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Cathedral Record

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Here are some excerpts from Pope Francis' talk at Ur the birthplace of Abraham.

"Dear brothers and sisters, This blessed place brings us back to our origins, to the sources of God's work, to the birth of our religions. Here, where Abraham our father lived, we seem to have returned home. It was here that Abraham heard God's call; it was from here that he set out on a journey that would change history. We are the fruits of that call and that journey. God asked Abraham to raise his eyes to heaven and to count its stars (cf. Gen 15:5). In those stars, he saw the promise of his descendants; he saw us. Today we, Jews, Christians and Muslims, together with our brothers and sisters of other religions, honor our father Abraham by doing as he did: we look up to heaven and we journey on earth.

1. *We look up to heaven.* Thousands of years later, as we look up to the same sky, those same stars appear. They illumine the darkest nights because they shine together. Heaven thus imparts a message of unity: the Almighty above invites us never to separate ourselves from our neighbors. The otherness of God points us towards others, towards our brothers and sisters. Yet if we want to preserve fraternity, we must not lose sight of heaven. May we -- the descendants of Abraham and the representatives of different religions -- sense that, above all, we have this role: to help our brothers and sisters to raise their eyes and prayers to heaven. From this place, where faith was born, from the land of our father Abraham, let us affirm that God is merciful and that the greatest blasphemy is to profane his name by hating our brothers and sisters. Hostility, extremism and violence are not born of a religious heart: they are betrayals of religion.

2. *We journey on earth.* For Abraham, looking up to heaven, rather than being a distraction, was an incentive to journey on earth, to set out on a path that, through his descendants, would lead to every time and place. It all started from here, with the Lord who brought him forth from Ur (cf. Gen 15:7). His was a journey outwards, one that involved sacrifices. Abraham had to leave his land, home and family. Yet by giving up his own family, he became the father of a family of peoples. Something similar also happens to us: on our own journey, we are called to leave behind those ties and

attachments that, by keeping us enclosed in our own groups, prevent us from welcoming God's boundless love and from seeing others as our brothers and sisters. The way that heaven points out for our journey is another: the way of peace. It demands, especially amid the tempest, that we row together on the same side. It is shameful that, while all of us have suffered from the crisis of the pandemic, especially here, where conflicts have caused so much suffering, anyone should be concerned simply for his own affairs. There will be no peace unless peoples extend a hand to other peoples. There will be no peace as long as we see others as them and not us.

The Patriarch Abraham, who today brings us together in unity, was a prophet of the Most High. An ancient prophecy says that the peoples "shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4). This prophecy has not been fulfilled; on the contrary, swords and spears have turned into missiles and bombs. From where, then, can the journey of peace begin? From the decision not to have enemies. Anyone with the courage to look at the stars, anyone who believes in God, has no enemies to fight. He or she has only one enemy to face, an enemy that stands at the door of the heart and knocks to enter. That enemy is hatred.

Dear friends It is up to us, today's humanity, especially those of us, believers of all religions, to turn instruments of hatred into instruments of peace. It is up to us to remind the world that human life has value for what it is and not for what it has. That the lives of the unborn, the elderly, migrants and men and women, whatever the colour of their skin or their nationality, are always sacred and count as much as the lives of everyone else! It is up to us to have the courage to lift up our eyes and look at the stars, the stars that our father Abraham saw, the stars of the promise. It was precisely through hospitality, a distinctive feature of these lands, that Abraham was visited by God and given the gift of a son. Brothers and sisters of different religions, here we find ourselves at home, and from here, together, we wish to commit ourselves to fulfilling God's dream that the human family may become hospitable and welcoming to all his children."

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING 14 March 2021

Sunday 14 March Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.00am Mass
11.00am Mass
This Mass will be streamed live on Facebook and Youtube

Monday 15 March 12noon Mass

Tuesday 16 March 12noon Mass

Wednesday 17 March St Patrick 12noon Mass

Thursday 18 March 12noon Mass

Friday 19 March St Joseph 12noon Mass

Saturday 20 March 10.00am Mass 4.00pm Mass

RECONCILIATION (Confession)

During Lent the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at 10.30am, and again between 3.00pm – 4.00pm on Saturdays.

Crypt Crypt Chapel

SS -
55 Seel St,
Missionaries of
Charity

RLUH -
Royal Liverpool
University Hospital

CLERGY:

PRIESTS:
Canon Anthony
O'Brien *Dean*
Fr Stephen Lee
Fr Chris McCoy
Fr Peter Murphy

DEACONS:
Rev Noel Abbott
Rev Paul Mannings

Tel: 0151 709 9222

Email: enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Gerard Webb (RIP), Holy Souls, Marie Campbell (RIP), Mark Blessing (RIP), Anna Blessing and Family, Carmen Patrimonio, Paul Carney (RIP), John Alan Creighton (RIP), Richard Potts (In Loving Memory), Noelle Duffy (Intentions), McCaughley Family (Intentions), Neophyton Family (Intentions), Grimshaw Family (Intentions), Maxwell Family (Intentions), Hall Family (Intentions), Rose Langan (Intentions), Rita Wiesman (Intentions), Antrobus Family (Intentions), Hurst Family (Intentions), Sylvia Amoo (Intentions), John Webster, Tim Jones, Anne Guylar and Family, Kathleen Swain (Intentions), Mary Lambertsen (Intentions), Gerald Burns (RIP Anniversary), Marie Jago (RIP), Philip Jewell (RIP).

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a small contribution towards the Easter flowers that will decorate the High Altar this year please either give it to one of the Cathedral clergy or post it through Cathedral House. Many thanks for your generosity.

'FROM ASHES TO EGGS: A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT.'

Lent meditations by Fr Chris McCoy. Available each Monday from 5pm during Lent on our Facebook and Youtube channels. Each session lasts about 20 minutes and consists of prayers, poems, stories on different Lenten themes. We hope you can join us.

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

Well what a year 2021 has turned out to be so far for schools! Finally, we are able to get to see all our wonderful children altogether again after the lockdown which began right at the start of term. All classes returned fully last Monday and what a truly lovely sight and sound it was. Whilst we were open to number of children throughout the lockdown, and this helped us keep in touch, a school becomes a very strange place indeed when classes of children are not there. We hope and pray that we can now remain open.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

As we return to face-to-face interaction as of next week, hopefully for good, it is worth noting the grand total of virtual interaction we have had since 23 March 2020:
2 organ restoration meetings
6 music appreciation sessions
7 boy chorister voice trials
7 Hope University Choir rehearsals
11 girl chorister voice trials
11 Youth Choir rehearsals
17 *Big Sing!* events
18 Junior Choir rehearsals
19 keyboard skills classes for our young organists in training
87 staff meetings
179 probationer rehearsal
673 chorister rehearsals
673 individual singing lessons
716 individual chorister theory tutorials.....which equates to roughly **750 hours'** interaction!

MET CATHEDRAL YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults aged 18 to 35(ish) from the Cathedral community are meeting together each week via Zoom.

Worship Wednesday - every Wednesday. A time of prayer, and reflection of some shared reading.

Currently we are reading Pope Benedict XVI's 'School of Prayer'.

Social Sunday - 1st Sunday of the Month. An opportunity to socialise with each other, and hear some input.

Sycamore Sundays - 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays (begins 14th March)

Using videos and discussion points from the popular Sycamore project we will explore and deepen our appreciation of our Christian faith.

If you would like to join them please contact Fr Peter by emailing p.murphy@metcathedral.org.uk or calling Cathedral House.

LENTEN PRAYER

Lord God, With all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

For those journeying to full initiation into the Catholic Church ... may they be enlightened during this Lenten period and encouraged to persevere on the journey to new life in Christ.

For communities throughout the world experiencing the darkness of violence and unrest ... that seeds of peace might be sown through a commitment to justice and right relationships.

For our friends and family who are struggling with illness or bereavement ... may the light of Christ bring healing and the hope of new life.

NEWS FROM MICAH

This week again we hit an all time high for numbers provided with food - 402 at St Bride's on Thursday and 98 at St Vincent's on Tuesday. The crisis is clearly far from over. Needs in particular are for long life milk, Weetabix type cereal, tinned beans, tomatoes or other veg and pasta. Please drop off any items of food that you have at the Cathedral Security Office.

WHAT WOULD POPE FRANCIS DO?

To mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' election, the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre is hosting a number of prominent Catholic voices exploring the teachings of Pope Francis each Tuesday in Lent at 7.30pm. Church Hierarchy, Christopher Lamb, 16th March
The Environment, Dr Lorna Gold, 23rd March
Women in the Church, Sr Gemma Simmonds, 30th March
<https://edinburghjesuitcentre.org.uk/>

Last week's collection: **£541.47**



THE MYSTERY OF THE
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Golden Book of Remembrance

The Golden Book is open and accepting your entries but on a limited basis for the time being. Please email goldenbook@metcathedral.org.uk or telephone 0151 707 2107 where a member of the team will assist you.