

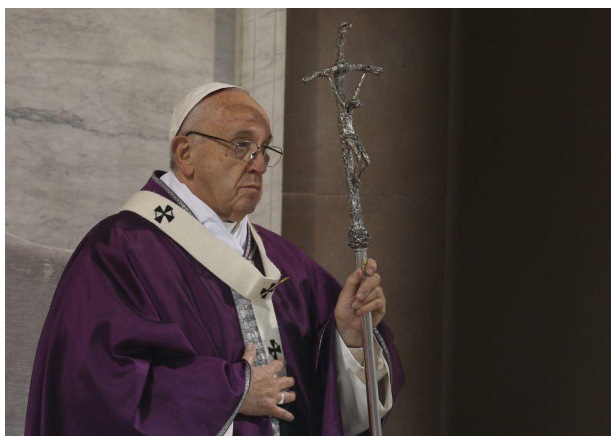
# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. --- 01-4530387 --- 01-5611390



18 February 2018

## FRANCIS MEETS WITH SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



Pope Francis revealed in a meeting with confreres of his Jesuit order last month that he meets with survivors of sexual abuse on a nearly weekly basis, according to a newly released transcript of the encounter. In a Jan. 19 question and answer session during his visit to Peru, the text of which was published for the first time Feb. 15 by Italian Jesuit magazine *La Civiltà Cattolica*, the pope said the Catholic Church must hear from those who have been abused by

clergy. "We need to listen to what someone who has been abused feels," Francis told the Jesuits, according to the transcript, and continued: "On Fridays – sometimes this is known and sometimes it is not known – I normally meet some of them."

"The process they go through is very tough," said the pope. "They are left annihilated. Annihilated!" Francis had previously been known to have met with abuse victims only a handful of times over the span of his nearly five-year papacy. He met with survivors once in Philadelphia during his 2015 visit to the U.S. and again last month in Chile, where he visited before Peru. Revelation of the pontiff's apparent weekly meetings with survivors in Rome raises a number of questions about how the Vatican has arranged the encounters and who has been chosen to take part. Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said in a statement following the release of the transcript that Francis meets with abuse victims "several times a month" in order to listen to them "and to try to help them heal the grave wounds caused by abuse." Burke said the meetings are held "under the strictest privacy," out of respect for the victims' suffering. Boston Cardinal Seán O'Malley, the head of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, said in an email to NCR that Francis "has emphasized being close to the people, especially to the poor and those who have suffered different forms of violence." "My understanding is that he makes a special point of meeting with victims of sexual abuse as minors," said O'Malley. "Respecting their right to privacy, these meetings are not published. Some have become known ... but most remain anonymous." Marie Collins, an Irish abuse survivor known for her persistence in pushing the Vatican to better protect children from abuse, called the revelation noteworthy and said she would like more information about the meetings. "I don't think there's awareness of this up to now," said Collins, who resigned in frustration last March from O'Malley's pontifical commission. "This is important news and it would be interesting to have more clarity around it." News of Francis' weekly meetings comes as the pontiff is facing criticism over how he has handled accusations about Bishop Juan Barros Madrid, whom he appointed to lead the diocese of Osorno, Chile in 2015.

*Courtesy National Catholic Reporter*

## A FATWA AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



A fatwa against female genital mutilation (FGM) "in all its forms" has been issued by Shaykh Dr Umar Al-Qadri, head imam of the Islamic Centre of Ireland at Blanchardstown in west Dublin, making it "religiously impermissible (haram) and sinful." The fatwa calls "on all Muslims to speak against this practice, stop it if they are aware of its occurrence, and report any knowledge of it to

the authorities". A fatwa, Shaykh Al-Qadri explained, "is a religious opinion by an Islamic scholar" and its effect depends on "the influence of the religious scholar or the institute that he is affiliated to." The fatwa "doesn't have a binding force on anyone," he said, "it is a religious opinion." Ifrah Ahmed, who was subjected to FGM at the age of eight, said that for her it was "very important to have the support of religious leaders". A 29-year-old Irish citizen, originally from Somalia, she said: "We want religious leaders to speak out and say: 'Look, this has nothing to do with Islam and nothing to do with religion.'"

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 11 February 2018

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p215

2nd Collection: p239

Share: p40

Family Offering: p478

St. Vincent de Paul: p360



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Frederick Long and Ellen Long (100th Anniversary of their Marriage), Christy Butler, Connie Tutty, Paul & Christopher Warren, Bridget Delaney, Frances Somay (recently deceased)

Sun 11.30am: Kevin Byrne, Tom Whelan (Ann & Birthday Remembrance), Michael Larkin (5th Ann), Shéa Larkin, Arthur Elliott, Tom & John Ryan, Dermot Lancaster (Birthday Remembrance), Jerry & Patricia Lancaster, Tommy O'Brien.



### Towards Peace

is a spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to nine sessions are offered and there is no cost. For further information please contact the Towards Peace office: phone: 01 5053028

email: [towardspeace@iecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie)

website: [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)

## Child Protection Service for Dublin Diocese

can be reached at the website [cpsps.dublindiocese.ie](http://cpsps.dublindiocese.ie) or by calling 01 836 0314 or emailing [cps@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:cps@dublindiocese.ie)



### Crane Street Unwrapped

After a longer than expected period (and more than a couple of complications), The Liberties latest public realm project - Crane Street - is finally complete. The project involved creating new wider pavements along Crane Street, Sugar House Lane and part of adjoining School Street. Although not a main thoroughfare, the street is nevertheless one of the busiest in the area, being the main approach route to the Guinness Storehouse and seeing thousands of visitors each day. The street's new look includes more generous pavements with new paving surfaces and the removal of parking from the street to provide a much improved pedestrian environment. The remaining heritage paving, kerbs and setts on Sugar House Lane were all lifted and relaid to best conservation practice. A number of factors made the project more complicated than originally thought, including the discovery of a hidden tunnel under Crane Street from adjoining St James's Gate Brewery and the need to replace 100-year old water mains on the street. The street now provides a more fitting approach to the city's main visitor attraction and one of its most iconic photo locations - the Guinness Gate. Over the coming period, additional works to refurbish buildings along the route and add planters and greenery will be undertaken. The project is an action of Dublin City Council's The Liberties Greening Strategy and was part supported by Failte Ireland under its Dublin programme.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### A reading from the book of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and

the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 24

**Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.**

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. R/

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. R/  
The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. R/

### Gospel Acclamation

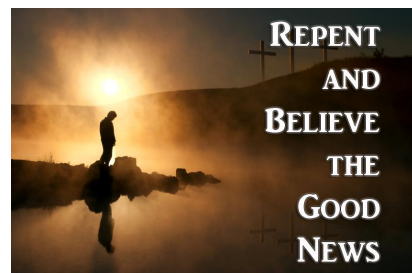
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

### Gospel

#### A reading from the Gospel of Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Master was exceedingly gracious to university dons who visited him, but he would never reply to their questions or be drawn into their theological speculations. To his disciples, who marveled at this, he said, "Can one talk about the ocean to a frog in a well – or about the divine to people who are restricted by their concepts.

*From "One Minute Wisdom" by Anthony de Mello*