



Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time – 23 February 2025

POPE FRANCIS DIAGNOSED WITH PNEUMONIA



Photo: Tiziana Fabi/AFP

Pope Francis has been diagnosed with double pneumonia after further tests showed a continuing “complex” medical situation, the Vatican said in a statement on Tuesday. The pontiff (88) underwent a chest X-ray, which “demonstrated the onset of bilateral pneumonia that required further pharmacological therapy”. Antibiotic cortisone therapy to treat an earlier-diagnosed polymicrobial infection of the respiratory tract “makes the

therapeutic treatment more complex”. The pope was admitted to Rome’s Gemelli hospital on Friday after suffering from the respiratory tract infection, which he referred to as bronchitis on several occasions, for more than a week. A polymicrobial infection is one caused by two or more micro-organisms, and can be caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi. The statement added that the pontiff was in good spirits and had received the Eucharist earlier in the day. Earlier on Tuesday, the Vatican said it had cancelled the pope’s Holy Year commitments at the weekend because of his continued ill health. “Due to the health conditions of the Holy Father, the Jubilee audience of Saturday, February 22nd, is cancelled,” the Vatican said, adding that the pontiff had delegated a senior church figure to celebrate mass on Sunday morning. His general audience on Wednesday has also been cancelled. Francis had part of his lung removed in his early 20s while training to be a priest in his native Argentina. Despite his hospitalisation, the pope has maintained his nightly routine since October 9th, 2023, of telephone calls to the Holy Family church in Gaza. “He was tired but had a clear voice,” Father Gabriel Romanelli told the Italian press after Monday night’s call. “He asked how we were and thanked us with prayers. At the end of the call he gave us his blessing.” The pope, who has suffered ill health in recent years, was also admitted to hospital in March 2023 for what was initially said to be bronchitis but later diagnosed as pneumonia. He was readmitted to the Gemelli for health checks in June that year and again in February 2024 after suffering from what he said was “a bit of a cold”. He also underwent a colon operation in June 2021. The pope has often been seen in a wheelchair or with a walking stick as a result of a sciatic nerve pain and a knee problem. Earlier, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said Francis had slept peacefully overnight and had eaten breakfast on Tuesday. A Vatican official said the pontiff was not on a ventilator and was breathing on his own. The pope had been due to lead several events over the weekend for the 2025 Catholic Holy Year, which runs through to next January. It is a special time of pardon and forgiveness for Catholics and the Vatican expects 32 million tourists to visit Rome throughout the year, including for a range of special audiences with the pope.

Courtesy Guardian/Reuters, Irish Times

Muhsin Hendricks Shot Dead in South Africa

Muhsin Hendricks, a pioneering figure dubbed the world’s first openly gay imam, has been shot dead in South Africa. The 57-year-old cleric ran a mosque in Cape Town intended as a safe haven for gay and other marginalised Muslims. He was killed on Saturday morning after the car in which he was travelling near the southern city of Gqeberha was ambushed. “Two unknown suspects with covered faces got out of the vehicle and started firing multiple shots at the vehicle,” police said in a statement. News of Hendricks’ death has sent shockwaves through the LGBTQ+ community and beyond, prompting an outpouring of tributes from across the globe. “Two unknown suspects with covered faces got out of the vehicle and started firing multiple shots at the vehicle,” police said in a statement. News of Hendricks’ death has sent shockwaves through the LGBTQ+ community and beyond, prompting an outpouring of tributes from across the globe.



Courtesy BBC

Remembered this Weekend

Kathleen Phillips (1st A)
Eddie Walsh (3rd A)
and Carmel Walsh
Stephen Devlin (30th A)
Ann Devlin (50th A)
Rita Devlin (Birthday R)
Barbara & David Reck
John, Josephine, Mary and
Joan Hannon
Ann Delaney (1st A)
Margaret, James and
Seamus Maguire



Annual memorial Lecture

will take place on Thursday, 27 February 2025, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Thomas Davis Theatre at Trinity College Dublin. This year’s lecture will be presented by Emeritus Professor Anthony McElligott, a renowned historian and scholar. Professor McElligott will address the poignant and powerful topic of “Surviving Liberation: Jewish Camp Survivors 1945-1948”.



Camino de Santiago

Saturday, 1 March 2025 in St. James’s Church, Saint James, Dublin 8, D08 X799. Volunteers from the Camino Society Ireland clg. to offer pilgrims - past, present and future - information about the Camino de Santiago. Doors open 12 noon.



A New Café

Ada is a new cafe and bagel bar that’s opened on Thomas Street. A new breakfast spot of choice. 29 Thomas Street



Towards Peace

offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically emotionally sexually, spiritually, in a religious/church environment. Mon & Tues 9am to 4pm & Wed 9am to 12noon. For further information phone 01 5053028 or 086 7710533 or visit www.towardspeace.ie

7TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

Our God is patient and merciful, Slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Let us call to mind that goodness.

Lord, you are the source of all goodness. Lord have mercy

Lord, you seek the lost and rejoice in the found.
Christ have mercy

Lord, you call us to at-one-ment with you and each other.
Lord have mercy

May our gracious God have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Samuel 26

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's' anointed and be without guilt? David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David answered, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49

he first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Accamation

Alleluia, alleluia
I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, says the Lord. Alleluia!

Luke 6: 27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'But I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and

do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. '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: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, your love draws the very best from us. We thank you. Lord hear us

May our respect for one another be so strong that violence, whether it be physical or psychological is simply never an option for us. Lord hear us

Help us Lord, to let go of the injustices done to us and be instruments of your healing for others and for ourselves. Lord hear us

We remember all who have died, and those who grieve for them. May we be united again in the Kingdom of your peace and love. Lord hear us

May our Church Community be a source of compassion, empathy and forgiveness for all. Lord hear us

In silence we put aside our own needs, no matter how important and remember all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

Forgiveness is one of the really difficult things in life. The logic of receiving hurt seems to run in the direction of never forgetting either the hurt or the hurter. When you forgive, some deeper, divine generosity takes over. When you can forgive, then you are free. When you cannot forgive, you are a prisoner of the hurt done to you. If you are really disappointed in someone and you become embittered, you become incarcerated inside that feeling. Only the grace of forgiveness can break the straight logic of hurt and embitterment. It gives you a way out, because it places the conflict on a completely different level. In a strange way, it keeps the whole conflict human. You begin to see and understand the conditions, circumstances, or weakness that made the other person act as they did. May your forgiveness still the hunger of the wound. So that for the first time you can walk away from that place, reunited with your banished heart, now healed and freed, and feel the clear, free air bless your new face.

John O'Donohue