



Fourth Sunday of Lent – 30 March 2025

DOCTORS CONSIDERED STOPPING TREATMENT & 'LETTING HIM GO'



Pope Francis' medical team briefly considered suspending treatment after a February 28 breathing crisis but instead decided on an aggressive course that put his organs at risk, the doctor coordinating the pope's hospital care said in an interview published Tuesday, March 26, 2025. Dr. Sergio Alfieri said the 88-year-old pontiff and people close to him alike understood "that he might not survive the night," after the bronchospasm attack during which the pope inhaled vomit. "We needed to choose whether to

stop and let him go, or to push it and attempt with all of the possible drugs and the treatments, taking the very high risk of damaging other organs," Alfieri told the Milan daily Corriere della Sera. "In the end, that is the path we chose." Francis was released Sunday after 38 days of treatment for double pneumonia, under doctors' orders to observe two months of convalescence during which he should avoid large gatherings. The pope appeared weak and frail when he greeted the crowd outside the Gemelli hospital before his discharge. The Vatican has not indicated whether the pope would participate in any Holy Week activities leading up to Easter on April 20. His planned meeting next month with King Charles III in the Vatican was postponed by mutual agreement on Tuesday to allow the pope to rest. Alfieri said that the pope remained "alert" throughout the Feb. 28 ordeal and that his personal health care assistant, Massimiliano Strappetti, "who knows perfectly the pontiff's wishes," urged them "to try everything. Don't give up." Alfieri acknowledged that the treatment risked damaging the pope's kidneys and bone marrow, "but we continued, and his body responded to the treatments and the lung infection improved." The medical bulletin that night said that the pope had suffered a bronchospasm so severe that he inhaled vomit "worsening his respiratory picture." Doctors used a non-invasive aspiration to clear his airways. Three days later, in a second life-and-death crisis, the pope suffered a pair of acute bronchospasms episodes. Doctors used a camera tube with a device to remove mucus plugs that yielded abundant secretions. The bulletin emphasized that the pope "always remained alert, oriented and collaborative." Alfieri said he believed that prayers for the pope help keep him alive, something that the doctor said is backed by scientific literature. "In this case the whole world was praying. I can say that twice the situation was lost, and then it happened like a miracle," the doctor said, adding that "of course he was a very cooperative patient." (AP)

Courtesy: Sunstar

Celebrating the installation of 'Santiago' in James's Street Parish



on which the statue will rest as well as new chairs so people can spend some time in quiet and prayer in the chapel. The statue reminds us of the 'journey within' God is calling us to.

The beautiful Statue of St. James (Santiago in Spanish) with Sculptor Armando Martinez. Armando travelled from Spain to be with us for the unveiling of the statue. We were delighted to welcome also Manuel Miras Franqueira, Honorary President of the Asociacion de Concellos de Camino Ingles through whose generosity the statue was presented to the Camino Society of Ireland. The Camino chapel has been refurbished. There will soon be a new altar

Remembered this Weekend

Susan Culbert (Month's Mind)
Jane & Patrick Timmins and Son Paddy (4th A)
Winifred Callan (9th A)
Alice Finn (6th A)
Marie Dolan (10th A)



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

"The Dublin Diocese pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Saturday April 26th. If we can fill a bus from the Liberties parishes we could join in so let us know now if you are interested by giving your name to Fr. Colin (01-4426296) before 1st April."



Support for Birth Mothers

Information and Support for Birth Mothers whose babies were placed for adoption may be found [at www.birthinginfo.ie](http://www.birthinginfo.ie) or by calling the relevant section of Tusla at 0818 445500.



A Date for your Diary

Songs of Inspiration and Hope with Celine Byrne at St Andrew's, Westland Row. Feel welcome to attend our celebration for the Jubilee Year of Hope. Sunday, May 11, 6.30pm to 8pm.



Bach's St. John Passion

On April 13, Palm Sunday, Dublin Bach Singers will sing Bach's dramatic and moving St John Passion. This year they will perform this work in the beautiful period church St Ann's, Dawson Street whose initial construction in the 1720s coincided with Bach's composition of the St John Passion for Good Friday Vespers in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig in 1724. Full details attached.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Penitential Rite

As we enter into the mystery of Gods' wisdom, let us be mindful of his great love for us.

When gentility is absent from our lives, Lord have mercy

When anger seems to be all we have, Christ have mercy

When resentment keeps us trapped, Lord have mercy

May our gentle, loving, generous God have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to a new life. Amen

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!
I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So

he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. 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. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening." 'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Prayer of the Faithful

Lord God, your love for us creates an unbreakable bond between us. We praise you and thank you. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, as the Living Word of God, you challenge us to see each other as you do. We praise you and thank you. Lord hear us

Holy Spirit, you are the power of God's reconciliation, calling us to let go of our resentment and grant forgiveness. We praise you and thank you. Lord hear us

Lord we feel saddened and angry at the loss of life in places around the world where violence, hunger and war reign. May we be a source of peace and reconciliation for the world. Lord hear us

Lord God, help us to abandon violence forever; to appreciate our differences and allow them to be a source of enrichment and not division. Lord hear us

In silence we remember those in need of our prayer and support.....Lord hear us

Reflection

When the gentleness between you hardens and you fall out of your belonging with each other, May the depths you have reached hold you still. When no true word can be said, or heard, and you mirror each other in the script of hurt, when even the silence has become raw and torn, may you hear again an echo of your first music. When the weave of affection starts to unravel and anger begins to sear the ground between you, before this weather of grief invites the black seed of bitterness to find root, may your souls come to kiss. Now is the time for one of you to be gracious, to allow a kindness beyond thought and hurt, Reach out with sure hands to take the chalice of your love, and carry it carefully through this echoless waste until this winter pilgrimage leads you towards the gateway to spring.

John O'Donohue