

**Image of the day -  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral**

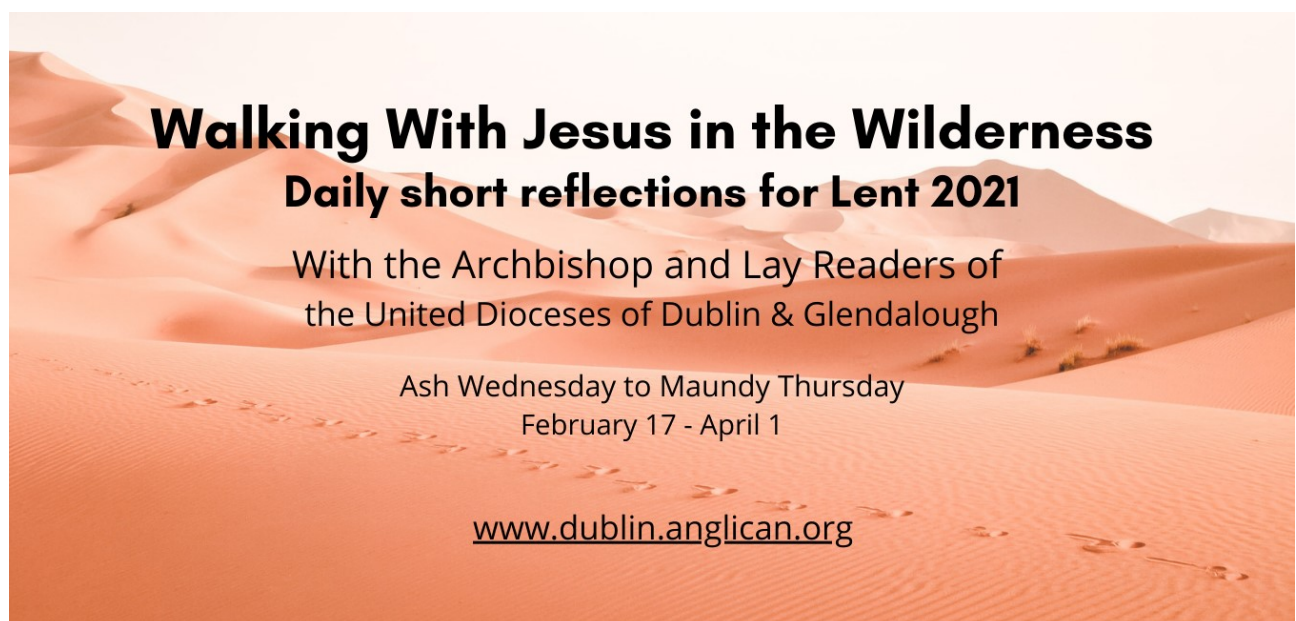
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## **Walking with Jesus in the Wilderness daily Lenten reflections by Dublin and Glendalough lay readers**

Dublin & Glendalough are inviting you to join them during Lent 2021. While we cannot be together, Lay Readers from the length and breadth of the United Dioceses have gathered virtually to provide a thought for the day online.

Entitled 'Walking with Jesus in the Wilderness', the series of short reflections will be posted daily on the [United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough YouTube channel](#) (subscribe now so as not to miss a post) and will also be available on the [Diocesan Website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#).

Archbishop Michael Jackson will begin the series on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and will provide weekly reflections on Sundays throughout Lent. The Diocesan Readers will take over from Mondays to Saturdays providing hopeful reflections and prayers for our times



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based on the readings for each day until Maundy Thursday, April 1.

Commending the new online series, Archbishop Jackson commented: “Extended periods of Lockdown offer few opportunities, not least when we find ourselves coming to terms with successive Lockdowns.

“There is every likelihood that once again The Season of Lent will be in Lockdown. In response to this, the Readers of the United Dioceses have accepted my invitation to offer a thought for the day throughout Lent. I hope that many will find this helpful and useful and wish to thank all who have worked to make this possible. I also want to encourage you to use this series as part of your engaging with Lent 2021 in very difficult practical and spiritual circumstances.”

## **Call on Education Minister to give go-ahead for new Holy Trinity school in Westport**

This week marks 11 years since a campaign got underway for a new school building for the Holy Trinity National School in Westport.

The 200-year old Church of Ireland school is full to capacity with 62 pupils at present.

In 2010, the Department of Education said the school was not fit for purpose, and recommended a new school building, and a site was subsequently acquired at the location of the old Scoil Phadraig on Altamount Street.



However, the Department has recommended that two new schools be located on that site - Holy Trinity and Westport Educate Together - but the Board of Management at Holy Trinity NS is adamant that the site is suitable for one school only.

Principal Orla Brickenden is now calling on the Minister for Education Norma Foley to give the go-ahead for construction to start on the new school.

She told Midwest News that's it's unfair on students and staff to be left waiting for a new school, 11 years later....  
Courtesy of Midwest Radio

## **Dublin institution tomorrow**

The Service of Institution of the Revd Ross Styles as Rector of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy with Calary will take place on Friday February 12 2021 at 7.30pm.

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Due to pandemic restrictions, attendance at the service will be strictly limited. Special arrangements are being made to livestream the service. A link will be sent to parishioners on the evening and that unique link will also be posted on the Parish of Newcastle & Newtownmountkennedy Facebook page an hour before the service.

The service will be conducted by Archbishop Michael Jackson and the sermon will be preached by the Archdeacon of Dublin and Vicar of the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes (where Ross served as Curate), the Ven David Pierpoint.

Those who wish to join the service online may download the Order of Service here: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/02/09/institution-of-the-revd-ross>

<https://www.facebook.com/Parish-of-Newcastle-Newtownmountkennedy-123819511027524>

## **€13,000 raised for Bishops' Appeal by Bishop of Cashel's 150 Disestablishment Tour so far**

Bishop Michael Mayes of Cashel and Ossory writing to his clergy and church members reflects upon the support for his annual tour of the dioceses. He writes, " My profound thanks go out to parishes and individuals who, in very challenging times, generously sponsored me as I engaged in my Disestablishment 150 virtual tour of the diocese

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during November and December. I expect some further contributions will still arrive during the month of January, but at the time of writing I have received almost 13000 euro which will be used by Bishops' Appeal to support literacy projects in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso partnered with Mothers' Union and Feed the Minds. Your gifts will make a huge difference to the quality of life experienced by many women and their families, and I am deeply grateful for this encouragement and solidarity. I was of course sorry that it was not possible to travel about and meet people face to face all over the diocese but be assured that a few years on from now I hope to identify a theme and a cause that will again facilitate peregrinations in a more traditional form!"

Bishop Mayes goes on to thank specific help he received stating, "I'm also grateful to the central Bishops' Appeal committee, and in particular their education adviser Lydia Monds for encouraging me to proceed with this endeavour and providing much guidance. Our own Gillian Purser is a member of this committee and serves alongside Valerie Power as Bishops' Appeal Diocesan representatives in this diocese. And, of course, the practical support given by our own Communications Officer Margaret Hawkins in making the whole virtual tour come to pass online was quite superb."

## **ReLENTless Prayer. in north Belfast**

ReLENTless Prayer is set to return to north Belfast and beyond, although the Covid-19 restrictions mean it will look somewhat different.



*Flashback to Lent 2020 – a Prayer Room set up for ReLENTless Prayer. This year ReLENTless will continue in online formats.*

The initiative, now in its fourth year, seeks to bring Church congregations and Christian communities together with a shared vision of encouraging people to pray and ask for God's blessing and healing on the people and life of their community.

In previous years, prayer spaces were opened up to everyone to drop in and spend time in quietness, to reflect and pray.

Because of the pandemic, this physical coming together cannot take place, but Stephen Whitten, Evangelist with

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Connect Base, Connor Diocese's North Belfast Centre of Mission, has announced the initiative will continue using online technologies.

“Obviously, ReLENTless Prayer can't happen this year in its usual format, but instead of just leaving it for a year, we want to do something, although small, to keep up what is a good rhythm of taking the Lent season to focus on prayer,” said Stephen.

He outlined how this year's ReLENTless Prayer will look:

Each Wednesday (starting on February 17) through Lent we will meet to pray on Zoom from 12:30-1pm.

Each Monday (starting on February 22) through Lent there will be a short Thought for the Day posted on Facebook.

Each Sunday through Lent in church services, you can join with the others involved and pray the ReLENTless Prayer.

Stephen has also circulated prayer topics for this year to help focus and guide prayers.

Above links at -

<https://connor.anglican.org/2021/02/05/a-different-look-for-relentless-prayer-2021/>

## **Hosting the vaccination programme**

Warrenpoint Parish Church Hall is being used as a vaccination centre as Covid vaccines are rolled out across the country.

“The Select Vestry received a request in January, and we were keen to help the community in any way that we could,” says Bishop





Darren McCartney, rector of Clonallon and Warrenpoint with Kilbroney.

“The hall was inspected in light of the health and safety guidelines surrounding the vaccination programme and we’re delighted to say was found suitable. It also has the advantage of being situated close to both the local health centre and Summerhill Surgery.”

The church hall has been used as a vaccine centre since the second week of January.

## Broadcasts, resources and webinars

**Live Lent** - You can access daily reflections, readings, actions and prayers on the C of E’s brand new app. Download now at [cofe.io/LiveLent](https://cofe.io/LiveLent).

**Remember when Pontifex backed Basic Income?** - Join Catholic Voices Basic Income Conversation - exploring UBI from a Catholic perspective including a great line up of speakers @austeni @ASmerilli @SalfordBishop. Feb 18th 6.30pm. Register here

[[]] <https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/events/pope-and-ubi> ]



**Engage Connor Youth** - is to host two online diocesan events which are open to all young people aged 11 and over. There will be a Games Night on February 26 at 7pm – sign up below; and a Worship Night on March 12 at 8pm, providing a great chance to worship together and reflect. Links at -

[<https://connor.anglican.org/2021/02/10/sign-up-for-diocesan-online-youth-events/>]

**Lent and Easter resources** - The C of I Children's Ministry Group newsletter is available at -  
[[ <http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/lent-easter-newsletter-2/> ]



# Online Active Hope Workshops

2020 / 2021



A series of workshops  
going through the full Active Hope Cycle.  
With Dr Connie Nell, social anthropologist.

Connie writes:

Active Hope is about negotiating a response to crisis. How can we connect, develop resilience and contribute to this change?

The workshops follow the four steps outlined in work by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. In this process we will show our gratitude, honour the pain, see with new eyes and go forth into action...

The subheading of their book 'Active Hope' (2012) captures the spirit perfectly:

'How to Face the Mess we're in without Going Crazy'.



Although each of these workshops will stand alone, to get the most out of the series, we recommend that participants plan to take part in all five sessions.

**First workshop November 19th @ 7.30pm. Booking [info@galilee.ie](mailto:info@galilee.ie)**

**Then on four Wednesdays dated December 9th, February 10th, March 24th and May 12th.**

**Enquiries Contact:** [info@galilee.ie](mailto:info@galilee.ie)

**Keep in touch:** [www.galilee.ie](http://www.galilee.ie)



@GalileeBoyle



@GalileeSpirit



## **Pope's state of the world speech to Diplomats - Respect right to life, Promote universal basic healthcare**

Pope Francis on Monday called political leaders to protect life from conception to natural death, and renewed his appeal for work to guarantee universal access to basic healthcare. He made the appeals in a broad-ranging annual “state of the world” address that focused on various aspects of the global coronavirus emergency.

“[E]ach human person is an end in himself or herself,” Pope Francis said, “and never simply a means to be valued only for his or her usefulness.” He said that persons are “created to live together in families, communities and societies,” in



**HE Sally Axworthy, the UK Ambassador to the Holy See at the annual reception by the Pope of ambassadors**

for the which all members have — and should enjoy — equal dignity. “Human rights derive from this dignity,” Pope Francis said, “as do human duties, like the responsibility to welcome and assist the poor, the sick, the excluded.” “If we deprive the weakest among us of the right to life,” Pope Francis asked, “how can we effectively guarantee respect for every other right?”

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Pope Francis made his remarks in his address to the corps of diplomats accredited to the Holy See, which had originally been scheduled for 25 January. He postponed the annual appointment due to a bout of “The pandemic forced us to confront two unavoidable dimensions of human existence,” Pope Francis said, “sickness and death.” He went on to say the pandemic has “reminded us of the value of life, of every individual human life and its dignity, at every moment of its earthly pilgrimage, from conception in the womb until its natural end.”

“It is painful, however, to note that under the pretext of guaranteeing presumed subjective rights, a growing number of legal systems in our world seem to be moving away from their inalienable duty to protect human life at every one of its phases,” Pope Francis continued.

“Concern for profit should not be guiding a field as sensitive as that of healthcare,” Pope Francis said. “[I]t is indispensable that political and government leaders work above all to ensure universal access to basic healthcare, the creation of local medical clinics and healthcare structures that meet people’s actual needs,” and see that all persons have access to treatments and medicinal supplies.

“It is likewise essential that the remarkable medical and scientific progress attained over the years – which made it possible to create so quickly vaccines that promise to be effective against the Coronavirus – benefit humanity as a whole,” Pope Francis said.

He encouraged state actors to do their part “to ensure an equitable distribution of the vaccines, based not on purely



## **Ambassador Hannon from Ireland**

economic criteria but on the needs of all, especially of peoples most in need.”

Pope Francis and his predecessor in office, Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, have both received two doses, while Vatican residents and employees and their families are receiving their doses of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine.

In an interview with Italy’s Tg5, Pope Francis encouraged people to take the preventive measure.

“I don’t understand why some say this could be a dangerous vaccine,” Pope Francis said. “If doctors present it to you as something that can be fine and has no special dangers, why not take it?” He said there is a “suicidal denialism” that he finds inexplicable, “but today you need to take the vaccine.”

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In his remarks to ambassadors on Monday, Pope Francis quoted the 16th / 17th century Anglican cleric and poet, John Donne, saying, “No man is an island,” and, “any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.”

Pope Francis said “responsible personal behaviour aimed at halting the spread of the virus” must accompany access to vaccines. “It would be disastrous to put our trust in the vaccine alone,” he said, “as if it were a panacea exempting every individual from constant concern for his or her own health and for the health of others.”

The Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare several crises, or aspects of a single manifold crisis, in addition to the health challenges: an environmental crisis; a crisis of politics; an economic and social crisis, and at bottom an anthropological crisis.

“Even as we seek ways to protect human lives from the spread of the virus,” Pope Francis said, “we cannot view the spiritual and moral dimension of the human person as less important than physical health.”

Noting that efforts to halt the spread of the virus have had significant implications for several fundamental freedoms — including religious liberty — Pope Francis said: “Freedom of worship ... is not a corollary of the freedom of assembly,” but is “in essence derived from the right to freedom of religion, which is the primary and fundamental human right.”

“This right,” he said, “must therefore be respected, protected and defended by civil authorities, like the right to bodily and physical health.”



Pope Francis also condemned terrorism, noting that many terror attacks are carried out against worshippers gathered in their places of worship. “[T]he protection of places of worship,” he said, “is a direct consequence of the defence of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and is a duty incumbent upon the civil authorities, regardless of their political persuasion or religious affiliation.”

Pope Francis also called for greater attention to the scourge of domestic violence, encouraging civil and public authorities especially to support victims of domestic violence. “Women, often with children, are those who pay the highest price,” Pope Francis said.

“2021 is a time that must not be wasted,” said Pope Francis in conclusion. “It will not be wasted if we can work together with generosity and commitment,” adding that he is convinced “fraternity is the true cure for the pandemic and the many evils that have affected us.”

Courtesy Vatican Media, the Catholic Herald and Christopher Altieri

## **Pointers for prayer**

Today we pray for protesters in Russia. After opposition politician Alexei Navalny was arrested last week, widespread pro-democracy protest has broken out nationally, with many peaceful protesters arrested. We pray for the preservation of the right to protest.



May God, in infinite mercy, shine healing light  
Upon all your living, that the life you live  
May be a life lived to God's glory,  
each day, each night.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN

Pray for all teachers and parents involved with students or their children. We ask for stamina and creativity as they seek to educate in less than ideal circumstances.

Matana Diocese in Burundi - Give thanks for the confirmations that took place across the diocese last Autumn and for safety in travel for Bishop Seth. Ask God to bless the parish pastors as they nurture and disciple these young people in faith.

It has been announced that on Ascension Day - 13 May 2021, Bishop Hosam Naoum will be installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem, bearing the title Archbishop. Please pray for Bishop Naoum, his family and the Diocese.

Pray that the right person will be appointed to lead Church Army in the next chapter. Pray for wisdom for the Board members as they meet to decide who will be appointed.

We think today of families who are struggling to cope with the ongoing restrictions to normal life, especially those who live in small homes with no outside space. We pray for an abundance of tolerance to help ease their less than ideal circumstances.

Today we give thanks for young climate activists. A UN survey shows that demand for green business and jobs is particularly high among young people, who have been a driving force behind getting the issue onto the political agenda.

We remember with thanks the numerous Mothers' Union members who, over the years, have used their God-given gifts to change the world. We pray that, in our day, we'll also be willing to use our gifts to help transform lives and communities

Today we pray for Mozambique. A cholera outbreak combined with a growing humanitarian crisis after fighting in a northern province displaced more than 500,000 people last year has led to the UN calling for help in the region.

We pray today for the church across the world, especially in places where they are experiencing hardship and persecution. We stand together with our sisters and brothers and pray for God to bring relief from their circumstances.

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Lord Jesus, you prayed that we would all be united together so the world would believe and experience your love. Help us to put aside that which keeps us apart and work together to share your love through our actions and our lives.

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all  
things,  
now and for ever.

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

“If you’re thinking of becoming a Christian, I warn you, you’re embarking on something, which will take the whole of you.”-**C.S. Lewis**

## **Speaking to the Soul**

You see, we don’t go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus’ sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5 NLT

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Whatever you are doing today it's vital to have a clear objective. Dithering or being unclear about your objective is frustrating, confusing and exhausting. Paul clearly didn't suffer from this problem! He was absolutely clear that his role was to preach about Jesus, pure and simple. In a church that was very interested in the different personalities of their leaders, Paul makes it plain that he doesn't want to be the focus of attention.

There's a word that I love that sums this up very well. It's the word Christocentric – centred on Christ. The calling of every Christian is to be Christocentric which means that in our everyday life we seek to put Jesus at the centre of our thinking, our relationships and our activities. Paul was a preacher and it is clear how this applied to him. He was determined not to impress people with beautiful polished sermons but to ensure that people met with Jesus and understood that he died on the cross for them. But if you are not a preacher (and most people aren't!) your calling is also to be Christocentric. If you are a shopworker you need to ensure that your care for customers and other staff radiates the love of Jesus; as a businessman you need to act graciously and honestly towards others; as a teacher God calls you to set an example through the care and thoughtfulness that you show to your students; and as a parent you need to ensure that your patience, love and influence help your children to know Jesus for themselves.

Because Jesus is the focus of our lives, the greatest calling possible is to be his servants. A servant's life is devoted to doing everything that the master wants. That would be an appalling way of life if you had an uncaring and bad master. But if you have the best master in the world, then to be a

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servant to such a person would be life at its absolute best.  
And we have such a master!

## QUESTION

What do you need to do to make your life more  
Christocentric?

## PRAYER

Loving Father, help me today to live as the servant of Jesus  
before anything else. Amen.

