



Vol. 3 Issue# 16 March 2025 News, Views, Events and Developments

Established 1896

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL FOR ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS EDGERTON CLARKE



The Viewing and Mass of Monday, March 3 at the joined by Bishops from the Christian Burial for Archbishop Cathedral of the Most Holy Antilles Episcopal Congress Emeritus Edgerton R. Clarke, Trinity, North Street. Chief (AEC), along with members of who passed away on February celebrant was Archbishop the clergy from the Archdiocese 13, 2025 was celebrated on Kenneth D. Richards who was of Kingston and the Dioceses of Montego Bay and Mandeville.



Archbishop Clarke who served as President of the AEC for a number of years in addition to being the 1st named Jamaican and Bishop for the Diocese of Montego Bay, was memorialized as a man for the people, a servant leader, who wanted nothing more than to remain a priest at heart and a real son of the soil. May his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him. An outstanding, productive and accomplished Jamaican son of the soil.

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CLICK ON PAGE

Time
to Pray

WHAT YU THINK?

YU SATISFIED WITH COMMUNICATION WITHIN OUR CHURCH?

If you are a regular reader of Catholic Opinion, you would think it comes out of the Diocese of Montego Bay, given the amount of news from that diocese every issue. The truth is that that is the only diocese that responds to the Catholic Opinion constant request for news and information. Does this mean that communication is not important to the other dioceses in Jamaica? How does one explain that, despite the existence of a Communications Commission in the Kingston Archdiocese, there is scant news from that Archdiocese?

Are you satisfied with the

communication within our parishes? Who would know this if the parish? Some say they have a Facebook page, but is that kept within the parish? If we were a commercial enterprise we would be communicating and marketing both internally and to the public – otherwise we would be stultified and stagnant. Is this the state of our Church now? communication skills, especially those of young people, in our parishes to do a better job? The Archdiocese has a Facebook page. Are you a regular viewer of that page? Apart from coverage of the daily Mass from the Archbishop's chapel, there is scant reporting except the occasional event say every two or three weeks. Is that the best we can do?

It is not as if the Montego Bay diocese has a powerful and active communications team. Not at all. What they have is one leader willing to get the information, photos and narratives of events in the diocese and pass them on for the world to see. It reflects an active Church, spreading the Good News. One person who is committed! The rest of us seem content with silence and complacency, as if our Church is growing and vibrant. If it really is growing and vibrant shouldn't we be sharing and letting others know? Some parishes will say they have a social media presence, but does that extend beyond their not dormant?

NOTICE

The Catholic College of Mandeville
formerly located in Williamsfield,
Manchester, has ceased operations
as of September 2024.

Students' files have been moved to St. Michael's College & Seminary. Requests for transcripts are to be directed to:

Ms. Cheryl Foreman

**St. Michael's College & Seminary,
Golding Avenue
P.O. Box 198
Kgn 7
Tel: 977-4206**

ccm.stmcregistrar@yahoo.com



**LENTE
N SCHEDULE 2025**

Upper Room

MAR 8	Lent - A Journey to Spiritual Renewal with Fr. Steve Ransome
MAR 15	The 4 Pillars: Conversion, Repentance, Reconciliation & Gratitude with Humility
MAR 22	Reconciliation & Healing
MAR 29	The Penitential Rite with Deacon Michel Du Chauseefor
APR 5	Praise & Worship in the Upper Room
APR 12	Stations of the Cross

Adoration - 8:15am EST/9:00am AST
Meetings begin at 9:00am EST / 10:00am AST

Zoom ID: 894 5743 7472
Password: prayer

A FIMI HEALT!

Welcome! This month let us LIVE free of all illnesses, all engage in some reflection, some introspection; after all, this the **Lenten Season**. So as such you KNOW we will have to remind ourselves of the connection we have with God and His Creation, particularly US, WE, MANKIND!

We have established long ago (with or without me) that our **God is ALL GOOD** and that He **DOES NOT MAKE MISTAKES!** So! **NONE** of us are a MISTAKE! Got it??! Mek dat sink in! **NONE** of us are a MISTAKE!! Additionally, we really need to keep the past in....the past, only occasionally taking from it the lessons needed to push us UP the hill of **PROGRESS** and **POSITIVITY!!**

Now this month wi going to ramp rough, but only because we need to cut through all the bush and bramble to clear the path as we travel up the hill of **PROGRESS**. Suh...yea, gear up, nuff heavy lifting this episode. We have had to live through heaps of difficult news plus experiences of horrible deaths and illnesses lately (and for too long) so it is necessary for us to understand how we set ourselves up for this journey of disease and illnesses upon which we were NEVER meant to embark.

Let's start (AGAIN) at the very beginning! **God, Who is ALL LOVE**, wanted to share (**LAVISH!!**) His love upon us, so He created us and this **WONDERFUL Garden of Eden** that is **FULL** of ALL that we need to juss stay **HEALTHY** and

why we are short of breath, disturbances, bowel disorders, disease! But WE an wi fool self guh touch tings that were FORBIDDEN an spoil up EVERYTHING! From thenceforth we have just caused things and life to be so very DIFFICULT; and now we live lives FAR from the persons are having SUDDEN DEATHS or why so many heart Matter-o-fact! wi STILL attacks or strokes??!! (I touching tings dat are FORBIDDEN an all dat duh is FORBIDDEN an all dat duh is ROUGH dis time roun') And juss cause us to be RIDDLED with disease and illnesses and scars that we really don't have to take upon ourselves!

"Like what?" yu seh! Like nuff tings! We have been given the **GOODNESS** of the land that yields **EXCELLENT** starches and fruits and vegetables:-

sweet potatoes/yam/banana/ plantain/MANGO/pineapple/ melon/COCONUT...and its

waterrrrr/pumpkin/callaloo/ pak choy/carrot/lettuce...an

dat nuh even SCRATCH di

surface! PLUS excellent animal

husbandry! An wat WE duh???

Wi line up **EVERYDAY** fi **FASSSS**

FOOD!! dat full of **OIL** and **SALT**

and multicoloured powdered

mixes that are

undefinable! Fried chicken

with crusts thick as

walls!! Fried potatoes from

which grease drips! Sodas and

sweet drinks that even if

diluted 100 times STILL

SWEET!! 'Vegetables'

many more that we cannot

drowning in oil or

mayo!! 'Cook food' swimming

in flavoured oil dat wi call

GRAVY! Cakes, patties, pizza,

ice cream and many other

sweet treats that have become

an **EVERYDAYYY** indulgence!!

have swellings everywhere, cancers!! Why would I embrace pathways that lead to all this?! # And **MOST SIGNIFICANTLY!** IF I LOVE **God** WHY would I FLING BACK all the **GOODNESS**, the MANY GIFTS of the land and sea into **His FACE?** **God** has allowed the GIFT of GOOD SENSE and knowledge and SOUND SCIENCE to be revealed to us. **God** has given us the wherewithal to EMBRACE the **GOODNESS** of many foods, plus the revelation of how to make these foods SO DELICIOUS and ENJOYABLE! So why have we given in to the FALSITUDES of "di more sugah di nice-ah", "di saltier di betta", "the more processed the lovelier and classier", "we have no time to make good food", "HEALTHY FOOD nuh taste gud!", "healthy food not affordable". These are **ALL LIES** people! **ALL LIES!!**

IF I LOVE myself, why would I behave in such an UNLOVABLE WAY toward ME? Why would I **FOOD!!** KNOWNINGLY subject my body to ALL these behaviours that mixes that are MUST lead to illnesses and undefinable! Fried chicken ultimately DEATH? with crusts thick as Hypertension, diabetes, high walls!! Fried potatoes from cholesterol levels, auto-which grease drips! Sodas and immune diseases (lupus, sweet drinks that even if rheumatoid arthritis, multiple diluted 100 times STILL sclerosis, Graves' disease and SWEET!! 'Vegetables' many more that we cannot drowning in oil or even pronounce!), CANCERS! mayo!! 'Cook food' swimming # IF I LOVE my spouse, my in flavoured oil dat wi call children, my siblings, my GRAVY! Cakes, patties, pizza, parents, my relatives, my ice cream and many other friends - why would I want to subject them to having to journey with me through my tortuous disease states and And then we wonder why we stages of heart failure, renal are OVERWEIGHT and OBESE, failure, addictions, mental

Alrite! Mi stopping now. I only HOPE UNNU see di **PASSION** INNA MI HEAAAART to try and get us all to turn back from this path of destruction. If there are any resolutions this **Lenten Season**, may it be that we start thinking of how to get back to our **BEST SELF**. Can we commit to **GIVING UP** our **BEST SELF** to **God** this **Lenten Season**? How about that?

'ARTful Vibes March 2025



POPE'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS



Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this March is for **'No such thing as a perfect family'** "families in crisis."

The Holy Father acknowledged the great difficulties facing families.

"We all dream about a beautiful, perfect family. But," Pope Francis recognized,

"there's no such thing as a perfect family," for each family "has its own problems," "as well as its tremendous joys."

In the same way, the Pope suggested, pardoning one another "always renews the family" and makes "it look forward with hope."

While every member of the family is important because each is unique, the Pope lamented how often their differences cause conflict and painful wounds, as he suggests a solution.

"The best medicine to heal the pain of a wounded family," he stressed, "is forgiveness," adding that forgiveness requires giving our family members "another chance."

"God," Pope Francis pointed out, "does this with us all the time." Reminding that God's patience is infinite, the Holy Father reminded how He "forgives us, lifts us up, and gives us a new start."

Renewing the family through forgiveness

Even when there's no possibility of the "happy ending" we'd like, he noted, God's grace gives us the strength to forgive.

Doing so, he explained, "brings peace," because "it frees us from sadness, and, above all, from resentment."

Pope Francis concluded by saying, "Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences."

Adapted from Deborah Castellano Lubov, *Vatican News*, March 4, 2025

RECONCILIATION

The sacrament of penance or reconciliation is a healing, resurrection sacrament. To identify and confess sins, or character defects, you have to be rigorously honest and courageous. No one wants to admit their imperfections, but confession is the way to reconciliation with God and inner healing. You come to lay your burdens of guilt and shame down. You experience forgiveness and reconciliation with God. You may experience a lightness and joy because you have been cleansed of your sins by God's personal love for you. Overcome your fears and worries and celebrate confession. As some say after going to confession: "Why did I wait so long?"

SHARE WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR PARISH!

We are inviting you to send reports and photos on events in your parish to
stmc2909@gmail.com for possible publishing in *Catholic Opinion*

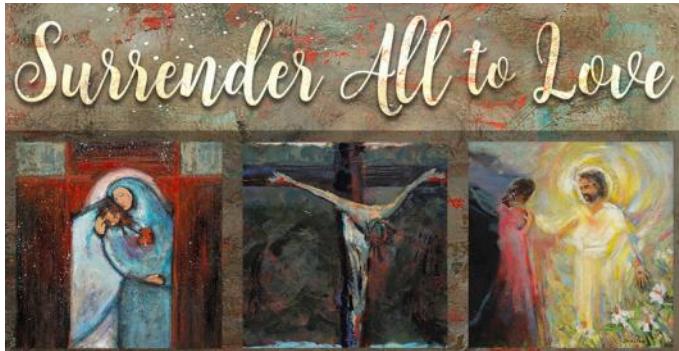
(subject to editorial decision)

LENT: THE PENITENTIAL SEASON OF PURIFICATION

Lent has a long and diverse history. Originally, Lent began as a short period of fasting in preparation for Easter. The first indication of this is in the second century when St.

himself retreated into the desert for that long period. During this sojourn he fasted, was tempted, and made life-defining choices. In the same way during the season of Lent,

sum of our lifetime of Lent practice these virtuous deeds. taken together prepares us for If you want to make a good Lent, certainly practice self-discipline. But don't forget what really matters – how we treat people! Above all, treat people with kindness, respect, and generosity. As you give to others, you will receive countless blessings from above.



LENTEN RETREAT

Irenaeus wrote Pope St. Victor I about a fast that preceded Easter. This fast varied from a few days to a week and, by the end of the fourth century, had been standardized into the present forty-day period. The number forty was finally arrived at because it is symbolic – Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert, Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God receiving the Law, and the Hebrews wandered in the desert for 40 years.

As the centuries progressed, Lent developed into a period of purification and preparation for Easter. The goal of Lent became initial and ongoing conversion (purification and enlightenment). It is a personal change and awakening with God. We are being called to greater holiness and illumination from God. The hope is that during Lent we will move from the superficial to the supernatural in an intense way.

Lent allows us to examine our baptism in Christ. We come to a greater understanding about the meaning of our own baptism. One way of looking at Lent is as a retreat. Jesus

we believers retreat to wrestle with evil, scrutinize our hearts, and make life-giving choices. Self-examination and looking within are essential during Lent. Be honest and look within: what must I repent of? What is there blocking my relationship with God? Where do I need to change? A retreat

Traditionally, Lent has been viewed as a penitential season. We express this when priests wear purple at liturgies. Penance means to be sorry for wrong deeds and to express our remorse through right actions. These actions should not just be individual and internal but also external and social. Lent is a time when we emphasize self-discipline and self-control. We must curb and gain control over our appetites and will. The best way to turn away from bad habits is to wilfully adopt better habits. We also examine our lives regarding sin and turn away from wrong actions.

The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

is a time of spiritual growth and illumination. Lent is all about purification and enlightenment. As with any retreat, many ups and downs, mood shifts, and awakenings occur during this sacred period.

With each subsequent Lent, we are in a new and unique point of our life cycle and, as such, require fresh insights into the areas where we require growth. We are at a different point in our walk with God. The experience of each Lent is cumulative. The

almsgiving. We pray to come to know God. We seek illumination. We fast in obedience to gain self-control. We give alms to help others and to grow in generosity. During this long season, we hope to progress in our ongoing conversion. We desire to get closer to God and to experience intimacy. We want to gain self-control. The goal is to grow in virtues such as generosity, patience, and forgiveness. The only way to progress in such virtue is to

Joel 2:12-14

Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him.

Pope Francis' Message for Lent, 2025



Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death, which led Saint Paul to exclaim: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor15:54-55). Indeed, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the heart of our faith and the pledge of our hope in the Father's great promise, already fulfilled in his beloved Son: life eternal (cf. Jn10:28; 17:3).

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

All are pilgrims on a journey

First of all, to *journey*. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy

journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. *Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity?* It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father. This would be a good "examination of conscience" for all of us wayfarers.

Journeying together: a summons to synodality

Second, to *journey together*. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters. Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (cf. Gal3:26-28). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without

letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. *Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance.* This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality.

height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Rom8:38-39)". Christ, my hope, has risen! He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!

This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: *Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?*

Hope that does not disappoint

Sisters and brothers, thanks to God's love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom5:5). Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul". It moves the Church to pray for "everyone to be saved" (1 Tim2:4) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. This was the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila: "Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one" (*The Exclamations of the Soul to God*, 15:3).

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.



Journey together in hope

Third, let us *journey together in hope*, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. As Pope Benedict XVI taught us in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, "the human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: 'neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor



What are you doing for Lent?

10 IDEAS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL LENTEN SEASON

1. Give up sin

Show your love for God by keeping his commandments. Turn away from sins.



2. Fast

An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer. Give the money you saved on food to others in alms.



5. Give alms

Help the poor and support the good works of the Church. Give cheerfully to God who has given us everything we have.



7. Do meditative reading

Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading and reflection. Prayerful reading of God's word each day will open your heart to the Spirit, and let God's thoughts and ways influence yours.

8. Control desire for possessions

Build up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. Cut down on material possessions, eliminate frills, lessen wants, share yourself – your time and your talents – with others.

3. Pray

Be in constant prayer. Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer, and for the Church and the world.



4. Do good works

Help those in need. Pray for them and be ready to serve them in their time of need.



6. Abstain

Give up meat or other desirable foods during Lent, especially on Friday, the day of Christ's saving death on the cross.

9. Control desire for entertainment

Too much entertainment and other distractions can lead to less or no time for the works of the Lord.



Archdiocese
of Toronto

10. Carry out duties in life

Serve God by living out your vocation in love each day. God is calling each of us to be a living sacrifice. Offer your daily life through Christ!

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Prophet, servant, leader! Archbishop Edgerton Clarke's life and legacy



On February 13, 2025, several hours before his 96th birthday, the prophetic servant leader, Archbishop Edgerton Roland Clarke, passed away. He leaves behind a world largely dominated by self-serving, polarised, narcissistic, and authoritarian religious and political leadership, resulting in religious tensions and social upheaval across every continent.

Yet, during his 65 years of priesthood and 57 years as a bishop, his servant leadership style resembled the persistent droplets from the roof of his heart, gradually penetrating the concrete surface of the world's hardened culture. This prophetic servant leader has died leaving behind a hardened world, alongside a legacy for religious leaders to remember, reflect upon, and replicate.

Servant leadership is a philosophy established by Robert Greenleaf in the 1970s. Similar to the Old Testament prophets, it values people over profit, emphasising the development, empowerment, and well-being of individuals within organisations. This transformational leadership style encourages people to grow and innovate. According to the Greenleaf Centre for Servant Leadership, servant leaders possess eight characteristics, some of which I wish to exemplify in the life of Archbishop Clarke.

The first characteristic is empathy. An empathetic servant leader understands and validates others' thoughts, feelings, and perspectives. When he was appointed the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Montego Bay at 37, becoming the first local priest in the English-speaking Caribbean to achieve this status, he encountered many older, foreign Jesuit priests. However, he frequently spoke of the mutual dialogue and respect they shared in the decision-making process of the diocese. Further, his empathy towards the pastoral and spiritual needs of the diocese inspired him to establish a lay formation team to train lay leaders who were tasked with the responsibility of caring for his growing diocese.

The second characteristic, listening, evolved as he developed in his role as a bishop. Listening involves understanding the facts, feelings, and values being communicated. As a young bishop, the reality of the Church was clear to him — ageing foreign missionary priests, a lack of local clergy, and a growing population in the counties of Cornwall and Middlesex. However, attentive listening allowed him to deeply understand the Roman Catholic church's call for local clergy and the necessity to intentionally prepare men for the priesthood. Consequently, the minor seminary in St James was his initiative. It opened its doors in 1987 and was tasked with preparing young men spiritually, academically, and communally for rigorous formation at the major seminary in Kingston. Many senior priests, including myself, and bishops from both dioceses benefited from this pastoral initiative.

Thirdly, the archbishop's integrity was exemplary, as he adhered to his ethics and principles. He was born into a



Bishop Clarke surrounded by his parents and other family after his episcopal ordination

humble family in Cambridge, St James, to a father who was both a farmer and a policeman, Roland Edward, and a teacher mother, Josephine, née Kameka. He carried this modest upbringing into his priesthood. In Montego Bay, his office was part of the ordinary complex of the rectory of the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral for several decades. His humble life and spirituality inspired his bishop's motto, "All things to all," taken from 1 Corinthians 9:19, 22: "I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible... To the weak, I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means, I might save some."

Reflecting on his modest upbringing, he once told one of his nieces, "We are simple people. We come from simple people."

Additionally, his collaborative spirit, which fostered an environment that encouraged a sense of belonging, was evident in his understanding of the Church as communion. He never preached a homily or sermon that omitted the meaning of communion. Once, in conversation, he said to me: "If there is no communion, there is no Church." He firmly believed Christians are grafted into Christ and the Church through baptism. By being grafted we become united with Christ and the Church. This union makes every baptised person a member of

the body of Christ. Consequently, the body of Christ must live out that communion to be credible disciples of Jesus Christ.

Finally, he was committed to continuous learning, actively seeking opportunities to expand his knowledge and skills. His learning did not cease after completing seminary studies at St John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, USA, in 1959. Ordained a priest during the theological and pastoral paradigm shift of the church, the Second Vatican Council in 1960, he dedicated himself to updating his understanding of the new church documents from the council and the insights that revolutionised the church in the following decades. His library was extensively filled with various books and, even in retirement, he recognised the need to continue learning.

The archbishop's legacy of servant leadership endures in the Jubilee Year 2025, celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church amid a religious and political landscape grappling with a scarcity of prophetic servant leaders. Nevertheless, his legacy inspires us to "hope against hope" for new leadership, which exemplifies humility, in the world.

- Fr. Don Chambers, *Jamaica Observer*, March 2, 2025

CELAM expresses solidarity with US Catholics.



Archbishop Timothy Broglio, President of the USCCB, the Latin American and Caribbean Bishops write that "the people of Latin America and the Caribbean embody an identity shaped over five centuries, forged by the contributions of both the region's Indigenous inhabitants and the millions of men and women who arrived, either freely or through hardship and suffering".

(Vatican News) - The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) has written a letter to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to express closeness and solidarity in light of the country's evolving migration policies.

In the letter, addressed to

Dear All in the Vineyard...Peace and Blessings,

Please be reminded of our upcoming Pre Cana, March 22-23, 2025.

We still have several spaces available for more couples to attend.

For the sake of the Sacrament,
Deacon David Chamers, J.P., & Mrs. Donna-Marie
Chambers Marriage Ministry Coordinators

Family & Life Commission Archdiocese of
Kingston Jamaica

"It is not just us, but our marriages too that belong to the Lord" D-MC

Pre Cana Engaged Couples Marriage Preparation Seminars

c/o the Archdiocesan Family & Life Commission
Contact to call or text: 876-838-1005 Flow
email: precana.rcakgnjaflc@gmail.com

These are non-residential weekends held in conjunction with the sessions given by the priest/deacon as part of the 6 months required preparation time for marriage in the Catholic Church... to help couples truly prepare for marriage and be able to live and witness married life to all!



journey of uprooting themselves in pursuit of economic stability."

Finally, the statement reads that the Church in Latin America further reaffirms its commitment to standing in solidarity with migrants, pledging to work together "both to support those who wish to remain in their home countries - affirming their right not to migrate - and those who must leave in order to protect their lives and secure a future for their families."

CELAM also acknowledges the vital role played by the US Church, expressing gratitude for "the longstanding support offered to our brothers and sisters arriving in your country - welcoming them into communities, providing spiritual guidance, and assisting with both immediate needs and pathways to

(text reprinted from *Catholic Standard, Guyana*)

LET US GO BACK TO PHYSICAL MASS

LET STREAMING BE FOR THE SICK OR INCAPACITATED

"Do not stay away from the meetings of the community, as some do, but encourage each other to go."

Hebrews 10: 25



St. Joseph's Teachers' College

Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education



OUR PROGRAMME

Length of Course:

Part-Time | Three (3) Years Including Summers

Schedule:

Mondays to Thursdays
5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Modality: Blended

Online + Face to Face



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CONDUCIVE LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT



FLEXIBLE PAYMENT
PLANS

What is the Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education Programme?

The Associate Degree in Early Childhood provides an intermediate level academic qualification that bridges the gap between vocational qualifications and the Bachelor of Education.

Benefits of Studying for an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education

- | Prepares students for increased responsibilities in the early childhood sector.
- | Expands employment opportunities in early years education.
- | Builds a solid foundation to support further studies.
- | Allows for matriculation into the Bachelor of Education with conditions.

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POPE FRANCIS MARKS 12TH ANNIVERSARY AS POPE



Pope Francis was elected March 13, 2013, to succeed Pope Benedict XVI. He is the first Pope from the Americas. Asking people to pray for him has been his constant refrain from the day of his election, and people's response has been especially fervent while he has been hospitalized. As Pope Francis prepared to spend the 12th anniversary of

bronchitis. Pope Francis is no longer considered in imminent danger from his lung infection, but he will remain in Gemelli hospital for several more days to continue receiving medical treatment, the Vatican said. The Holy Father continues to undergo high-flow oxygen therapy during the day and non-invasive mechanical ventilation during night-time rest.

Said Cardinal Michael Czerny: "This year, his illness makes us especially aware (of the anniversary), especially grateful to God, and redoubling our prayers for his full recovery."



his election at Rome's Gemelli hospital, people at the Vatican and around the world were responding to his most frequent personal request.

Hospitalized since Feb. 14 with bronchitis and difficulty breathing, Pope Francis was later diagnosed with double pneumonia. His doctors told reporters he has chronic lung conditions: bronchiectasis and asthmatic bronchitis, caused by years of respiratory problems and repeated bouts of

The Catholic Church in Pope Francis' native Argentina planned to celebrate the pope's 12th anniversary March 13 with special Masses in every diocese. The Masses, in addition to offering prayers for the pope's continued recovery, would be a "public witness of our gratitude for his generous dedication, which has borne abundant fruits of pastoral love over the years."

Modernizing legacy, humility and compassion

Over the 12 years, he has *really reset the expectations for what a pope should be: a pastor who welcomes all and judges no one of good will.*" The Pope's agenda has upset a minority of Catholics, including a few senior cardinals. They regard him as watering-down the Church's teachings on issues such as same-sex marriage and divorce and remarriage, and of focusing excessively on political issues such as climate change. Nonetheless, he has been largely welcomed by Catholics and non-Catholics alike as being a fine example of a humble, compassionate and inclusive Christian.

Among major decisions, he has appointed women to serve as leaders of Vatican offices for the first time. He has also held five major Vatican summits of the world's Catholic bishops to discuss contested issues such as women's ordination and reviewing the Church's sexual teachings. The most significant has been the Synod on Synodality, 2022-24.

Said an analyst: "Francis has

**BRIAN SHIELDS WILL SPEAK
AFTER EASTER MASS
MASS STARTS AT 9 AM**

Meet
MR. WEATHERMAN

Hear about his Weather Ministry & Faith Journey

Plus, the Hurricane Forecast for this season!

DATE:
April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday

LOCATION:
Montego Bay, Jamaica

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHEDRAL
1 FORT STREET
MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

Holy Cross Church - Pilgrimage Site

Jubilee, Jubilee,
This is the year of Jubilee.

Wednesdays - (Beginning Feb. 12, 2025)

Holy Hour Adoration / Reconciliation

(4pm - 7pm)

and

First Fridays - (Beginning Feb. 7, 2025)

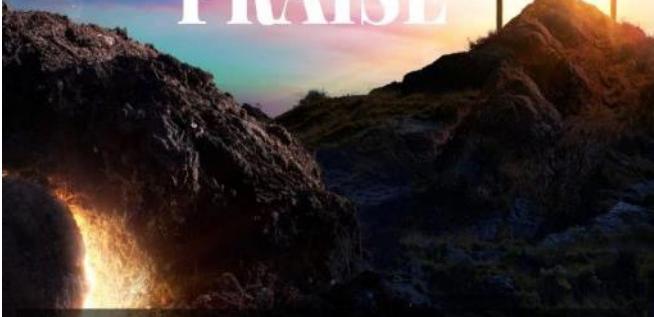
Holy Eucharist (12:15pm)

All are Welcome!

God gives His people Hope
If we but trust in His word,
our prayers are always heard
He warmly welcomes anyone who's erred.
God gives His people Hope.

Living Waters Fellowship Group of the
Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament presents:

Psalms
Prayer &
PRAISE

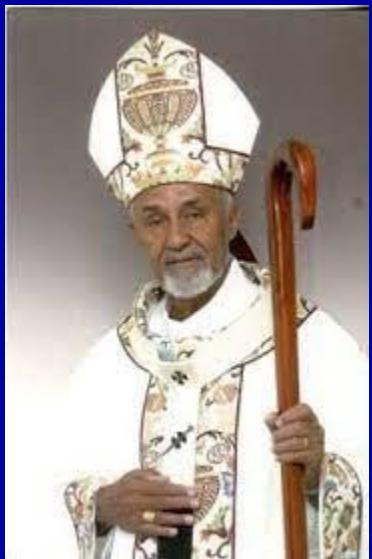
This and Every
THURSDAY

Meeting ID: 833 159 7262

Passcode: 282713

THE POWER OF THE WORD

As it was then, so it is today, if we are honest with ourselves; we are mechanical in our words and actions. How often do we experience well-known Christians in the public domain (Catholic and Protestant alike) spouting their favourite bible verses and yet espousing harsh positions against "their one another!" And the words of Jesus again challenge us: "This people honours me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." (Mt.15:8). Yes, we pledge (by words) to follow the way of love, but often fail. But we need not utter Isaiah's "Poor me! I am doomed" cry when he realised that he could not measure up to God's holiness (cf. Is.6:5). In this new covenant, in which we have all been baptised, the Word of God became enfleshed in the Person of Jesus, the Christ. Jesus, the God-man who stood in our place, promised that he would be with us always (cf. Mt.28:20). When we consciously and intentionally allow ourselves to be possessed by the Word, our lives are changed. Hence, we begin to think differently; we begin to measure our words in accordance with the Word's Way of thinking. His Truth becomes the measuring rod of our truthful word. Consequently, we find ourselves becoming new beings radiating new actions, inclusive of words that create wholesome relationships, produce justice, peace and love.



Brothers and sisters in Christ, our human words patterned after the Word uttered by a loving Father, will make a real difference. United with him, we will put on the mantle of goodness, humility, love, joy, and peace. Consequently, in our personal lives we build bridges of wholesome relationships. In the political arena "swords are turned into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks" (Is.2:4). As we embark on our Lenten journey, may our devotional practices result in our hearts and words being influenced by the Word of God which leads us along the way to sincere conversion and genuine, faithful commitment to Jesus, the Messiah. "Truly, the Word was indeed made flesh," and His desire is to dwell among us at all times, in good times and in bad. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock. If anyone opens the door I will come in and dine with him/ her" (Rev.3:20). Will we let him in for a new spiritual experience this Lent?

- Archbishop Emeritus Donald Reece

US THREATENS VISAS FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CUBAN MEDICAL MISSIONS

The United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced threatened visa restrictions on foreign government officials (and their families) believed to be responsible for or involved in Cuba's overseas medical missions.

the 1980s during the leadership of Edward Seaga.

Over the years, fences were mended and the Cuban medical missions returned to Jamaica under the tenures of both JLP and PNP. As recently as 2021, two hundred and fifty

For example, between 2010 and 2019, more than 35,000 patients were examined under the Jamaica-Cuba Eye Care Programme – one of the key initiatives the countries partner on: • 8,491 had laser therapy for Diabetic Retinopathy; • 8,837 had cataract surgery; and • 4,084 had Pterygium Surgery. At least 17,000 persons have had avoidable blindness averted through the programme.

otherwise have had access to health care. One local commentator had this to say: *[It is] an attack on all of us in the Global South who have benefited from their generosity. It is an attack on the very idea that healthcare should be a universal right, not a privilege reserved for the wealthy. It is an attack on the principle that no one should be left to suffer or die simply because they are poor or live in a so-called "sh***" country."*

The programme continues. Between September 2023 and November 2024, for example, 3,476 sight-saving procedures were performed by the Cuban team.

Other Caribbean nations, along with countries in Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and Europe, have also benefitted from Cuban medical assistance for over six decades. The beneficiaries have been mainly the poor and those in underserved areas, including rural areas, who would not

This threat to health care for the poor and underserved follows closely on the US decision to suspend the activities of USAID world-wide, including in Jamaica, where several programmes have been affected, some that used to help the poor, including those suffering from HIV, and the staff employed have been laid off at short notice. Rubio announced that some 5,200 of USAID's 6,200 programmes have been eliminated.

[source: *The Gleaner*]



Minister Tufton with Jamaican students in Havana, November, 2022.

Jamaica and its nearest neighbour, Cuba, have long partnered on medical and other missions, and this development could have a severe impact on the local health sector, which has been under strain for years because of the continued migration of Jamaican nurses and other health personnel.

CARICOM foreign ministers have decided to collate all the relevant information and will treat the matter as a regional issue as they hope to meet sometime in the not-too-distant future at an appropriate level with the American government.

In May 2023, it was estimated that more than 300 Cuban medical personnel were in Jamaica, with a history stretching back to 1976 during the Michael Manley administration of the People's National Party (PNP). The agreement was suspended in

Cuban medical personnel arrived in Jamaica, following 140 who arrived in 2020, and 20 who arrived in 2016. Medical staff usually work for a period of time then return to Cuba. They often work in rural and underserved communities and have healed tens of thousands and saved thousands from death.

"I want to commend you and the people and the government and the leadership of the Republic of Cuba for this tradition, a tradition that we in Jamaica appreciate and have benefitted from and which I believe the world has benefitted from," said Health Minister Christopher Tufton when he signed the renewal of health cooperation back in 2022. According to Dr. Tufton, the Jamaica/Cuba cooperation reflects Cuba's commitment to serving public health as a public good.



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Come to Revival Health Clinic NOW to have health screen and see a doctor.

Wednesdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

At St. Mary Catholic Church Revival

Your health matters!!!

Mandeville Diocese Events



Fr. Thomas Dynetius



The casket is being brought into the church.



The Mass of Christian Burial for Servasius Muthu, father of Fr. Thomas Dynetius, that took place on March 4, 2025 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in May Pen.



JUBILEE 2025

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

DECEMBER 2024

24 December

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



JANUARY 2025

24-26 January

Jubilee of the World of Communications

FEBRUARY 2025

8-9 February

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

15-18 February

Jubilee of Artists

21-23 February

Jubilee of Deacons

MARCH 2025

8-9 March

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

28 March

24 Hours for the Lord

28-30 March

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

APRIL 2025

5-6 April

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers

25-27 April

Jubilee of Teenagers

28-29 April

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

MAY 2025

1-4 May

Jubilee of Workers

4-5 May

Jubilee of Entrepreneurs

10-11 May

Jubilee of Marching Bands

12-14 May

Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

16-18 May

Jubilee of Confraternities

30 May - 1 June

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly



JUNE 2025

7-8 June

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

9 June

Jubilee of the Holy See

14-15 June

Jubilee of Sport

20-22 June

Jubilee of Governments

23-24 June

Jubilee of Seminarians

25 June

Jubilee of Bishops

25-27 June

Jubilee of Priests

JULY 2025

28 July - 3 August

Jubilee of Youth

SEPTEMBER 2025

15 September

Jubilee of Consolation

20 September

Jubilee of Justice

26-28 September

Jubilee of Catechists

OCTOBER 2025

4-5 October

Jubilee of the Missions

4-5 October

Jubilee of Migrants

8-9 October

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

11-12 October

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

31 October - 2 November

Jubilee of the World of Education



NOVEMBER 2025

16 November

Jubilee of the Poor

22-23 November

Jubilee of Choirs

DECEMBER 2025

14 December

Jubilee of Prisoners

HAITI'S CHILDREN SUFFER AS SCHOOLS COME UNDER ATTACK



Haiti's escalating crisis has left millions of children without access to education. In the ever-worsening violence plaguing the nation, armed gangs are destroying schools. As always, it is the children who are paying the highest price. As violence escalates, schools are being reduced to rubble. Once a safe haven for families who had lost everything, schools were previously sanctuaries where children could thrive under the protection of education. Now,

their future is uncertain.

In January alone, armed groups completely destroyed 47 schools in the capital, Port-au-Prince. In 2024, 284 schools were targeted, leaving hundreds of thousands of children with no place to learn. For many Haitian families, education is a lifeline - an escape from poverty. Schools become second homes, providing a meal and a safe refuge from the violence surrounding them. Unfortunately, as the situation

deteriorates, the hope that schools once offered is slipping away. The latest attack occurred on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Video footage captured the terrifying scene of children paralysed with fear, lying motionless as armed groups stormed the school. Unfortunately, this violence extends far beyond the classroom walls, leaving indelible scars on the victims.

The risk of recruitment

In a statement released on 28 February, Geetanjali Narayan,

UNICEF Representative in Haiti, stressed the devastating impact of the ongoing violence on the country's education system, warning that "education - a last hope for many children and a top priority for parents - has never been more at risk." According to UNICEF, one in seven children in Haiti is now out of school, with nearly a million more at risk of dropping out. The consequences are dire, as last year saw a 70% increase in the recruitment of children into armed groups. The majority of these groups are nearly half composed of children, some as young as eight years old.

Haitian parents often sacrifice a significant portion of their income to ensure their children receive an education. However, many now face unprecedented economic hardship, and those who can still afford to send their children to school are finding there are few left to attend.

Building safe spaces

UNICEF, along with other partners, is working to rehabilitate damaged schools, create temporary learning spaces, and reintegrate displaced children into education. Catch-up classes are being organised to compensate for lost time, and families are receiving school kits and financial assistance to ease the burden of education costs. Mental health and psychosocial support services are also being offered to help children and families cope with the trauma they have endured. However, humanitarian efforts remain underfunded, and more support is urgently needed to reach the peace and stability Haiti so desperately needs and deserves. The call is for children to not become the forgotten victims of this crisis.

-Adapted from Francesca Merlo, Vatican News, March 1, 2025



Mo-bay Diocese events



Fr James Kandole Saturday Pastor of St Joseph's church ,Falmouth celebrating Mass with Fr Glen Baptiste of the Diocese of Montego Bay based in Florida on the pilgrimage to Rome as encouraged in this Year of Jubilee

Frs James Saturday and Glen Baptiste of the Diocese of Montego Bay led a pilgrimage to Italy with approximately 80 pilgrims. Fr James described the experience as "phenomenal" and afforded him and the group to visit great historic places such as Assisi, Orvieto, Salerno, Capri Island, Rome and Vatican State. Our priests and fellow pilgrims were able to

celebrate Masses in different Cathedrals, and even the in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica. They were able to walk through the 4 Doors of Mercy of the 4 major basilicas (St. Peter, St John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St Paul. Pictured here are Fr James, Glen and Deacon Dana at the Orvieto Cathedral where the 13th century miracle of the Eucharist which led and stained the

corporal which is still preserved to date. "It is my prayer" stated Fr James "that in this Jubilee Year of Hope all pilgrims of Hope worldwide will have a deeper understanding of God's Mercy and be able to spread it our own special way"



Fr James braving the chilly weather to attend the Pilgrims reception in Rome



Mrs. Janice Duhaney Chair of the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral updates the parish on the purpose and activities of this ministry at the recent Family meeting of the community hosted by the Pastoral Parish Council



Fr Warren Savage from the inter faith campus of Westfield University, Massachusetts with two of the students from the Holy Family Centre where the Marists train young people in Culinary and Housekeeping skills

Mo-bay Diocese events

(Continued)



His Worship Councillor Richard Vernon and Councillor Charles Sinclair Jr beams with pride with representatives of the 3 Catholic schools at the unanimous motion of declaring Chetwood Alvernia Day in Montego Bay

A group of representatives from the 3 Catholic schools in Montego Bay Mt Alvernia Prep, Mt Alvernia High and Chetwood Memorial Primary school along with clergy from the Diocese of Montego Bay and the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany witnessed at the St. James Municipal Corporation's Council meeting a motion to declare the Memorial of St Francis of Assisi on October 4, 2025 as Mount Alvernia Chetwood Day in recognition of the centennial celebrations this year. The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany were also presented with the keys to the City of Montego Bay and which was gleefully accepted by Sisters Trinita Solnek, Odette Haddad and Teresita DeSouza



Sr. Trinita Solnek OSF, Sr Odette Haddad OSF and Sr Teresita DeSouza OSF joyfully responding to the declaration of the Chetwood Alvernia Day at the St James Municipality commemorating the 3 schools centenary



Sr. Saane Pofavia SMSM addressing the Immersion trip students at the Holy Family Self Help centre and were able to interact with the students and better appreciate the intervention of the sisters through this facility

Mo-bay Diocese events

(Continued)



Mrs. Lora Palmer receives a special congratulatory handshake on her 92nd birthday after being blessed by Msgr Muavesi along with other church members including the legendary Kenneth Lord Laro



The solemn procession from the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the late Archbishop Edgerton Clarke at his recent funeral Mass. A Memorial Mass will be held at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on April 5, 2025 at 11 am



Students from the visiting Immersion trip who led devotions at Mt Alvernia high school as part of their hectic schedule for the week touring the Diocese of Montego Bay



Deacon Ronald Thwaites and his wife Marcia with the Immersion trip spring breakers after an enlightening and informative presentation and discussion on the Jamaican government and educational system



Deacon Baldwin Powell gives an overview to the visiting Yale and Westfield State university students who visited on an Immersion trip coordinated by the Diocese of Montego Bay and the Mary Knoll Fathers and Brothers.

ENCOUNTER the LIVING WORD

ENCOUNTER HOPE IN LENT

In this Jubilee Year of Grace, we invite you to encounter God's Word in the theme of HOPE offered to us by Pope Francis. Allow this encounter to make your Lent this year bear fruit in you by practicing what the Pope suggests, and not just read it and forget about it.



Here are ten tips and recommendations given by Pope Francis who addresses each of us personally and intimately:

Do not surrender to the night

“... Remember that the first enemy to conquer is not outside: it is within you. Therefore, do not give space to bitter, obscure thoughts. (...) Believe in the existence of the loftiest and most beautiful truths. Trust in God the Creator, in the Holy Spirit who moves everything towards the good”.

2. Never think that the struggle you engage in here on earth is completely useless

“Ruin does not await us at the end of life. (...) God does not disappoint: if he has placed hope in our hearts, he does not want to crush it with continuous frustrations”.

3. Don't stay down when you fall

“Wherever you may be, build! If you are down, stand up! (...) Allow yourself to be helped to stand up. If you are seated, set out on a journey! If boredom

paralyzes you, banish it with good works! If you feel empty or demoralized, ask that the Holy Spirit may fill your emptiness anew”.

4. Do not listen to the voice of those who spread hate

“Do not listen to these voices. As different as they are from each other, human beings were created to live together. In conflicts, be patient: one day you will discover that each person is the custodian of a fragment of truth”.

5. Do not be afraid to dream

“Do not be afraid to dream. Dream! Dream of a world which cannot yet be seen, but which will surely arrive. (...) Men and women capable of imagination have given mankind the gifts of scientific and technological discoveries. They have sailed the oceans; they have tread on lands on which no one has ever set foot before. The men and women

And when you feel afraid in the face of one of life's difficulties, remember that you do not live for yourself alone. (...) And if one day you should be taken by fear, or you think that evil is too great to be challenged, simply consider that Jesus lives within you. It is he who, through you, with his meekness, wishes to conquer all of mankind's enemies: sin, hatred, crime, violence; all of our enemies”.

7. You are not superior to anyone

“(...) Always remember this: you are superior to no one. Even should you be the last one who believes in the truth, do not for this reason spurn the company of men and women. Even should you live in the silence of a hermitage, bear in your heart the suffering of every creature. You are Christian; and in prayer you offer everything to God”.

8. Don't give up on your ideals

“And cultivate ideals. Live for something that transcends mankind, and if these ideals should one day present you with a hefty bill to pay, do

not stop bearing them in your heart. Faithfulness obtains all”.

9. Do not be trapped in your errors

“If you make a mistake, stand



up again. There is nothing more human than making mistakes. And these same mistakes must not become a prison for you. (...) The Son of God has come not for the healthy but for the sick. (...) God is your friend”.

10. Don't let bitterness strike you

“Believe firmly in all the people who still work for the good: in their humility there is the seed of a new world. Associate with people who have safeguarded their heart like that of a child. Learn from wonder; nurture astonishment”.

(Pope Francis: Pilgrims of Hope - Jubilee Year 2025)



who have sown hope are also those who have conquered slavery, and brought about better living conditions on this earth. Think about these men and women”.

6. Don't believe that life stops at your existence

“Be responsible for this world and for the life of each person. Consider that every injustice against a poor person is an open wound and belittles your very dignity. (...) Other generations will come into this world, to follow ours, and still many others. Each day, ask God for the gift of courage. (...)

BIBLE STUDY MONDAYS



CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY MONDAYS AT 6:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting

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pwd=pwBir4CL1X9NXDkPebzWDA9wTEO7C
L.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84405428458?pwd=pwBir4CL1X9NXDkPebzWDA9wTEO7C)

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SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

And a voice came from the cloud saying: "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him."

Luke 9: 35

"Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon and you will be pardoned. Give and there will be gifts for you."

Luke 6: 38-38

The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 23:12

Then his son said: "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants: "Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet...because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found."

Luke 15: 21-24

"I am the handmaid of the Lord," said Mary, "Let what you have said be done to me."

Luke 1: 38

"He who is not with me is against me; and he who does not gather with me scatters."

Luke 11: 23

Jesus replied: "This is the first: Listen Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbour as yourself."

Mark 12: 28-29

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