian Henry Jimbey was ordained Deacon in his home parish of St Stephen’s Church, Bau on Feb 20.

The Diaconate ordinations were also

live-streamed from OLQP and St Stephen’s Church via YouTube and Facebook.

Holy Mass for both ordinations were celebrated by Archbishop Simon Poh, concelebrated by Archbishop Emeritus John Ha, Fr Jerome Juleng and Fr Peter Liston, the respective rectors of both parishes, and priests from the Archdiocese of Kuching who attended the separate ordinations.

After the investiture with stole and dalmatic, both the newly ordained deacons received the Book of Gospels from the Archbishop who told them, “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practise what you teach.” Archbishop Simon then welcomed them to the Order of Deacons and presented them to the priests present and to the community who applauded with clapping of hands.

Archbishop Simon Poh thanked God for the gift of the new deacons and said it was a “joy to welcome” the two new members of the clergy and expressed his hope for a double



Newly ordained Deacon Davie receiving the Book of the Gospels from Archbishop Simon Poh.

sacerdotal ordination towards the end of this year.

He surmised that it must have been a “challenging” and “long journey of faith” for both newly ordained deacons and congratulated them on the “commitment” and “courage in taking this leap of faith” to answer God’s calling. He believed that their seminary formation



Archbishop Simon Poh laying his hands on the candidate, Henry Jimbey.

and pastoral assignments at the various parishes would adequately equip them to serve in the Archdiocese of Kuching.

Archbishop Simon also thanked the parents and family members of the newly ordained deacons and presented them with tokens of appreciation for the “gift” of their sons. — **By Ivy Chai, Today’s Catholic**

## Where is Lent in the Bible?

In preparation for the season of Lent, the *Catholics@Home* podcast had recently invited Fr Gerard Theraviam to share insights on the biblical significance of Lent. Fr Gerard is a scholar in Sacred Scripture and parish priest of the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist in Kuala Lumpur.

According to Fr Gerard, the word Lent is not mentioned in the Bible. However, the 40 days of Lent has Biblical significance. “One of the important things to recognise is that Moses, the prophet Elijah and Jesus, had fasted in

the desert for 40 days,” he says.

“For Jesus, it was a question of being tempted by Satan, but yet He chose each time to pass the test because He was faithful to what God had planned for Him. That was a moment of preparation for Him for the mission ahead. In that sense, Lent is our training ground to live victoriously for the rest of the year as well.”

Secondly, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years (one full generation) before entering the Promised Land. “The significance of this is that after



40 years, everyone who started the journey had passed on. So, the ones who reached the Promised Land were a brand- new people. It is almost like new life entering the Promised Land,” explains Fr Gerard.

He also pointed out that kings Saul, David and Solomon each ruled for 40 years, so that at the

end of each of their reigns, a whole new generation had been born.

Another Biblical significance is the great flood- when it rained non-stop for 40 days and 40 nights and Noah had to build the ark to rescue his family members and the animals. The floods happened as a result of the sins of humankind.

In order to experience a deeper meaning of repentance and forgiveness during the 40 days of Lent, Fr Gerard said, “I would suggest to take Lent not just as a period of time, but take it as

an extended retreat in daily life, spending prayerful time, just like Jesus did when He retreated into the desert.

“There must a chewing of God’s Word for instance, to see what He is inviting me to do this Lent. It is a time to look at the whole dynamics of my life, and reflect on what God’s will in my life is at this point in time,” he says. — **By Julie Lim**

To view this podcast, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8DNba43jZA>

# Deaf community perseveres throughout year-long Bible Timeline journey

KUALA LUMPUR: Catholic Social Teaching instructs us that we should not leave anyone behind; especially in faith formation. Unfortunately, our differently-abled brothers and sisters are at a disadvantage when it comes to parish-based activities. The deaf community is one of these groups.

Before the pandemic, the deaf community travelled far to gather in a parish for face-to-face meetings and formations. And, this was limited to the deaf residing in the Klang Valley only.

The current pandemic forced us to be more creative in reaching out to others. The restrictions on physical movements gave birth to new ways of evangelisation and learning of the faith among the deaf via modern technology. Through Zoom, we can plan and carry out many faith formation programmes. We can share our faith, and connect, support, and encourage each other to grow in our Catholic beliefs.

One of the most recent faith formation sessions was the *Bible Timeline* journey, which was held for the

first time for deaf participants.

On February 28, 2021, a group of 20 deaf and hearing members registered for the *Bible Timeline* journey programme, which ran for 49 weeks. The programme concluded on Feb 20, 2022. Seven deaf participants persevered until the end, and each shared their testimonies on the last day. We also had a deaf participant from Sarawak join the programme. We met every Sunday from 8.00pm to 9.30pm. In this programme, we explored key Bible stories from the 14 narrative books of the Bible, sectioned into 12 periods. The idea is to provide relevant information to allow the participants to know the important persons, places, and events in Scripture to understand our story through salvation history.

The 48 stories were taken from the Book of Genesis to the Acts of the Apostles. At every session, participants shared the Bible story of the week and answered related questions that were linked to their life experiences. The questions were given the week before, to be done as home-



A screenshot of the deaf and hearing participants of the Bible Timeline journey.

work. This was to help them be mentally and spiritually prepared when attending the sessions.

Before and during the journey, the main challenge facilitators faced was redesigning a programme targeted for a hearing audience into a deaf-friendly one. That meant incorporating Bahasa Isyarat Malaysia (BIM), the Malaysian sign language, into the content. The deaf members also have difficulty reading the Bible in

English because many are not proficient in English. They are visual people, and their first language is BIM. Every sign language is unique in its deaf community, identity and culture. Regrettably, there is no BIM bible, so we had to leverage Bible stories in American Sign Language (ASL) and tweak them further to make them easily understood and accepted by our deaf community. The facilitators worked closely with

the BIM interpreters and the deaf to prepare the programme content for the sessions. We used ingenuity to bring the lessons alive for the deaf participants. The Holy Spirit was key in inspiring us and the participants to experience God working in our lives and to be touched by His Word.

The objectives of the *Bible Timeline* journey were to help participants:

- Come to know God deeper
- Understand God's plan for us
- Be inspired to read Bible continuously, to grow in faith, and develop a close relationship with God
- Be transformed and touch others' lives

Participants who persevered throughout the year-long journey were inspired by God's Word and fired up by the Holy Spirit to continue reading the Bible. They expressed their desire to continue learning about the faith and inspire others by sharing the Good News by encouraging them to love the Bible. — **By Genevieve Yap**

## Social Justice – Being the voice of the voiceless

KUALA LUMPUR: If you were asked what social justice is and how you can be a part of it ... What would your answer be?

According to SUARAM executive director Sevan Doraisamy, social justice as defined by the United Nations is the peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations where people are treated fairly with dignity and respect. When there is an imbalance to this equilibrium, problems arise, he said.

Doraisamy, an advocate of human rights and freedom of expression, was a panellist at a social justice forum organised by the Cathedral of St John on February 25. He said, looking at what has been happening in our country, there is a need for everyone to know, and if possible, get involved, in promoting this value to ensure proper social justice is practised in our nation.

On how one could be involved and contribute towards the work of social justice, Doraisamy said, know the issue, come together, and talk about it. Make a stand and then voice your concern on a proper platform. Fr Dr Clarence Devadass, the second panellist at the forum, agreed with Doraisamy. Church of St Anthony's parish priest and director of the Catholic Research Centre, Fr Clarence said, often many are not bothered by social justice because it does not affect them. "One of the greatest sins of the current generation is apathy, the 'tidak apa' attitude and not wanting to do anything."

Fr Clarence said social justice is not new to the Catholic Church as we are involved in being, just because we have a fair and just God.

**Being the Voice of the Voiceless (Prov 31:8-9)**

**Date:** 25/02/2022 (Friday)  
**Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Zoom Meeting ID:** 839 3841 2639  
**Passcode:** Prov31:8

**Youtube Live:**  
<https://youtube.com/c/CathedralofStJohntheEvangelistKL>

**Moderator**



Mr Allen Miranda,  
Advocate and Solicitor,  
Called to Malaysian  
Bar on 15.03.1997

**Panellist**



Mr Sevan Doraisamy,  
Executive Director -  
SUARAM,  
Advocate for Human  
Rights

**Panellist**



Rev. Fr. Dr. Clarence Devadass,  
Director -  
Catholic Research Center, KL.

He quoted the Prophet Micah (6:8) where it says we are to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly. He said the Church is all about justice and it has been at the forefront for fairness in education and healthcare, establishing schools and hospitals to help the poor and those in need. He said justice must be rehabilitative, reconciliatory and restorative, drawing parallels to the UN's definition of advocating respect, dignity and fairness to all.

The padre said the Bible is full of examples of justice, both in the Old and New Testament, even specifying the treatment of the marginalised like widows, poor or differently-abled, to name a few. Our faith should inspire us to take the right action, he said.

According to Fr Clarence, to practice social justice need not necessitate one to join an organisation. "...the best place to start practising social justice is in our home in the context of our family," he added, elaborating on the way we treat people around us, like our domestic helper, the waiter or waitress serving us at the restaurant, the cashier

at the supermarket. He said our faith should impel us to do right towards another human being.

Although social justice may seem like an uphill task and time consuming, both men agreed that one must take it seriously and be involved. Doraisamy concluded the session by encouraging all to take the first step and not let fear stop or restrict the practice of social justice. Fr Clarence's parting advice was, "Do something rather than nothing, no matter how small it is."

Cathedral of St John's parish priest, Fr Gerard Theraviam, thanked both panellists and added that as the Church is the salt and light, may all the work for justice, whether big or small, help shine the light of God. He also said that we should speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute, speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

More than 50 people took part in the online forum via Zoom and broadcast live on the cathedral's YouTube channel. — **By Mary Ann Pinguan**

## Reaching out with Christ's love

ARAU, Perlis: An outreach programme was held at the Chapel of the Holy Cross on February 20, 2022.

The event, organised by the chapel in collaboration with a Catholic group from Kuala Lumpur, benefitted 15 needy families who hailed from around Arau town and the surrounding areas.

The chapel's administrator, Fr Francis Xavier Selvarajoo, in welcoming the poor and those from KL, recited a 'pantun' in Bahasa Malaysia, to the delight of many.

R. Nelson Anthony, the chapel's chairperson, was also present, together with several other parishioners. Nelson also welcomed all to the chapel, which had recently undergone renovations, under the guidance of Fr Francis Xavier.

Approximately 502kgs of essential provisions were given out in this outreach.

Seven of the 15 poor families were present to receive their portion. The KL group assisted in distributing the foodstuff. Fr Francis Xavier said his lay leaders would send the remaining to those absent due to transportation problems.

The recipients were pleased to receive the essential items and were glad that they came.

Fr Francis Xavier, who is also the parish priest of the Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Kangar, chatted briefly with the guests.

Catered lunch was served at the end of the event to all present.

Fr Francis Xavier admired the zeal of the KL Catholics who travelled 490km to Perlis, to spend time with the poor, in their mission of reaching out with Christ's love. It was through the Holy Spirit leading us all that this outreach came to fruition. — **By Bernard Anthony**



Fr Francis Xavier Selvarajoo, the benefactors and some of the needy families with the provisions provided.

# 'Support COVID victims during Lent'

HO CHI MINH: Catholics in Vietnam are asked to be in communion with God and COVID-19 victims during the coming Lent as a new wave of cases sweeps the country.

Bishop Alfonse Nguyen Huu Long of Vinh said Lent is an appropriate time for Catholics to control their spiritual life and strengthen their relationship of communion with God and others through prayer, fasting and charity.

"Through prayer, we become one with God; by fasting, we are given strength to fight and overcome temptation like Jesus; and by doing charitable work with tender hearts, we come out of our selfishness and be in communion with one another," Bishop Long said in a letter published on February 28.

The prelate said being in communion with God leads them to being in communion with the Church, for she is like a doting mother who always loves, gathers and unites them as "a hen gathers her chicks under her wings".

He said the coronavirus outbreak has pushed countless people to dreadful conditions because of unemployment, lack of food and insufficient incomes. Many families have had to sell their bare essentials to survive.



Archbishop Joseph Nguyen Nang of Ho Chi Minh City during the Ash Wednesday service in Notre Dame Cathedral on February 17, 2021. (UCA News photo)

"Christians are called on to offer generous support and words of comfort to people in need," he said, adding that when they sow goodness and love, they themselves first enjoy their fruits for "by their fruit you will recognise them".

The pandemic has been raging across Vietnam since the Tet holidays in February, when peo-

ple rushed to tourist destinations across the country.

On Feb 28, the Health Ministry recorded 122,480 cases, the record number of infections in a single day since early February.

The Southeast Asian country has registered 3,443,485 cases with 40,252 deaths since the contagion hit it in early 2020. — [ucanews.com](http://ucanews.com)

## Goa archdiocese to celebrate 400th year of Francis Xavier's canonisation

PANAJI: Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao of Goa-Daman has urged people in his archdiocese to celebrate the 400th year of St Francis Xavier's canonisation.

St Francis Xavier was undoubtedly one of the greatest evangelisers the Catholic Church, earning him the title of the Patron of the Missions, the archbishop said in a circular.

"Having been canonised on March 12, 1622, the current year of 2022 marks the fourth centenary of his canonisation. Remembering the event with gratitude to the Lord Almighty, the Church in this archdiocese rejoices in this great gift from God to the Church and from the Church to the world."

The archbishop praised the "outstanding contribution made by our Saint to the life of the Church, particularly to her mission of evangelisation," and said "it is a constant call to our local Church to renew her commitment to the Gospel and to its dissemination."

Explaining how the Church is taking forward the evangelisation process St Francis began in Goa, he said, "In fact, over the years, the Church in this archdiocese has been taking significant steps in this direction, culminating them in the celebration of the Goa Diocesan Synod in the year 2002."

Presently, under the inspiration of our beloved Holy Father, we



Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao of Goa-Daman

are all engaged in a soul-searching Synodal Journey or 'walking together' towards a Church that has a vision of Communion and Participation oriented to Mission, the archbishop explained.

The Church in Goa will express her joy and gratitude by joining the Jesuits in Goa in celebrating the great Gift on March 12 with a Mass at Bom Jesu Basilica, Old Goa.

The faithful are invited to gather in their parishes that day to thank God for the gift of St Francis Xavier to the archdiocese and to the world, the circular said. — [mattersindia.com](http://mattersindia.com)

## Philippine bishops rebuked over pastoral letter

MANILA: Conservative elements in the Philippine Church have accused bishops of becoming too political after they issued a recent pastoral letter condemning reported attempts by an election candidate to whitewash abuses committed during the era of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

The bishops issued the letter last week on the anniversary of the People Power Revolution, referencing upcoming national elections in May.

It told Catholics not to be swayed by propaganda reportedly coming from the camp of presidential front-runner Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, the dictator's son, claiming the martial law years were "golden years" in Philippine history.

However, an Opus Dei priest and newspaper columnist criticised the

bishops' letter, calling it divisive not only within the Catholic Church but also society as a whole.

This letter is "causing great division among the people. The bishops may have to do some rethinking before things get worse," said Fr Roy Amora Cimagala in his column for the *Mindanao Gold Star Daily*.

He said priests should steer clear of taking an active part in politics.

"It is not the role of the pastors of the Church to intervene directly in the political structuring and organisation of social life. This task is part of the vocation of the lay faithful acting on their own initiative with their fellow citizens," he said.

According to Fr Cimagala, involvement in politics reduces priestly roles in temporal rather than spir-



Bishops at a Mass at the end of the first day of the fifth Philippine Conference on New Evangelisation in Manila, July 18, 2018. (Vatican News Photo/Martina Summer Dagal)

itual undertakings.

"A reduction of [a priest's] mission to temporal tasks of a purely

social or political nature is foreign to his ministry and does not constitute a triumph but rather a grave loss to

the Church's evangelical fruitfulness," he said. — **By Joseph Peter Cajella, [ucanews.com](http://ucanews.com)**

## Timor-Leste presidential candidates sign unity pact



A traditional ceremony is performed during the signing of a national unity pact by Timor-Leste's presidential candidates on February 28, 2022. (UCA News photo)

JAKARTA: Candidates in Timor-Leste's upcoming presidential election have signed a national unity pact, part of a commitment to ensuring a free, fair and peaceful electoral process and not one tarnished by mudslinging and violence.

In a February 28 ceremony organised by the General Elections Commission (CNE) in Dili, 11 of the 16 candidates contesting the March 19 poll attended, while the other four were represented by

close aides.

The signing of the pact was marked by traditional rituals in which local elders performed several rites asking for the blessing of ancestors to ensure a peaceful campaign and no confrontations between supporters.

The unity pact for this upcoming poll stipulates complying with the constitution, promoting human rights and gender equality as pillars to strengthen democracy; promoting dialogue as a means to

establish peace and national stability and unity and accepting the election results.

With 16 candidates running, surpassing the 12 candidates in the 2012 election, this year's election promises to be the most competitive in the Catholic-majority nation's history.

The election marks the political debut of 12 candidates, including Martinho Germano da Silva Gusmao, a former Catholic priest. — **By Ryan Dagur, [ucanews.com](http://ucanews.com)**





Statue of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa, Lebanon. (CNA photo/Kevin Jones)

# American, European bishops urge support for Lebanon

WASHINGTON: A group of American and European bishops released a statement on Tuesday, March 1, calling for increased protections for the people of Lebanon.

“Lebanon, the Message of Peace and Fraternity, is in Great Danger,” was signed by eight bishops representing six countries. Bishop David Malloy of Rockford, who leads the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, represented the United States as a signatory.

“Lebanon has long been an example of co-existence between Christians and Muslims,” said the statement, adding that Pope Francis referred to the country as “a universal message of peace and fraternity arising from the Middle East.”

“For many of its people, this current time is marked by pain, poverty, and despair. However, there remains hope for change, to protect the unique character of their country,” said the bishops.

Lebanon has been in the grips of an economic crisis since August 2019. In 2021, Cardinal Béchara Pierre Raï, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, called for a global conference focusing on protecting Lebanon.

The statement says that the bishops will urge their respective governments to “support Cardinal Raï’s appeal for action through the United Nations to find a solution to the crisis” in a manner that “upholds Lebanon’s independence, sovereignty, and neutrality,” as well as ensure that the citizens of Lebanon get to “choose their own representatives in free

and fair elections, including through the offer of independent electoral observers,” and “assist the establishment of good governance, honesty, transparency, and accountability in the service of Lebanon’s people.”

The bishops wrote that their countries “have a responsibility to provide relief for those affected by the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe,” both citizens of Lebanon and refugees from other areas.

The bishops additionally are encouraging all faithful “to join us in prayer for Lebanon.”

“In the words of the Holy Father: ‘May the night of conflicts recede before a new dawn of hope. May hostilities cease, disagreements fade away, and Lebanon once more radiate the light of peace.’” — **By Christine Roussele, CNA**

## African Christians, Muslims make landmark commitment to interreligious dialogue

YAMOOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast: Muslim and Christian religious leaders in Africa have issued a landmark document to “solemnly commit themselves to ensuring that dialogue conducive to all religions living together is established in a sustainable manner with respect for the law, religious dogmas and practices, as well as freedom of worship and conscience”.

The new document, called the *Abidjan Declaration*, was adopted on February 25 at the end of the first international symposium on interreligious dialogue, which was held in Côte d’Ivoire. The three-day gathering came at the initiative of the Superior Council of Imams, Mosques and Islamic Affairs in Côte d’Ivoire (COSIM) and the Mohammed VI Foundation of African Ulema. The theme of the Feb 23-25 symposium was *The Eternal Message of Religions*.

The religious leaders that gathered in Abidjan “consider that solidarity, fraternity and dialogue between all religions must be the very basis of social peace”. The international symposium, which brought together hundreds of Christian and Muslim participants, was aimed at ensuring the “continued existence of the eternal message of peace towards Ivorian and African society and humanity”.



Participants at the first international colloquium on interreligious dialogue in Abidjan (LCI Photo /Vincent Saré)

In this perspective, the religious leaders who signed the *Abidjan Declaration* “call on all the living forces of African countries to remain united and supportive in the face of all the dangers of division, not to give in to the threats and amalgams knowingly propagated to undermine unity”. They also advocate “unfailing cooperation among religions” to address the multiple crises shaking the continent, “especially health, food, environmental,

economic and social”. The Muslim and Christian clerics “urge for ethics and responsibility in mobilising and facing up to harmful climate changes; for everyone to play their role in protecting the biodiversity of the environment in Côte d’Ivoire and in all African countries; for working together to make significant sacrifices for the good of future generations”. — **LCI (https://international.la-croix.com/)**

## Three-day paternity leave for Vatican staff

ROME: Pope Francis has granted a three-day paternity leave to new fathers who work at the Vatican.

In a law published on March 1, Pope Francis amended the Vatican’s family leave policy, which sets out the benefits for Vatican employees who have children or must care for family members.

Under the policy, mothers already were entitled to six months’ maternity leave at full pay, which they can extend by another six months at half-pay. Parents who adopt a child are entitled to a similar benefit.

The new law sets out a three-day leave for new fathers, at full pay. Previously, the Vatican only gave one day of paternity leave. — **cruxnow.com**



## Tigray atrocities — Ethiopia could face famine

*‘While the situation in Ukraine is dire, the world should not forget the crisis in Ethiopia’*

NAIROBI, Kenya: As Catholic officials in Tigray continue to call for meaningful peace talks and an end to atrocities and the humanitarian aid blockade, an international refugees organisation is warning that Eritrean refugees in the northern region have nowhere to run.

Refugees International, a global organisation advocating for displaced and stateless people, said in a report released on March 3 that the humanitarian situation in Tigray was abysmal, with atrocities similar to war crimes displacing at least 2.5 million people inside and out of the country.

“The Ethiopian government has blocked virtually all food and medical shipments into Tigray, using food as a weapon of war,” Sarah Miller, a senior fellow with Refugees International, said in the report, *Nowhere to Run: Eritrean Refugees in Tigray*.

With starvation deaths mounting each day, she said in the report, and nearly 900,000 people in famine conditions, there are fears

that the current situation in Ethiopia will mirror the Great Famine of the 1980s, when more than one million people died of starvation.

“The world should continue to be shocked at what is taking place in Tigray — manmade famine is something that should outrage all of us, including people of faith,” said Miller, while underscoring the role of faith groups in responding to the crisis, and refugees in

particular.

“Religious leaders inside Tigray and around the world have raised their voices in support of those suffering as a result of the humanitarian blockade. They should continue speaking out as much as they are able and sharing information with their communities about what is going on,” she added.

According to the report, among the vulnerable groups, Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia

were receiving little attention or support, despite facing unique risks. In early 2021, two Eritrean refugee camps in Tigray were destroyed, allegedly by Eritrean troops, leaving approximately 20,000 Eritrean refugees missing. In January, refugees were killed by air strikes that hit refugee camps.

Miller said faith groups in the US can voice support for refugees and welcome them, “including by helping them to find housing, jobs, and enrolling in school, etc.”

She said that, while the situation in Ukraine is dire, the world should not forget the crisis in Ethiopia.

“We hope that people will look beyond the headlines and remember that the crisis in Ethiopia is not over for those facing famine, internal displacement and, for specific refugee groups, including Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, who need international protection and assistance and immediate access to their rights,” she said. — **CNS**



Women sit under United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cardboard boxes as they wait to be registered by authorities at the Agda Hotel in the city of Semera, Afar region, Ethiopia, on February 14, 2022. (UCA News photo)

# Russia's invasion is defeat for humanity

## How should we respond?

By Msgr Stuart Swetland

As the third millennium began, St John Paul II, reflecting back on the last century, the bloodiest and cruellest in human history, reminded us in his World Day of Peace statements of the futility of war, including in 2000:

“Wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore, in addition to causing horrendous damage, they prove ultimately futile. War is a defeat for humanity. Only in peace and through peace can respect for human dignity and its inalienable rights be guaranteed.”

Respect for human dignity, international law, human rights and European peace were grossly violated by Vladimir Putin and the nation of Russia. But this is not really something new. Putin has committed countless crimes against his own people and his neighbours for decades. The list is much too long to recount fully here, but includes corruption, cronyism, repression and aggression. He has jailed journalists, poisoned and killed political opponents, manipulated the Russian political process to cling to total autocratic power for 22 years, and suppressed human rights at home.

He has committed the international crime of aggression against Georgia, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Ukraine. He has propped up Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, one of the most vicious dictators in human history. The world has also been plagued by numerous cyberattacks, election interference and disinformation campaigns directly or indirectly sanctioned by Putin's government. From his time in the KGB, to assistant mayor of St Petersburg, to today, Putin has not been a force for good for Russia or the world.

### Russia's ongoing crime of aggression

Russia's devastating and deadly violation of the sovereignty of the Ukraine and the peace of Europe is nothing new. Putin invaded and annexed Crimea in 2014. However, the massive attacks this week escalated this unjust aggression to new levels not seen in Europe since World War II.

This crime of aggression cannot stand. Hopefully, all the world has learned the lessons of the 20th century: Appeasement of dictators, authoritarian rulers and rogue nations will not work. If we are to live in a world of at least minimum adherence to the rule of law, national sovereignty and international borders cannot be violated by illicit military incursions. Aggression must be challenged, checked and reversed at every turn.

### The world's response

This may well be a pivotal moment in world history. How should the US and other nations respond?

Ukraine has every right (and duty) to defend itself (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2265). Massive support to the Ukrainian resistance would be justified. Ukraine has a long history of resisting invaders. The British and Americans are justly proud of their efforts under Gens. Montgomery and Patton in the North African Campaign in World War II, but Ukrainian resistance fighters tied down more German battalions with their resistance during that war than Britain and the US ever did in Africa.

Many wonder if direct NATO or US military intervention is appropriate. I would argue against this approach. Much like the

Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, one cannot always respond in kind. While these, too, were unjust aggressions, given the possibility of nuclear conflict and the extreme difficulty of fighting a direct war between large militaries without massive casualties and escalation, both the just-war theory criterion of “proportionality” and “probability of success” spoke against such a response.

While direct military intervention is not warranted, other punitive responses are in order. Severe economic sanctions should be imposed on Russia. The nations of the world should clearly state that the crime of aggression cannot stand. Russia must return all seized territory, including the Crimean Peninsula, to the sovereignty of Ukraine. Nothing but total withdrawal will be acceptable. Until that time, Russia should be considered a rogue nation, much like North Korea.

All Russian national assets outside of Russia should be frozen until war reparations are paid to Ukraine. Russia's ability to act in the world economy should be severely limited to food, medical supplies and other necessities to sustain life. All payments for Russian gas and oil should also be frozen until this unjust aggression ceases. Russia should be cut off from the swift global payment system. There should be no technology transfer to Russia.

These and other sanctions do not necessarily have to be imposed all at once. We must recognise that this battle could well be a long one. Much like the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s, Russia must be shown that the cost of their occupation of another sovereign nation is too high.

### Is NATO expansion at fault?

The short answer is No. NATO is a completely defensive alliance. Russia does not have any reason to fear NATO unless it plans on further aggressive action. Russia does not have and should not have a veto on the foreign policy of sovereign nations, even ones the country used to dominate.

In fact, Russian actions in Ukraine and elsewhere prove the need for NATO and the prudence in supporting the freedom of the former Warsaw Pact and Baltic nations.

### What about China?

The Chinese response is a possible “wild card” in this crisis. If it so chooses, China could prop up Russia and mitigate a great deal of the impact of any economic or trade sanctions. Of course, to do so would clearly place China on the side of international lawlessness.

While I have no illusion that China cares about the people of the Ukraine, the world should make it clear that similar sanctions will be placed on any country that aids and abets Russia's criminal activity. If China chooses this unfortunate route, which everyone should pray they do not, it would clarify that we have entered a new world order — a world divided between autocratic, lawless regimes that know nothing but power and the rule of force and free nations dedicated to the basic principles of liberal democracy and international law.

*Photo source: Smoke billows over the town of Vasylkiv just outside Kyiv on Feb. 27, after overnight Russian strikes hit an oil depot. (NCR photo/Dimitar Dilkooff)*

## Sacrifices will be needed

No one should be under the illusion that these responses will not be painful for all. Wars and the rumour of wars always drain economic and social capital. Defence budgets will need to increase. New sources of oil and gas will need to be explored. Cyberattacks and misinformation campaigns will need to be endured and countered. Much human suffering will be in the offing.

This moment also calls for many sacrifices from the United States. If our commitment to defend our NATO allies and defer further aggression is to be credible, serious consideration should be given to reinstating the draft (but that's a topic for another commentary). Gas and heating prices will most likely rise. Higher taxes are probably in our future.

But perhaps more difficult political challenges will need to be met. This new threat to world peace (and ultimately, human survival as we know it) demands that we face the challenges of the real world in a mature way. The rather fatuous obsessions of political and social “wokeness” so dividing our nation and our allies, must be, if not abandoned completely, relegated to the proverbial “back

burner” for the foreseeable future.

This will be a political sacrifice that the “left” will need to make. But those on the “right” will also need to sacrifice. The obsession with opposing the current administration in all things (or worse, the fomenting of the illusion that it is not a legitimate administration) must cease. We must return to the era when political opposition ended at the water's edge. Unity in our response to tyranny demands nothing less.

### The particular challenge and call for Catholics

When one part of the Body of Christ suffers, all suffer (1 Corinthians 12:26). The Catholic Church in Ukraine, China and elsewhere is suffering greatly. Pope Francis, echoing the teaching of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, has called us to fast and pray for peace and justice in Ukraine. This is vital and is the least we all must do. Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv appealed to all people of goodwill for solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine. He has rightfully pointed out that, due to Russia's action,



*Diplomats walked out of the UN Human Rights Council session when Russia's foreign minister began his address. (Anadolu Ajansi photo)*

“Irreparable damage has been done to the very logic of international relations, which are called to safeguard peace and the just order of societies, the supremacy of law, the accountability of state powers, the defence of the human being, human life, and natural rights.”

Tyranny must be exposed and opposed.

We must stand in solidarity with Ukraine and all who suffer from tyranny's vicious reign. — *nregister.com*

● *Msgr Stuart Swetland, president of Donnelly College, is a 1981 graduate of the US Naval Academy who served six years as a line officer in the US Navy.*



For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

# Synodality, authority and effective leadership

**La Croix: As an employer, how do you interpret the words “discern”, “decision” and “authority”?**

**François Asselin:** These three words are intended to generate action, commitment. Before acting, I need to discern well, that is, to take the necessary distance. In this area, the Church has good tools, such as spiritual guidance. In my profession, this means consulting those whose opinion can enlighten me, especially those who do not think like me. This otherness brings a light that can lead me to modify a decision I was planning to make. I need to step away from the world for a moment to turn to the transcendent. But this is not always possible.

**You used the word “transcendence”. What do you mean?**

I believe very much in the power of ritual, which structures the actions I take during the day. There is not a day that I don't pray. In order to take a step back, I need this intimate dialogue with the Lord and his intercessors: The Virgin Mary and the saints. In the morning, I pray Lauds, and I read the Gospel and the life of the saint of the day. In the evening, after having said the Act of Contrition, I give thanks for what I have experienced during the day. Acknowledging that I am a sinner helps me remain humble and avoid the temptation of pride, which is especially prevalent among those who make decisions that will have an impact on people's lives.

**When did you first realise the importance of taking an opinion different from your own?**

I think, for example, of the organisation of a construction site. In discussing with my team members, who were full of common sense, I realised that the implementation of the project could be improved, and that we would have saved time and avoided certain mistakes if I had listened to them beforehand. Making a decision necessarily involves my employees or those I represent at the CPME. I am confronted with the pressure of urgency, which demands quick answers while complex subjects do not require simple decisions. But, let's be clear, the worst thing would be not to decide.

**François Asselin (pic) is the head of a construction company in France that specialises in heritage restoration. He is also president of the Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (CPME), which claims 243,000 member companies that employ some four million people. Asselin is also a practicing Catholic and is interested in the synodal process that Pope Francis has launched in the Church. He spoke with La Croix's Gilles Donada about some of the lessons his professional life has taught him about authority and effective leadership and how they can be applied in the Church.**



(cpmerhone.fr photo)

**You mention the pressure of urgency. How does it manifest itself in your job?**

Let's take the example of COVID-19. The arrival of the pandemic suddenly affected our entire environment. We had to react quickly to prevent employees from losing their jobs, companies from going bankrupt and business owners, who are often self-employed, from having no income at the end of the month. Concerns were growing and everyone was waiting for an answer. A quick, clear and effective decision had to be taken.

**How did you proceed?**

I had to put two of my three life responsibilities on the back burner: my family life and my role as a company director. A task force was formed around the minister of the economy, Bruno Lemaire, with whom we had a daily meeting. Every day, we assessed the situation and developed the tools that would protect employees, companies and entrepreneurs. Through these collaborative efforts, long-term partial labour, state-guaranteed loans and the solidarity fund were set up. I insisted that es-

tate management follow. You can have the best ideas in the world, but if they are not implemented effectively, anxiety, disarray and even anger increase...

**How do you exercise authority?**

It is important to specify that authority is linked to decision-making. It must be distinguished from authoritarianism, which is the illegitimate exercise of authority. True authority is based on competence, good example and humility. Suffice it to say that we rarely succeed in bringing together these three conditions, but that does not prevent us from striving for them.

**What threatens authority?**

For authority to be respected, it must be shared. Pride undermines authority. If I am competent and exemplary, but all my decisions are made from above, I eat away at my natural authority. Authority is humble when it manifests itself through respect for others, listening to them and recognising the work they do. We often know how to demand and rarely how to thank, myself included. Let's take a military image, a

captain sends his troops to attack. They show great pugnacity, but when they return, the officer does not praise them for their courage; the next time, it will be more complicated to send them into battle...

**Is it only pride that undermines authority?**

No, I'm thinking of the relationship with money. In itself, it is neither good nor bad, it all depends on how you earn it and how you use it. I am also thinking about the temptation of seduction. This is common in places of power. If you surround yourself with a small group that constantly flatters you, you lose touch with reality, you are tempted to function only in the mode of seduction.

**Have you ever had to make difficult decisions?**

Yes, for example, firing an employee. The morning of the meeting, which was going to be tense, I came across this quote from Christ: “Do not judge, so that you will not be judged; in the same way that you judge, you will be judged” (Mt 7, 1-2). I realised that I needed to step back from the resentment I was feeling as I was about to make a decision with far-reaching consequences. I realised that resentment was undoubtedly present in this employee, and that it could be even stronger than mine. I saw another possible way out of this painful separation. I needed to look for balanced conditions for both sides, avoiding, as much as possible, personal injury. It is a real struggle to keep a coherence between what one thinks, what one believes and what one does.

**The word “synod” means “walking together” and “crossing a threshold”. Is this dimension also present in the business world?**

Of course. People are social animals. We are not made to walk alone. Today, we can be tempted to curl up into our own small selves, to turn our family into a cocoon. We are called to lead a fruitful life by moving forward with others. That's how the world holds together. Of course, we each have our own qualities and defects, and our own personality. At the starting line, we are not all equal, we are different. But if we share the same goal, we can walk constructively, all together in the same direction. Walking means taking tangible actions to embody what we believe.

## Consultation phase off to a slow start in Ireland

Although the Global Synod was launched in October 2021 and in many countries the consultation phase has already been completed, in Ireland the consultation phase is only now commencing.

A survey carried out by We Are Church Ireland, a lay Catholic lobby group, shows a very slow start to the synodal process in the country. Websites of the 26 Irish dioceses show six dioceses make no mention of the Synod, only four name their Synod contact person and just five have online response forms. Only seven of the diocesan websites get a pass mark, with Dublin and Armagh leading the way, said We Are Church Ireland.

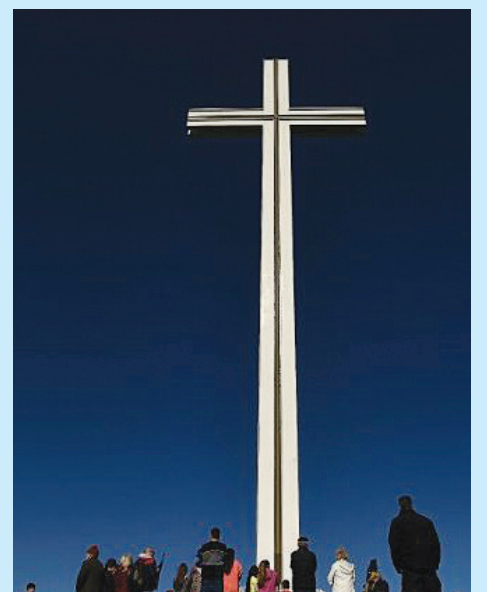
Colm Holmes, the group's Joint Coordinator, expanded on the survey findings. “I have no doubt that the Global Synod will take place as planned in October 2023. But

Pope Francis' plan that everyone should be involved will not happen,” said Holmes. “Seeking inputs from those at the margins and those who have walked away requires a major effort. Much easier for each diocese to contact the few who remain in the pews after COVID. A large majority have little or no time for a Synod which, after Phase One, is totally controlled by the bishops in all subsequent phases,” Holmes said.

We Are Church Ireland is supporting Phase One of the Synod, organising a Listening Session with the theme *What changes are important for our Church?* he said. Explaining possible reasons for the slow start of the Synod, Holmes pointed out that the bishops announced early in 2021 that they would hold an assembly or assemblies of the Church in Ireland within

five years. “The Global Synod has now been integrated into the first two years of our National Synodal Pathway,” Holmes said. “Also, our bishops are quite conservative and they are no doubt waiting to see the outcomes in 2023 of both the German Synodal Path and the Global Synod,” he said.

According to Holmes, the two main issues facing the Catholic Church are shared decision making and equality for women. “We have seen with the German Synodal Path that laity and clerics can work together to tackle the important issues so long neglected by the Church of popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. It is my hope that the Irish National Synodal Pathway will follow the German model rather than the Roman hierarchical model,” Holmes said. — LCI (<https://international.la-croix.com/>)



The faithful gather at the Papal Cross in Phoenix Park in Dublin, Ireland. (Vatican News photo)

# Squash queen gives back

By Carmel Dominic

To Malaysians, and of course the world over, squash is synonymous with Nicol David. The proud Penang-born, who was recently crowned the *World's Games Greatest Athlete of All Time*, always has a smile on her face and is most unassuming. This writer credits Nicol's approachable nature to her strong Catholic and a down-to-earth upbringing.

Attributing her faith to her family, Nicol said that her mother taught her to surrender everything she does into the hands of the Lord.

"I do what I need to do. I attend my training sessions, eat well and always keep a healthy mind. The rest, I surrender to God. Yes, I go into a match hoping to win, but the actual outcome is in God's hands," she said.

Like the rest of us, she does feel sad and disappointed when she loses a match. However, she knows that there is always a bigger picture at play.

## Learn from failure

"I learn more from my failures than my winnings. I become a better player and a better person through my failures. Everything happens for a reason. Even failure. There could be many reasons why I lose a match, and it is easy to play the blame game. But, the true reason of why I lose will always present itself when the Lord feels it's time to reveal it to me and then

*In conjunction with International Women's Day, March 8, we highlight Nicol David, our Queen of Squash.*

*Nicol shares how her trust in God and the faith of her parents has driven her to success.*

*Not resting on her laurels after retirement, Nicol has started a foundation to empower children between the ages of eight to 12 through sports and education, using squash and English.*

suddenly, everything makes sense. Growth comes with realisation."

She added that her mother, Ann Marie, a catechist, gave her some insightful perspective on how to handle her losses.

"It is important to mum that I always keep things in perspective, especially my loses. She always reminds me to put myself in my opponent's position as now, their parents have the opportunity to be proud of them as how my parents were proud of me whenever I won. She not only found a way to calm me down but simultaneously reminded me to think of others and that the world does not revolve around me," she said thoughtfully.

Her father, Desmond David who was a national football player, supported her on sports matters.

"Being a sportsman, dad saw my talent and fully encouraged me to pursue it. He believed that if you have the ability, it should be fully utilised. On my low days, he would always remind me of my past achievements and how I managed to achieve all that despite the obstacles I faced. Dad always tells

me not to give up, even if I lose. He instilled the habit of picking myself up, dusting the failure off and coming back harder the next round."

## Depend on the Holy Spirit

Throughout her 18-year career, Nicol resided overseas to train as a professional squash player. At the tender age of 18, most parents would be reluctant to allow their child to go so far away from home and be under the supervision of strangers, but knowing how adamant Nicol was about becoming a professional player, her parents gave their blessings and unwavering support. It was at this time too that Nicol had her first personal encounter with God during a Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS).

"My mother told me about this seminar and I thought it would be beneficial for me to participate. And I'm glad that I did. I experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit for the first time and received the Gift of Tongues."

Nicol left for Amsterdam soon after the seminar to begin her



Nicol David with her parents, Ann Marie and Desmond David whom she enjoys spending time with.

training. On hindsight, she says her experience at the seminar was the starting point of her spiritual growth. She fully acknowledges that her talent and everything that comes with it is God's providence. She would not have been able to do any of it on her own. Following her mother's advice, Nicol kept a regular daily prayer time and always kept her faith at the forefront in her decision-making process. She has also experienced the power of the Holy Spirit during her matches.

"There have been many times when I'm in the court, in the middle of the match, and I can feel a calming presence come over me and take over my movements on the court. It's almost like I am a third party watching myself play, though I am the one playing. This is the moment when I'm in the zone. My responses are swift and efficient. I am at my best in those moments and usually win

the match. This calming presence is the Holy Spirit, because I always surrender myself and the match to the Lord and so, He takes over," she shared.

## Trust in the Lord

Speaking on spiritual maturity, Nicol said that over the span of 15 years, the consistent lesson that she is faced with is, trusting God's timing and decisions. Admittedly one of the hardest things to do as a disciple of Christ, Nicol has had her fair share of doubtful and fearful days.

"It is easy to get carried away in a situation and rely on my own understanding to solve or make sense of it. But, it quickly unravels and then I realise that I can't deal with it on my own. Then, I go running back to Him and sit in prayer. Before I know it, things will somehow fall in place and there is such clarity. It's a work in progress," she admits.

## Empowering children through sports and education



At the Seven Terraces filming the Penang Tourism Ambassador videos.

Now that squash queen Nicol David has retired from the sport, she has turned her attention to social responsibility. The eight-time World Champion has founded the Nicol David Organisation, a non-profit organisation that empowers children between the ages of eight to 12 through sports and education, using squash and English.

"We believe that squash is one factor that will instil good values in children and at the same time, being proficient in the English language will give them more opportunities in the future. We will be reaching out to B40 and M40 families to take up the programme. At the moment, the programme will be based in Bukit Jalil, so we are reaching out to a few schools in the area to recruit students. There are no prerequisites to join the programme, but of course an interest in sports will benefit them greatly."

In a nutshell, this subsi-

dised after-school programme is geared towards teaching children the importance and advantages of having good values like self-discipline, healthy work ethic and how to keep a positive mindset.

The education part of this programme will be supported by the Embassy of the United States of America. They have secured the services of an English professor who will virtually train local university graduates on how to interactively engage the children to learn the English language. University students from the squash club will be selected to be trained as coaches for the children. Nicol will take on the role as head coach and train the university students to be future coaches. The organisation also aims to cultivate leadership skills among local graduates. The program is set to be launched in June this year.

Nicol and her co-founder, Mariana de Reyes, who was also a professional squash player from Colombia back in the day, came together to set up this organisation.

"As I was nearing my retirement, I knew I needed a plan to keep myself occupied. Having grown up in an environment and family that was always helping others, I knew I wanted to do the same. I just wasn't sure how. As I was speaking to Mariana about my future plans, she gave me some very good advice. Listening to her, I realised that I would need help in making this idea a reality. So, I asked her to join me, which she did and the Nicol David Organisation was born."

Having conquered and dominated the world of squash, all the while making her family and country proud, Nicol is now excited for this next part of her life. And again, she reiterates that God is in control and is leading her on this path.

"God has allowed me to reach my full potential in squash. I have maximised my talent to the best of my ability. Now, with all the skills, experience and lessons that I have learnt from that part of my life, God is showing

me how I can put all of that to good use with the setting up of this organisation. There were some bumps here and there, but as soon as I opened myself to possibilities and allowed God to take over, I realised that He had positioned all the necessary people in my path, to make my ideas and plans into reality. I am very grateful for His many blessings."

Despite the sweet nectar of success, Nicol said that she never really stopped to enjoy and bask 'in the moment'. Nicknamed the 'Energiser Bunny' by her peers, Nicol really lived up to that name. Now that she has the time to reflect, she wishes that she had taken the time to enjoy her successes, instead of getting ready to achieve the next goal. Her one advice to the young ones is that they remember to enjoy their successes, because those moments are fleeting and precious.

The *HERALD* wishes Nicol David all the best in her future endeavours.

# Having Abraham and Sarah's faith

Welcome to 21st century kids and their lifestyle. What are our fears as parents, and how can we overcome these fears? Today's parents fear that they will not be able to control their children. The media, the online world and their peers are just too great an influence on our children. What do we as parents do? I believe many parents fall into the trap of using aggression and power to offset these outside influences. I have news for you — aggression is a short cut that does not work in the long run. It leads to serious problems for children and how they grow up to deal with the adult world. Children either become the victim or the aggressive and abusive adult because that was modelled by the parents, carers and child minders.

Therefore, as caretakers, you need to try and guide children in dealing with these powerful influences on their own. My reputation is built on advocating for an authoritative parenting style where limits are set, and accountability held for bad behaviour, while encouraging, coaching and forgiving when kids mess up because, "if you do not forgive others their sins, your father will not forgive your sins", Matthew 6:15. Therefore, let us be guided by the Holy Spirit since logic fol-



**Purposeful Parenting**

**Christine Fernandez**

lows that our Creator made us for a purpose. God's Word clearly reveals that purpose in Genesis 1:26, Ephesians 4:14-15, and other Bible verses, which tell us that we should be willing to be trained by the family of God and be open in developing in ourselves the very character and mindset of God Himself.

How do we guide children in dealing with powerful influences? Firstly, we pray for God Almighty to guide us as we journey with our children. There are days when you may feel like Peter or Jonah and want to just give up and run away from your responsibilities, or even be like Hannah, where you just want a good cry. Whatever situation you are in, have faith like Abraham who was also fearful and impatient but ever ready to conquer everything, jump walls and defeat armies. Remember that you are not strong or weak but a human being with limitations. There are

many things influencing children today that we may not sanction. However, the strongest determinant of who your child or children will become is the powerful influence of the home. So, do not underestimate the power you have over your children as parents.

However, be available for your kids, give them your undivided attention and be positive, even when your influence begins to wane. This positive influence is "tenfold" when time is taken in planning out strategies to meet parenting goals. Secondly, don't be a "fixer upper". As parents we are all good at fixing things for our kids. For example, sore knees, broken hearts, and even messy friendships. However, kids do not need fixing. They just want you to "get" what they are going through, see the world through their eyes, and understand them more.

Surprisingly, children do best when there are limits placed on their behaviour. Therefore, provide firm guidelines and restrictions for their safety and security by not being a prisoner of the past (parenting like your parents did). What we as parents have experienced, whether good or bad, cannot be changed. However, with God's help we can change the present. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Finally, know that even though you are an important influence on your children, it is different from the influence of their friends. Friends are more likely to influence everyday behaviour for example, the way they dress, talk and act. However, as a parent, YOU influence your children's basic values, like religious values, issues related to their future and choices they make in education and life. Therefore, be the role model by role-modelling respectful and caring behaviour in your own relationships with the family. The psychosocial theorist Erick Erickson emphasised that, in order for a child to develop into

a healthy well-adjusted adult, psychological conflict must be dealt with successfully. Throughout the eight stages of a child's development, from infancy to adulthood, we are all motivated by our need to achieve competence in certain areas of our lives.

Depending on our culture, we need to resolve the stages in different ways, based on cultural and survival needs. Since babies trust their carers, it is vital that you be responsive and sensitive to their needs so that they develop a sense of trust and see the world as a safe and predictable place. Parents and carers who do not meet the children's psychological needs can engender feelings of anxiety, mistrust and fear.

Furthermore, as children advance in life, they will face the task of industry vs inferiority, whereby they compare themselves to their peers to weigh how they measure up or; identity vs role confusion where the older child's main task is to develop a sense of self and explore various roles and ideas to discover their "adult self".

They may feel like Solomon and need help in making decisions. Therefore, be there for them and do not be afraid like Moses, not knowing what to say or how to tackle the situation but have Sarah's faith and hold firm, and know that as parents, you are doing the best for the family.

The more tools you have under your belt, the better equipped you will be in raising your children and be the effective and caring boss that your children need. Therefore "let all that you do be done in love", 1 Corinthians 16:14. We will unpack Erickson's theories in the next article. Until then, stay motivated and be safe.

● **Christine Fernandez** is a social worker, counsellor, chaplain, parent and grandparent. She would love to hear your parenting stories. Do drop her a line at: [chris55sebi65@yahoo.com.au](mailto:chris55sebi65@yahoo.com.au)



(Pexels/Jep Gambardella)

## The blessing of coming clean with God

Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God," is, perhaps, one of the most wonderful, yet personal and daunting of the beatitudes.

Jesus' promise is awesome: The clean of heart (sometimes translated as the "pure" of heart) "will see God."

Yet, within this promise is a challenge, made thornier because of the myriad distractions and stresses in our lives and world today: To see God, we need to be "clean of heart."

What does this mean, and how can we, today, be "clean of heart"?

In Jesus' time, the term "clean" was often tied with Jewish purity laws, which instructed Jews to avoid actions, foods or practices that were "unclean."

In referring to those "clean of heart," Jesus shifts the focus from observance of purity laws, outward actions, to an inner characteristic that has far-reaching implications for individuals and the community.

In a 2007 sermon on Matthew 5:8, preacher to the papal household, Father Raniero Cantalamessa offers that a clean heart ("purity of heart") is not necessarily a specific virtue, but a "quality that should go along with all the virtues, so that they are truly virtues and not rather 'glittering vices.'"

A clean (pure) heart brings a humble, honest, unhypocritical intention to all good actions.

A clean heart is humbly focused on pleasing God, whether praying "in secret" behind closed doors (Mt 6:6) or in church on Sunday.

With such simple intention, St. Augustine of Hippo writes of Matthew 5:8 that God "is seen with the heart! As it is written elsewhere, 'And in singleness of heart seek him.'" Just as God's light cannot be seen "except with pure eyes; so neither is God seen unless that is pure by which he can be seen."

Today's society poses many challenges to nurturing and maintaining a clean or pure heart. The competitive nature of many activities, even some charity events, can skew participants' intentions to be more about being seen to "do good" than pleasing God.

The many roles we take on at work, in our families and faith communities can blur our sense of true purpose as, first, beloved children of God.

The pace of our lives and the dissonance when worldly concerns clash with spiritual longings can make it difficult to centre ourselves and remain mindful of what is truly important. We might find that, although we are doing the "right" things, in the quiet of our hearts, peace eludes us.

Despite the difficulties we face in nurturing a clean heart in an extremely challenging world, as people of faith, we have good reason to be encouraged.

The church's tradition of prayer is a deep reservoir of guidance and strength, offering rich and diverse opportunities to sit with God. Eucharistic adoration, silent retreats, Liturgy of the Hours — these can bring us to the quiet and focus we need to deepen spiritually and establish an ongoing practice



Fr Timothy J. Mockaitis, pastor of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Salem, Ore., and penitent Ethan K. Alano of Salem demonstrate how a confession is conducted May 3, 2019. (CNS file photo/Chaz Muth)

of taking private time with God.

Working with a spiritual director can help us better understand where God is leading us and sort out our intentions throughout our journey. Sometimes, we need a wise spiritual guide to ask just the right questions to lead us to a deeper level of faith.

The sacrament of reconciliation provides us with opportunities to continue to examine our intentions and conscience, to "come clean" with God so we may move ahead refreshed, abundantly blessed.

Reading sacred Scripture and inspirational writings from the saints feeds the soul and

mind, and helps broaden our understanding of God's abiding, amazing love.

Nurturing relationships with others of faith is also a good way to reinforce prayer, reading and other practices, and "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thes 5:11).

Jesus' promise in Matthew 5:8 is awesome and challenging, but it is not impossible. Like so many others before us, inspired by faith and focused on service, with humble singleness of heart, we can take heart, a clean heart, and one day, see God. — **By Maureen Pratt, CNS**

# Trying not to make God look bad

For fifteen years, I taught a course entitled *The Theology of God*. The students in that course were predominantly seminarians preparing for ministry, along with a number of lay students who were preparing to serve as ministers in various capacities in their churches.

I would always teach what the curriculum called for: the key biblical revelations about the nature of God and God's actions in history, some salient perspectives from the Patristics on God's nature and actions, the historical development of the dogmatic definitions about God, plus some speculative notions on the Trinity, ranging from St Augustine to Karl Rahner to Catherine LaCugna. But my overriding emphasis, like a leitmotif, was always this. I would tell the students: *whatever else you do in your pastoral practice and preaching, try not to make God look stupid!*

Nothing is as important in our teaching, preaching and pastoral activities as is the notion we convey of the God who underwrites it all. Every homily we preach, every catechetical or sacramental teaching we give, and every pastoral practice we engage in reflects the God who undergirds it. If our teaching is narrow and petty, we make God look narrow and petty. If our pastoral practice lacks understanding and compassion, we make God lack understanding and compassion. If we are legalistic, we make God legalistic. If we are tribal, nationalistic, or racist, we make



Fr Ron Rolheiser

God tribal, nationalistic or racist. If we do things that befuddle common sense, we make God the enemy of common sense. Crassly stated, when we do stupid things in our ministry, we make God look stupid.

In all of our preaching, teaching and pastoral practice, we need to work at rescuing God from arbitrariness, narrowness, legalism, rigidity, racism, tribalism, nationalism, and everything that's narrow, legalistic and petty that, through us, gets associated with God. Anything we do in the name of God reflects God.

It's no accident that atheism, anti-clericalism, and most of the negativity levelled against the Church and religion today can always point to some bad theology or Church practice on which to base itself. Atheism is always a parasite, feeding off bad religion. So too is most of the negativity towards the churches which is prevalent today. Anti-church attitudes feed on bad religion and thus we, who preach, teach and minister in the name of God, need to scrutinise ourselves in the light of those criticisms.

As well, we need the honesty to admit

that we have seriously hurt many persons by the rigidity of some of our pastoral practices that do not reflect a God of understanding, compassion, and intelligence but, instead, suggests that God is arbitrary, legalistic, and not very intelligent.

I say this in sympathy. It's not easy to reflect God adequately, but we must try, try to reflect better the God that Jesus incarnated. What are the marks of that God?

First, that God has no favourites. No one person, race, gender, or nation is more favoured than others by that God. All are privileged. That God is also clear that it's not only those who profess God and religion explicitly who are persons of faith, but also those, irrespective of their explicit faith or church practice, who do the will of God on earth.

Next, that God is scandalously understanding and compassionate, especially towards the weak and towards sinners. That God is willing to sit down with sinners without first asking them to clean up their lives. Moreover, that God asks us to be compassionate in the same way to both sinners and saints and to love them both equally. That God does not have preferential love for the virtuous.

In addition, that God is critical of those who, whatever their sincerity, try to block access to Him. That God is never defensive, but surrenders Himself to death rather than defend Himself, never meets hatred with hatred, and dies loving and forgiving those who are killing Him.

Finally, and centrally, God is first of all good news for the poor. Any preaching in God's name that isn't good news for the poor is not the gospel.

Those are the attributes of the God who Jesus incarnated and we need to keep that God in mind in all of our preaching, teaching, and pastoral practices, even as we are sensitive to proper boundaries and the demands of orthodox teaching.

Complex pastoral questions will always be with us and this is not suggesting that these issues be resolved simplistically. The truth sets us free and the demands of discipleship are, by Jesus' own admission, harsh. However, with that being admitted, the compassion, mercy, and intelligence of God need always still to be reflected in every pastoral action we do. Otherwise, God looks arbitrary, tribal, cruel, and antithetical to love.

Christianity, as Marilynne Robinson says, is too great a narrative to be underwritten by any lesser tale and that should forbid especially it's being subordinated to narrowness, legalism, lack of compassion, and lack of common sense.

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## A time to renew your contemplative journey this Lent



Contemplate This  
Nancy Sylvester

For many years I have been writing for this column, "Contemplate This." This title often makes me pause as I reflect that contemplation does not have an object on which it focuses — if what is meant by that is bringing to bear your rational and emotional faculties to observe, interpret or understand the object of attention.

"Contemplate" as a verb conveys a different type of knowing, one that is anchored in the heart (which is understood not as the seat of emotions but as an organ of perception.) Contemplation invites us to a new way of seeing, of knowing, that is rooted in the indwelling of Divine Love.

As we enter the Lenten season, I felt that a renewed contemplative practice might be just what is needed.

There are so many things attracting our attention throughout the world and in our lives: Russian troops invading Ukraine. Climate change affecting some areas with drought and others with horrendous storms. Inflation causing us to spend more money on essentials like food and gas. The toll of COVID-19 expressed in ongoing illness, death, isolation, uncertainty and divisiveness. Growing anger by those who oppose government actions to contain the spread of the infection, and claiming their right to



freedom. State laws in the US sanctioning civilian vigilantes to enforce restrictions on abortion and voting rights.

Certainly, each of these situations demands our attention and calls for action. However — too often — thinking about what is going on evokes anger, frustration, sadness and powerlessness within us. We are trapped in assumptions, worldviews and ways of thinking that keep us responding in old ways that only seem to exacerbate the situations.

Contemplation helps us to "see" in new ways, inviting us to respond out of love and not fear.

Liturgically, the Lenten season takes us on a journey. The story of Jesus' public life is told once again. We witness a man who responded to the injustices of his time in ways that reflected a different worldview. He saw all as equal and not divided by the purity code of his time. He welcomed the unclean to join him. He healed those who couldn't see physically but could "see" the power that

Jesus offered them when he would ask, "And what do you want me to do for you?" He proclaimed his truth even though it would incite the ecclesial and political authorities. He loved and forgave those who could not accept his words, his invitations and who persecuted and crucified him.

Jesus responded to the injustices of his time out of love and not fear, and without blame.

The Gospels tell us Jesus often prayed: intensely for 40 days, alone after giving of himself serving people's needs and exercising his power, and communally at meals.

I believe his prayer went beyond words, beyond thinking. Jesus rested in Divine Love but not a resting of inaction. Rather, that resting freed him from current ways of thinking and opened a spaciousness within him so that he could "see" in new ways. Jesus' heart became his organ of perception responding from the indwelling of Divine Love to be in service to all.

The magnetic centre of Divine Love

dwells within each of us — drawing us, inviting us to make the space for us to "see" in new ways and to respond from that love.

Perhaps the invitation of these next 40 days is to deepen or commit to a contemplative practice. If you don't have a practice, you may want to begin with a centering prayer. This is a practice where a very short word serves as your way back from distraction to the spaciousness of contemplation. Having consented to the working of God within you, every time you begin to think or something distracts you, you simply say the word and then let go. Letting go is key, for each time you let go, you fall more deeply into the space where the Divine Mystery dwells. In silence you encounter God revealing not only God's self but your true self as well.

We are living in tumultuous times, in a time of chaos. We don't yet know how to respond in ways that heal. Taking time this Lent to simply rest in the indwelling of Divine Love will move us closer to seeing in new ways, so that we can begin to respond from love and not fear and without blame. — [globalsistersreport.org](https://bit.ly/3sAIx5CRenew) (<https://bit.ly/3sAIx5CRenew>)

● **Nancy Sylvester** is founder and director of the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue. She served in leadership of her own religious community, the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, Michigan, as well as in the presidency of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Prior to that she was National Coordinator of Network, the national Catholic social justice lobby.

# Little Catholics' Corner



Luke 4:1-13

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Can you find your way into the desert?

Dear Children

As we enter the first week of Lent, remember we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. During Lent, which is 40 days long (as Sundays don't count), we get our souls ready by praying, fasting, and almsgiving.

Praying is talking with God, and Lent is a great time to get into the habit of talking with Him daily.

Fasting is eating less than you normally would. You can also 'fast'

or give up something you like to do for fun, like playing video games or taking a break from social media. You can also make an effort not to fight with your brothers and sisters. Giving something up helps us remember we need God, not just food and fun stuff in life.

Almsgiving means giving to those in need. It helps us be generous like God. Maybe you can put aside some of your allowance and give it to the poor or to the Church.

Aunty Gwen

[gwen@herald.com.my](mailto:gwen@herald.com.my)

## Jesus Was Tempted by the Devil: True or False?

How well do you know the story from today's Gospel reading?

1. Jesus went to the desert and didn't eat anything for 40 days. **(True / False)**
2. Jesus was never tempted by the devil. **(True / False)**
3. Jesus wasn't hungry, even after 40 days with no food. **(True / False)**
4. The devil said that all the kingdoms of the world belonged to him. **(True / False)**
5. Jesus said that He would only worship the devil if he gave Him all the power first. **(True / False)**
6. Jesus wouldn't throw Himself off the Temple because He said it was "putting God to the test." **(True / False)**
7. The devil kept bothering Jesus, even when he ran out of things to tempt him about. **(True / False)**

## MY LENTEN PROMISES

Making small sacrifices each day to bring us closer to Jesus ... the ultimate sacrifice

I promise to

I promise to

I promise to



PRAY



FAST



GIVE

## The Temptation of Jesus Christ

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



# YOUTH

MARCH 6, 2022

## Catholic University in western Ukraine now housing war refugees



A woman fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine embraces a child in a refugee camp in Przemysl, Poland. (Vatican News photo)

ROME: Fr Andrii Shestak, director of the School of Journalism and Communications at Ukrainian Catholic University, said locals feel like David battling Goliath.

“We feel like this is a battle of David and Goliath,” he said. “And we are David. And we are witnessing many miracles every day. It’s been six days since the invasion. But we are still standing. Kyiv is still standing. Kyiv is still the capital of a free Ukraine.”

The Ukrainian Catholic University is located in the western city of Lviv, and it currently serves as home to some 150 students turned refugees, many of whom have their families

now living with them.

It is the only Catholic university in the former Soviet Union, and it’s unofficially known to be the only Catholic university “between Poland and Japan.” Though officially established in 2002, it has its roots from the Lviv Theological Academy, created in 1928, suppressed by the Soviet Union in 1939, and revived in 1994.

Shestak said, “I have to be in good spirits: It is my responsibility to try and transmit hope to the people.” This applies not only to when he speaks with the students, but also when he delivers his homilies during a Mass that is broadcast via Facebook.

Of those currently finding refuge at the university, “everyone is trying to do at least something,” he said. Beyond daily morning prayer – “a great help” – the students have been collecting clothes and food being sent regularly to the capital, Kyiv, currently under siege by Russian troops.

“I’m hearing the name of the Lord very often, more than ever before, even in the media,” he said. “Ukraine is in many ways a very secularised society, increasingly so in the last years, with faith decreasing. But in the last five days [since the Russian invasion], this has changed dramatically.” — **By Inés San Martín, *Crux***

# Empowering change in Malaysia

**SHAH ALAM:** In conjunction with World Social Justice Day, the Church of the Divine Mercy (CDM) hosted a forum on social justice, to empower change in Malaysia, especially under the context of the Catholic Church.

Held on February 20, the keynote speaker was a Member of Parliament representing Muar, co-founder of the political party MUDA, and a prominent advocate of social justice in Malaysia, YB Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman. The panellists included the Director of the Catholic Research Centre, Fr Dr Clarence Devadass, CDM Parish Pastoral Council chairperson and Society of Certified Risk Professionals Datuk Dr Dionysius Sharma, and law graduate and social advocate Jofintha Joseph. The moderator was Jason Ho, a member of CDM’s social communications, ecumenical, and interfaith ministry.

The online forum was split into three parts starting with YB Syed Saddiq and his perspective on social justice in Malaysia; the second featured Catholic social justice, and finally, a Question-and-Answer session.

On the relevance of the World Day of Social Justice in Malaysia, Syed Saddiq spoke about racial discrimination and the injustice of



Panel of speakers during the Empowering Change in Malaysia virtual forum.

deaths in custody in the past two years. He also described these social justice concerns as ‘issues which connect us in the end,’ because we treat each other like family and celebrate diversity. He also said these are ultimately systemic issues and patterns that need to be broken, and to curb these problems, we should “scream, shout, and engage in dialogue.”

Fr Clarence kicked off the second segment on how the concern for others has always been at the heart of the church and bible and is not something new. Father explains that the term ‘Catholic social teaching’ was derived in 1891 by Pope Leo XIII, who created the *Rerum Novarum*, an encyclical that advocated for workers’ rights.

Fr Clarence also discussed how we shouldn’t fall into the

trap of thinking these issues won’t affect us, because when we think like that, we’ve failed in our faith. In conclusion, he said our ‘activism’ must come from a conviction of our faith that moves us to act.

A University of London graduate, Jofintha said that being of service to the church is deeply embedded in her. Her tipping point was when she was meditating during a training event, she felt a push by the Holy Spirit to change her life and take a step forward using the knowledge and information she had.

Jofintha started her journey of social advocacy by following social justice accounts. A strong believer in always thinking “you know more than you think you know,” she said youths tend to share information from these accounts on social media platforms. The young advocate joined events and panels related to social justice without prior knowledge. Through this, she encouraged everyone to take these small steps towards helping curb social issues in the country.

Finally, Datuk Dionysius, a conservationist for the environment and one who worked with World Wildlife Federation Malaysia for many years, spoke on the relationship between environmental justice and social justice. He explained that natural resources have been exploited for years for the sole purpose of economic growth.

Datuk Dionysius said, “the affairs of daily life and the state of the earth cannot afford to be indifferent dialogues; they have to be the same.” The heart of the issue is derived from the misconception that the earth’s resources have no link to us, and therefore we can exploit it. He added, “the degradation of the national environment compounds social injustice.”

The forum was informative and ran smoothly, thanks to CDM and everyone who helped organise it. The panellists shared insightful thoughts and stories that can help create a large-scale impact, especially on the younger generations. — **By Adrienne Maia Fernandez, CDMYM**



Source: Freepik





# PDYD-5 YOUTH CROSS, ICONS BEGIN JOURNEY ACROSS PENANG DIOCESE

PENANG: The Penang Diocesan Youth Day 5 (PDYD-5) is not just a single event. It is a series of events along a journey that aims to encourage young people to put their faith into action.

The journey began on December 4, 2021 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Pulau Tikus, Penang, with the launching of PDYD-5.

This was followed by a briefing on February 18, 2022 to prepare the young people for the Youth Cross Journey which started on February 25, 2022 and will continue until the main celebration in October 2022.

The PDYD-5 Youth Cross and Icons will be travelling to different parishes every week in the three deaneries:

1. Northern Deanery (11 parishes),
2. Perak Deanery (12 parishes), and
3. Penang Deanery (7 parishes), including College General.

There will be a Deanery Celebration for each deanery.

Besides the journey of the Youth Cross and Icons, there will be other activities taking place such as the PDYD-5 Virtual Run and Prayer Jam, where spiritual prayer is emphasised.

All this will culminate with PDYD-5 itself in October.

As the marvellous and most anticipated journey of PDYD-5 has commenced, our young people from different parishes have shared their experiences and moments of PDYD-5 in 2022. — *By Andrea Gail Christopher*



Mass procession with the PDYD-Youth Cross and Icons; Salus Populi Romani and St John Paul II at the Church of the Holy Fatima of the Holy Rosary, Kota Bharu on February 28, 2022.

A sharing by Rosanna Roshini, Youth Leader of Church of our Lady of Fatima of the Holy Rosary, Kota Bharu, Kelantan:

*I'd like to begin by thanking the PDYD5 committee for giving our parish, Church of Our Lady of Fatima of the Holy Rosary, Kota Bharu, the opportunity to kick start the journey of the Youth Cross and the icons of PDYD-5; truly we are blessed and excited. We also would like to thank Fr Konstend Gnanapragasam, our parish priest, for aiding and supporting us by being himself involved in delivering the Youth Cross and icons from Penang to Kota Bharu.*

*In our preparation to welcome and spend time with the Youth Cross, we even*

*had practice and planning with the young people in our parish. As far as I can remember, this is the first time we are doing it on our own; assembling the cross was quite a challenge for us but it was also fun figuring out how to assemble the cross.*

*We decided to have each one of us carry a part of the cross and the icons in the procession at the beginning of the Mass on Friday, February 25, 2022. Both the local youths and campus students carried each part of the cross and the two icons of Salus Populi Romani and St John Paul II.*

*Praise the Lord, everything went smoothly. I am grateful for this experience and I look forward to seeing all of you during PDYD-5 in October! God bless :)*



Fr Edmund Woon receiving the PDYD-5 Mission Cross from the youth representative at the Church of St Joseph, Batu Gajah on February 27, 2022.



## Reflection for young people in preparation for MJD50

In preparation for the MJD Golden Jubilee celebration, the youth are invited to reflect and pray through a series of brochures based on *Christus Vivit!*

These reflection materials are available in four languages for the different age groups; youth (13-17), campus students (18-24) and young adults (18-39).

You can download the digital copy here: <https://mjd-diocese.my/wps/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/MJD-50-Reflection-Material-1-English-Youth.pdf>

Recognise - Interpret - Choose (RIC) is a method of spiritual accompaniment and discernment introduced by Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (169-173) and continued in the documents of the Synod on Young People, especially the *Working Document* (3, 112-115), the *Final Document* (4, 97) and *CV* itself (236-37). We propose that you use the RIC method for reflection and sharing, along with this brochure, whether you are by yourself or with your youth groups, CSSs or CFs!

### RECOGNISE

To look and listen, to be aware of what it is that strikes or nudges you as you read this text. What image, word, or phrase pops up? Naming the 'what' of the matter helps you focus.

### INTERPRET

Understanding the 'what' through the eyes of faith. What does what you've recognised mean for you?

Interpretation is not done alone, it happens with the vast treasure of Scripture, Church teaching, spiritual accompaniment, our local Church communities and our own personal experience.

### CHOOSE

How can you respond concretely to what you've recognised and interpreted? What choice or action must you make? — *MJDYPN*



## MARCH I SAY TO YOU, ARISE!

**"Young people aren't meant to be discouraged but to take on the world and build something better" (CV 15).**

Here are some steps you can take to obtain a youthful spirit:

**Listen to those who are older.**  
*Learn from their experiences and be open to the future.*

**Have an open heart for God.**  
*God does not take your youth away but, instead, strengthens it. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt 6:21).*

**Seek new horizons.**  
*Do more outside of your comfort zones and look not for earthly attachments.*

**"If you have lost your dreams, your enthusiasm, your optimism and your generosity, Jesus stands before us saying:**

**"Young man, I say to you, arise!" (Lk 7:14)." (CV 20)**

### Personal reflection

1. Have you ever tried stepping out of your comfort zone before? What did you do?
2. When you were demotivated, how has God strengthened you?

### Group reflection

Read through Luke 7:11-15 and place yourself in the young man's shoes. After 5 to 10 minutes, share in your groups on:

1. Which verse struck you the most and why?
2. As a young person, how do you find hope and meaning in God?



Hey everyone,

In previous issues, we focused on NATURAL LIGHT and the RULE OF THIRDS for smartphone photography.

Now we need to know the SUBJECT of our photo. We should not just snap photos here and there, we need to FOCUS on one SUBJECT.

So when taking a picture, spend some time setting up the shot. Be sure to tap the screen of your smartphone to focus the camera on your subject.

So, until then, go ahead, snap photos and praise His name!

Amanda  
[amanda@herald.com.my](mailto:amanda@herald.com.my)



Unsplash/Maria Shanina

# Beloved social media nun dies

DENVER: Messages from around the world have flooded Twitter as the beloved "Digitalnun," Sr Catherine Wybourne, died of cancer February 24, at the age of 68.

Wybourne was born in Catham, England in 1954. She studied history at the University of Cambridge and became a banker. In 1981, at age 27, she decided to leave the financial world to join Stanbrook Abbey.

The Benedictine nun quickly became interested in technology while running the printing press at Stanbrook. In 2004 she founded the Holy Trinity Monastery, now Howton Grove Priory, in Herefordshire. It was at this time that she wanted to ensure it had an online presence. The nuns built their own website, created podcasts, videos, and included interactive elements such as forums and online meetings.

Wybourne took to Twitter in 2009 and became known as the "Digitalnun." With over 28,000 followers, she tweeted about life as a nun and the happenings of the world. Her daily tweets requesting to know the prayer intentions of her "tweeps" and her prayers for the world were unending. She also ran a blog.

In a 2015 interview with *The Telegraph* she said, "Being cloistered doesn't mean that you have to have an enclosed mind, or an enclosed approach to things. We describe the internet as being the fourth wall of our cloister and it's open to everybody."



The nun kept tweeting up until hours before her death. In her final moments, she expressed her sadness over the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Even amid hospital visits and suffering, she embraced her death with joy and humour. In December 2021, Wybourne received news from the doctors that they could no longer do anything for her medically and that she was close to death. In one of her last blog posts, after receiving this news, she wrote, "Catholicism can be a hard religion to live by but is a beautiful religion in which to die."

She went on to thank God, writing, "The God in whom I believe is much bigger, and so much more fun, than we often allow Him to be. I thank Him for letting me be a Benedictine, which has been the supreme joy of my life, for the friendships He has inspired and the graces He has poured out on me despite my stubbornness and lack of co-operation."

"I ought to thank Him for the difficulties, too, but I don't 'do' piety. Brutal honesty is more my line. I know He understands," she wrote. — **By Francesca Pollio Fenton, CNA**

## MEMORIAM

For enquiries, please contact:  
Email: advertisement@herald.com.my  
Tel: 03-2026 8291

### 42nd Anniversary In Ever Loving Memory of



**Mr. S. Anthony Samy**  
From the Lord: 8th August 1931  
Returned to the Lord:  
10th March 1980

*We greatly miss your presence. We treasure your sacrifices and wisdom. Loving you always for your guidance. Forgetting you never. Appa, you will always live in our hearts forever.*

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him,  
O Lord And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.  
Always remembered and not forgotten by Loved Ones.

*that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.*

Psalm 48:14



## Salesians mourn loss of evangelising brother

KOLKATA: A Salesian Brother who reached out to all, irrespective of their religions, died in Kolkata, eastern India.

Bro Sushanto Biswas died of cardiac arrest at 3.40pm February 25 at Kolkata's Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences. He was 76.

The Salesian Kolkata WhatsApp group is being flooded with reminiscences of Bro Biswas as a

great human being who reached out to people of all faiths.

Salesian Fr Jude Sebastian writes, "Bro Sushanto was a genuinely good and gentle human being, serene and without guile, with a sweet persistence for the Lord's work. A happy Salesian, a passionate evangeliser, and most enthusiastic about, and supportive of vocations." — **mattersindia.com**



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# Lenten campaigns by the dioceses

Below is the information on Week One of the Lenten Campaign kits prepared by the three Arch/Dioceses in Peninsular Malaysia. Links are also provided to help you in your journey to Easter and beyond.



## Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur

Based on the Lenten Campaign theme, weekly sub-themes and reflections, focus action and activities have been prepared by the Ministry/Commission/Parish in the Archdiocese leading each week's campaign during the Lenten season.

For this week's Gospel according to Luke 4:1-13, the focus is on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. The proposed action plan for the faithful includes a Lenten Prayer Card, Online and On-site Adorations and Devotions (Mass, Way of the Cross, Rosary), Practice of the Works of Mercy.

### Week One: Renewing and Purifying of Hearts

Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works, preparing us to celebrate joyfully at Easter the mysteries of our salvation as we renew our baptismal calling to walk as disciples of the Lord. Traditionally, we are encouraged to embrace the three pillars of Lenten observance: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1434 says that: "The interior penance of the Christian can be expressed in many and various ways. Scripture and the Fathers insist above all on three forms — fasting, prayer,

## Salt of the earth and light of the World

and almsgiving, which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others. Alongside the radical purification brought about by Baptism or martyrdom, they cite as means of obtaining forgiveness of sins: efforts at reconciliation with one's neighbour, tears of repentance, concern for the salvation of one's neighbour, the intercession of the saints, and the practice of charity 'which covers a multitude of sins.'

Tune in to know more: *Renewing & Purifying of Hearts – Lenten Reflection* by ALC on March 6, 2022, Sunday at 8.00pm



Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/LC22-Wk1-ALC>  
Meeting ID: 89897322398  
Passcode: 843117  
Also LIVE on: <https://TV.ArchKL.org>  
KL Lenten Campaign Week 1 Programme



## Diocese of Malacca Johore

### Message of Laudato Si'

This rupture is sin. The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation as a whole was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. This in turn distorted our mandate to "have dominion" over the earth (cf. Gen 1:28), to "till it and keep it" (Gen 2:15). As a result, the originally harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual (cf. Gen 3:17-19). It is significant that the harmony which St Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures was seen as a healing of that rupture. St Bonaventure held that, through universal reconciliation with every creature, St Francis in some way returned to the state of original innocence. This is a far cry from our situation today, where sin is manifest in all its destructive power in wars, the various forms of violence and abuse, the abandonment of the most vulnerable, and attacks on nature. — *Laudato Si'* #66



## "Make a stand! Be heard as a Catholic community and as concerned citizens"

### Week One: A life-generating option

GOSPEL: LUKE 4:1-13

#### REFLECTION

The three temptations are worth reflecting on because they are marked by an unhealthy love of self, or narcissism. If Jesus gives in to them, they may result in his ministry failing to be life-giving and life-generating.

The first temptation points towards an attitude of self-satisfaction or self-preservation. It is to say, "I am in need, and I must be satisfied."

The second temptation points towards the question of what we depend on? The second temptation challenges us to consider whether we are persons who depend on everything and anything other than God. It can be a self-sufficient attitude where we say, I only need myself.

The third temptation is the attitude of self-elevation or promotion. We may unconsciously think too highly of ourselves or possess the desire of wanting people to see how great we are.

The temptation of Jesus is something we may have experienced. We may focus on ourselves and our needs to the extent that it prevents us from seeing and considering the needs of others.

Let us ask ourselves simple questions:

- Do we think too highly of ourselves in what we say and do and get upset when people do not treat us that way?
- Do we seek only to be "happy" at the expense of others? For instance, my wife or even domestic helper has no other life than to make me happy?
- Do my possessions give me comfort in a way that I think they are all I need?
- Are there aspects of my life when I generously give and serve without expecting anything but so that all of us can grow to what God calls us to be?

click here for more: <https://bit.ly/3CbqDd3>



## Diocese of Penang

### Together

(Lent 2022 Theme Song.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGDb9lFx8LQ>

Music by Michael Yanga

Arranged by Marrienne Silvestre

Let me hear your heart.  
Let me feel your soul  
Let me know your cries  
Let me see your side  
Let me lift you up  
Let me pray for you  
Let us be one beautiful family  
Journeying together with God

Let me walk with you  
Let me smile with you  
Let me cry with you  
Let me serve with you  
Let me praise with you  
Let me be with you  
Let us be one beautiful family  
Journeying together with God

Together in faith  
Together in prayer  
Together in love  
Glorifying the Lord  
By sharing the love  
By sharing the peace  
By sharing the hope of Jesus Christ  
Together, we journey as one

Together in faith }  
Together in prayer }  
Together in love }  
Glorifying the Lord } X2  
By sharing the love }  
By sharing the peace }  
By sharing the hope of Jesus Christ }  
Together, we journey as one }  
We journey as one

## Restore

### Week One: Restore Jesus as the centre of our lives

We start the process of restoration with our own spirits by keeping Jesus as our main focus point. Jesus exuded calmness and peace, even in extreme circumstances, by praying. Let us follow in His example by always surrendering ourselves to the will of the Heavenly Father through consistent prayer. It is also through prayer that our faith is restored and we understand God's will for our lives.

#### Discern an action plan for restoration

We need to restore ourselves, our community and the environment. We restore ourselves by keeping our focus on Jesus and understanding His purpose for us.

Then, we can help restore the people around us. We do that by offering our time, our prayers, our hearts, and through alms giving.

As you restore your relationship with Jesus, He will grant you inspiration to be an agent for restoration and He will show you how exactly to do so.

Here are some ways that we can restore Jesus at the centre of our lives and others.



#### Physical Outreach

- Visit the homeless
- Visit the elderly
- Visit the sick
- Visit orphans
- Visit the imprisoned

#### Online Outreach

- Raise funds for Caritas Penang Lenten Initiatives
- Post write-ups to help restore hope in others
- Postvideos to help inspire restoration in others
- Offer a listening ear to your community
- Create a network for people to help each other
- Be creative in bringing about restoration!

click here for more: <https://caritaspenang.com/lenten-2022/>

## Pope's March Intention

# For Christians facing new bioethical challenges

VATICAN: For the month of March, Pope Francis has asked us to pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Modern physics has learnt that under conditions of enormous pressure, the nuclei of hydrogen atoms can fuse into helium and, in the process, give off remarkable amounts of energy. This energy was first predicted by Einstein's famous equation,  $E = mc^2$ . It is the source of the energy that makes the sun and the stars shine. And it is the power behind hydrogen bombs.

You can accept Einstein's physics and pray

that humanity rejects nuclear warfare. But it's easy to confuse the science of how the universe works with the technology developed from that knowledge. And technology itself is different from the purposes, good or bad, to which it is directed... including the inevitable, unexpected consequences of technology that is used even with the best of intentions.

When we study biology, we come close to God, the Creator of all living things. The miracle of life includes not only the fact that life itself exists but the amazing truth that we, ourselves God's living creations, have been given the ability to understand life and



cultivate it. We have the power to cure disease and alleviate suffering. We also have the freedom to abuse that power, using it for selfish ends or withholding it from others out of greed or malice.

Advances in the biological sciences lead to advances in medical technology. But as profound as the efforts of the scientists and doctors are to make those advances, the phi-

losophers, ethicists, and theologians exert a similar effort when they seek to understand that knowledge, how to use it wisely and deal with its consequences. They, too, are under enormous pressure; and they, too, will not always get it right.

They deserve our attention, and our prayers. — **By Bro Guy Consolmagno SJ, [popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)**

# No call for peace should be rejected

VATICAN: A group of 233 priests and deacons of the Russian Orthodox Church has launched a strong appeal to all those who can bring an end to the war in Ukraine.

They have described the situation as "fratricidal" and called for reconciliation and an immediate cease-fire. They write: "We mourn the ordeal to which our brothers and sisters in Ukraine were undeservedly subjected". The appeal came following the Sunday of the

Last Judgement and in the week before Forgiveness Sunday (the two Sundays preceding Great Lent in the Eastern calendar).

Recalling that each person's life is a unique and priceless gift from God, the priests and deacons stress that the Last Judgement awaits all. "No earthly authority, no doctor, no guard," they read, "will protect us from this judgement. Concerned for the salvation of every person who considers himself a child

of the Russian Orthodox Church, we do not want him to come to this judgement carrying a heavy burden. Let us remember that the blood of Christ, shed by the Saviour for the life of the world, will be received in the sacrament of Communion by those who give murderous orders, not for life, but for eternal torment."

In the appeal, the soldiers who are fighting the war are remembered and hopes are expressed "for all of them, both Russians

and Ukrainians, to return unharmed to their homes and families. It saddens us to think of the grief that our children and grandchildren in Russia and Ukraine will have to bridge in order to begin to be friends again, to respect and love each other". The firm conviction is also expressed that the Ukrainian people must be free to make their own choices, "not under the crosshairs of machine guns, without pressure from the West or the East".

Looking forward to Forgiveness Sunday, the 233 Russian Orthodox clerics re-call that "the gates of heaven will be open to all, even to those who have sinned greatly, if they ask forgiveness of those whom they have despised, insulted, or were killed at their hands or at their will". They emphasise that there is no alternative to mutual reconciliation. With the wish to start Lent in a spirit of faith, hope and love, the message concludes by reiterating that "no non-violent appeal for peace and an end to war should be rejected by force and considered as a violation of the law, because this is the divine commandment: Blessed are the peacemakers". The invitation to dialogue is underscored, because "only the ability to listen to the other can give hope of a way out of the abyss into which our countries have been thrown in so few days". — **Vatican News**



The Russian Orthodox Church expressed hope that all soldiers, Russian and Ukrainian, can return home unharmed. (Vatican News photo)

## Holy See invites entries for Jubilee 2025 official logo

VATICAN: The Vatican is holding a worldwide competition to choose the official logo for the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year.

A Jubilee is a special Holy Year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church, which typically takes place every 25 years.

As preparations for the Jubilee year get underway in Rome, the Vatican's Office for Evangelisation has opened up a contest to decide the year's official logo.

The competition was announced on February 22, and submissions can be uploaded to the website from April 1 to May 20.

Both teams and individuals can enter, and the winning submission will be chosen by a panel of judges from the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation.

The motto for the 2025 Jubilee, approved by Pope Francis, is *Pilgrims of Hope*.

"The logo must portray the essence of the Jubilee event, with particular attention given to the motto," according to the submission guidelines.

The 2025 Jubilee will be the Church's first ordinary jubilee since St John Paul II led the Great Jubilee of 2000. The Jubilee of Mercy opened by Pope Francis in 2015 was an extraordinary jubilee.

Other required features for the Holy Year's official logo are that it be original and unpublished, distinctive, adaptable to printing on different materials, and usable in both colour and black and white.

The logo should also include the Latin phrases *Iubilaum A.D. MMXXV*, which

means "Jubilee 2025," and "Peregrinantes in spem," which means *Pilgrims of Hope*.

The Vatican's office for evangelisation said that the competition was "open to all" and "anyone can participate, subject to acceptance of the rules and regulations."

"The Jubilee's logo symbolically conveys a message in an immediate and fitting way, and is an expression both of the universality of the Church's message and of the particular spiritual needs of our contemporaries, who find comfort in this message, inspired by the theme of hope," the evangelisation council said.

Further information will be available on a website for the Jubilee logo (<http://www.iubilaum2025.va/en/logo.html>). — **By Hannah Brockhaus, CNA**



Pope Francis opens the Holy Doors at St Peter's Basilica in 2015.