



CARDIFF CATHEDRAL † GADEIRIOL CAERDYDD

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Third Sunday of Easter

26th April 2020

Year A

Psalter Week 3

The Domestic Church

One of the most striking moments of my short time at the Cathedral happened over Christmas. I was quite struck by how busy the city centre got in the immediate lead-up to the ‘winter celebrations’, as many identify it. Then, there’s Christmas Eve, and the whole city is packed with those last minute shoppers, like me, who are attempting to gather together presents from the scraps left over from the mad rush, which started at the end of September. And then, on Christmas Day - nothing. The whole of the city centre falls silent; an eerie and rather awkward silence, reminding me that all of those people who had once packed out the shops and streets are now spending that one day with their families. Boxing Day, then, as you can imagine, signals the beginning of the sales, and the return of the mass of shoppers.

I reflect upon this dramatic contrast over Christmas because each day, during this time of self-isolation and lock-in, is akin to Christmas Day. An eerie silence has fallen over our cities, our towns, our streets, even. I was listening to the radio, and someone was saying how they are being ‘forced’ to spend time with their families. I think, on the whole, that this time which has been spent with our loved ones is a time which is being cherished; a unique opportunity for the family unit to come together for an extended period of time (other than Christmas Day!) and be together, play together, and pray together.

The Church speaks of the family as the ‘domestic Church’. It is within the framework of the domestic church where parents, as first teachers of the faith, lead their family in word and example, to build up a relationship with the Lord. This aspect of the vocation of parents cannot be overlooked or its significance played down. It is in the domestic church where all family members learn who God is, and prayerfully seek His will in their lives. Its significance in the building up of the Body of Christ means that it continually needs to be renewed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Pope St. John Paul II, writing on the family, reminds us that “*the little domestic church, like the greater Church, needs to be constantly and intensely evangelised*”. What better time than this to evangelise the domestic church.

I have included in this newsletter, and will include on the Cathedral website, some tools to aid your families in building up the domestic church. I pray that you will find these useful.

SERVICES DURING THE WEEK

All services will be celebrated in the Cathedral. You can view the live-stream by accessing the Cathedral website (www.cardiffcathedral.org.uk) or going to Facebook Live.

Sunday <i>3rd of Easter</i>	11:00am	Sung Mass: the Cathedral Community
	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer and Benediction
Monday	09:30am	Mass: Maria & family
	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
	5:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Tuesday <i>St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort</i>	09:30am	Mass: Foundation Mass - Daniel & Lilian Murphy, <i>RIP</i>
	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
	5:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Wednesday	9:00pm	Global Rosary Rally
Thursday <i>St. Pius V</i>	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
	5:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
	6:00pm	Mass: Holy Souls
Friday <i>St. Joseph the Worker</i>	09:30am	Mass: Intentions of the Holy Father <i>following Mass - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and First Friday devotions to the Sacred Heart</i>
	12:00pm	The Holy Rosary
	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
Saturday <i>St. Athanasius</i>	09:30am	Mass: Linda Evans, <i>RIP</i>
	12:00pm	The Holy Rosary
	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
	5:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Sunday <i>4th of Easter - Vocations Sunday</i>	11:00am	Sung Mass: the Cathedral Community
	3:00pm	Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life
	4:00pm	<i>Concluding with</i> Evening Prayer and Benediction

INFORMATION

Archbishop:

Most Rev. George
Stack

Priest-In-Charge:

Rev. Daniel
Stanton

Parish Safeguarding:

John Fellows
(029) 20 23 14 07

Hospital Chaplaincy:

If you, or a loved one, are admitted into hospital, please contact the hospital Chaplaincy team:

Contact - (029) 20 74 32 30

Chaplains:

Rev. Peter Davies
peter.davies4@wales.nhs.uk

Rev. David Pritchard
david.pritchard@wales.nhs.uk

Global Rosary Rally

The Dominicans are arranging a global rosary rally to take place on Wednesday, 29th April 2020. The Dominicans have written:

*“On **Wednesday 29 April 2020**, let's gather in our communities and homes to pray the five Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, at **9:00pm** in your local time. Across the world, on the feast of St Catherine, all Dominicans and their friends shall unite in praying the Rosary against this pandemic: We pray for the sick; for the healthcare services; for the families of the sick; for those who suffer economically, socially, and psychologically; for protection and healing. After each decade, please pray the prayer given by Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima: ‘O my Jesus...’*

The Holy Rosary will be broadcast live, beginning at 9:00pm.

Tools for Building a Domestic Church

Following on from the reflection on the front page of the newsletter, here are a few tools for building a domestic church at home. These tools are taken from the US Bishops' Conference website. Information can also be found at CardiffCathedral.org.uk/domesticchurch.

- Begin praying as a family and reading from Scripture daily, certainly before meals, but also first thing in the morning or before bed. Find a time that works for your family. Use the liturgy of the Church as a model for prayer, and try to include heartfelt unstructured prayer as well.
- Pray a Family Rosary (each member leads a decade, and everyone shares intentions).
- Have a crucifix in a prominent place in the home, and in every bedroom.
- Make the Sacraments a regular celebration – when we are able, take the whole family to Confession and Mass.
- Begin family traditions based on the seasons celebrated in the liturgical calendar.
- Make your vacation a holy pilgrimage by visiting the shrines and saints of our land and the world. There are shrines around the Archdiocese to visit.
- Teach stewardship and charity to your children, through word and example.

- Demonstrate love for your spouse, your children, your neighbours, and the world. Remind their children that they are loved by God and have been given gifts to serve others.
- Talk freely about the presence of God in the joys and sorrows of your life.
- Welcome into your home and support priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, and lay ministers in the Church.
- Participate in the lay ministries and activities of your parish community.
- Allow your children to witness you in private prayer. Encourage your children to pray daily on their own, to listen for God's call, and if heard, to respond.

First Friday Devotions

First Fridays are dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary: *“I promise you, in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving the sacraments; my divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in that last moment.”*

Jesus made twelve promises to St. Margaret Mary. This list of twelve promises does not comprise all of the promises concerning the devotion. These are the twelve promises most likely to draw faithful souls to this most worthy devotion. They are only a few of the many graces promised to those

willing to offer up their broken hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for nine consecutive first Fridays.

1. Christ promises: *“I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.”*
2. Christ promises: *“I will give peace in their families.”*
3. Christ promises: *“I will console them in all their troubles.”*
4. Christ promises: *“They shall find in my heart an assured refuge during life and especially at the hour of death.”*
5. Christ promises: *“I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.”*
6. Christ promises: *“Sinners shall find in my heart the source and infinite Ocean of mercy.”*
7. Christ promises: *“Tepid souls shall become fervent.”*
8. Christ promises: *“Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.”*
9. Christ promises: *“I will bless the homes in which the image of my Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honoured.”*
10. Christ promises: *“I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.”*

11. Christ promises: *“Those who propagate this devotion shall have their name written in my heart and it shall never be effaced.”*

12. Christ Promises: *“The all-powerful love of my Heart will grant to all those who shall receive communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they shall not die under my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; my heart shall be their assured refuge at the last hour.”*

First Friday devotions continue after the celebration of Mass on Friday, including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotions.

May ~ Month of Our Lady

On Friday we enter into the month of May. May is traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Lady. Pope St. Paul VI, in his encyclical letter on the month of May said:

“The month of May is almost here, a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's

merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne”

During the month of May, we will offer the Holy Rosary each day, except Wednesday and Sunday, **beginning at 12:00pm**, after the singing of the *Regina Caeli*. The Holy Rosary will be broadcast live. We are in the midst of an historic moment of our history. Let us, during this time, not fear to turn to Our Blessed Lady and seek her intercession and protection.

Pope Francis has written a letter encouraging us to *“rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May”*. The letter, along with two prayers, can be found here: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200425_lettera-mesedimaggio.html

Vocations Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is always designated as the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. This year, it falls on **Sunday, 3rd May 2020**. In particular, we pray for vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life within our own Archdiocese. Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI said in a talk that *“where people pray, vocations blossom”*. On Vocations Sunday we pray particularly for Elliot and Dale, who are in formation for the Priesthood for the Archdiocese, and for those who are discerning their vocation.

On Vocation Sunday, we will have the opportunity to pray together for

Vocations. There will be a special Holy Hour broadcast live for Vocations, **beginning at 3:00pm.**

The Holy Father's Message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is attached to this newsletter.

Finance Matters

During these difficult days we are all experiencing, I hope that many of you have benefitted from the Live Streaming of Mass from St. David's Cathedral. We intend to continue this in order to keep the community of faith together in prayer and worship.

Sincere thanks to those parishioners who have continued to support the Cathedral financially in these difficult days, not least through Standing Orders. Needless to say, like so many other charities and businesses, the Cathedral has suffered a major drop in its income during this time of closure and social isolation. Nevertheless, high expenditure continues on maintenance, insurance, security and much else.

If you would like to continue supporting the Cathedral and its ministry in the future, please consider donating to its life and work in either of the following ways:

Firstly, by visiting the Cathedral's *Virgin Money Giving Page* at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CardiffCathedral>, where you will be able to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral.

Secondly, please consider establishing a regular Standing Order to the

Cathedral. This can be set-up easily via your internet banking apps, or, alternatively, by completing the Standing Order form available on the Cathedral website (www.cardiffcathedral.org.uk/finance). A Standing Order can be set up if you Gift Aid your donations via the offering envelopes. For Gift-aiders, please consider making this change to Standing Order.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

Message of Pope Francis on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Words of Vocation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On 4 August last year, the 160th anniversary of the death of the Curé of Ars, I chose to write a letter to all those priests who daily devote their lives to the service of God's people in response to the Lord's call.

On that occasion, I chose four key words – pain, gratitude, encouragement and praise – as a way of thanking priests and supporting their ministry. I believe that today, on this 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, those words can be addressed to the whole people of God, against the backdrop of the Gospel passage that recounts for us the remarkable experience of Jesus and Peter during a stormy night on the Sea of Galilee (cf. Mt 14:22-33).

After the multiplication of the loaves, which had astonished the crowds, Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat and precede him to the other shore, while he took leave of the people. The image of the disciples crossing the lake can evoke our own life's journey. Indeed, the boat of our lives slowly advances, restlessly looking for a safe haven and prepared to face the perils and promises of the sea, yet at the same time trusting that the helmsman will ultimately keep us on the right course. At times, though, the boat can drift off course, misled by mirages, not the

lighthouse that leads it home, and be tossed by the tempests of difficulty, doubt and fear.

Something similar takes place in the hearts of those who, called to follow the Teacher of Nazareth, have to undertake a crossing and abandon their own security to become the Lord's disciples. The risk involved is real: the night falls, the headwinds howl, the boat is tossed by the waves, and fear of failure, of not being up to the call, can threaten to overwhelm them.

The Gospel, however, tells us that in the midst of this challenging journey we are not alone. Like the first ray of dawn in the heart of the night, the Lord comes walking on the troubled waters to join the disciples; he invites Peter to come to him on the waves, saves him when he sees him sinking and, once in the boat, makes the winds die down.

The first word of vocation, then, is ***gratitude***. Taking the right course is not something we do on our own, nor does it depend solely on the road we choose to travel. How we find fulfilment in life is more than a decision we make as isolated individuals; above all else, it is a response to a call from on high. The Lord points out our destination on the opposite shore and he grants us the courage to board the boat. In calling us, he becomes our helmsman; he accompanies and guides us; he prevents us from running aground on the shoals of indecision and even enables us to walk on surging waters.

Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. “Vocation, more than our own choice, is a response to the Lord’s unmerited call” (Letter to Priests, 4 August 2019). We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives.

When the disciples see Jesus walking towards them on the sea, they first think that he is a ghost and are filled with fear. Jesus immediately reassures them with words that should constantly accompany our lives and our vocational journey: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear” (Mt 14:27). This, then, is the second word I wish to offer you: *encouragement*.

What frequently hinders our journey, our growth, our choosing the road the Lord is marking out for us, are certain “ghosts” that trouble our hearts. When we are called to leave safe shores and embrace a state of life – like marriage, ministerial priesthood, consecrated life – our first reaction is often from the “ghost of disbelief”. Surely, this vocation is not for me! Can this really be the right path? Is the Lord really asking me to do this?

Those thoughts can keep growing – justifications and calculations that sap our determination and leave us hesitant and powerless on the shore where we started. We think we might be wrong, not up to the challenge, or simply glimpsing a ghost to be exorcized.

The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice – like marriage or special consecration to his service – calls for *courage*. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear!” We know in faith that he is present and comes to meet us, that he is ever at our side even amid stormy seas. This knowledge sets us free from that lethargy which I have called “sweet sorrow” (Letter to Priests, 4 August 2019), the interior discouragement that hold us back from experiencing the beauty of our vocation.

In the Letter to Priests, I also spoke about pain, but here I would like to translate the word differently, as *fatigue*. Every vocation brings with it a responsibility. The Lord calls us because he wants to enable us, like Peter, to “walk on water”, in other words, to take charge of our lives and place them at the service of the Gospel, in the concrete and everyday ways that he shows us, and specifically in the different forms of lay, priestly and consecrated vocation. Yet, like Saint Peter, our desire and enthusiasm coexist with our failings and fears.

If we let ourselves be daunted by the responsibilities that await us – whether in married life or priestly ministry – or by the hardships in store for us, then we will soon turn away from the gaze of Jesus and, like Peter, we will begin to sink. On the other hand, despite our frailty and poverty, faith enables us to walk towards the Risen Lord and to weather every storm. Whenever fatigue

or fear make us start to sink, Jesus holds out his hand to us. He gives us the enthusiasm we need to live our vocation with joy and fervour.

When Jesus at last boards the boat, the winds die down and the waves are calmed. Here we have a beautiful image of what the Lord can do at times of turbulence and tempest in our lives. He stills those winds, so that the forces of evil, fear and resignation no longer have power over us.

As we live out our specific vocation, those headwinds can wear us down. Here I think of all those who have important responsibilities in civil society, spouses whom I like to refer to – not without reason – as “courageous”, and in a particular way those who have embraced the consecrated life or the priesthood. I am conscious of your hard work, the sense of isolation that can at times weigh upon your hearts, the risk of falling into a rut that can gradually make the ardent flame of our vocation die down, the burden of the uncertainty and insecurity of the times, and worry about the future. Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us and save us.

Even amid the storm-tossed waters, then, our lives become open to praise. This is the last of our vocation words, and it is an invitation to cultivate the interior disposition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Grateful that Lord gazed upon her, faithful amid fear and turmoil, she courageously embraced

her vocation and made of her life an eternal song of praise to the Lord.

Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God’s call in their lives, to find courage to say “yes” to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 8 March 2020,
the Second Sunday of Lent*

Franciscus