

James's Street Parish

01-4531143 - Working with Francis Street and Meath Street Parishes



4th Sunday Advent – 22 December 2024

POPE FRANCIS ESCAPED SUICIDE BOMBING IN IRAQ IN 2021



Pope Francis has said he escaped a double suicide bombing during a visit to Iraq three years ago after the attempts on his life were foiled by British intelligence and Iraqi police. Francis made the revelation in his upcoming autobiography, *Spera (Hope)*, excerpts of which were shared with *Corriere della Sera* on Tuesday, the pontiff's 88th birthday. Francis said he had been strongly advised against making the trip to Iraq in March 2021, the first by a pope, because Covid was still raging and the security risks were high, especially in Mosul, the northern city devastated by Islamic State militants. The pope said he was determined to go ahead with the trip, however. In his recounting of events, British intelligence informed Iraqi police of the planned bombings as soon as Francis arrived in Baghdad. In turn, the Iraqi police informed the Vatican's security detail. The pontiff described how one of the suicide bombers was a woman who was heading towards Mosul during the papal visit. A truck was also "heading there fast with the same intention", he said. In the book, written with the Italian author Carlo Musso and due to be published in January, Francis said he later asked Vatican security what had become of the suicide bombers. "The commander replied laconically: 'They're no longer here,'" Francis wrote. "Iraqi police had intercepted them and made them explode. This struck me as well: Even this is the poisonous fruit of war." Francis persevered with the three-day trip to six Iraqi cities, saying at the time that he was travelling as "a pilgrim of peace". Thousands of Christians in the north of the country were killed under the rule of Islamic State between 2014-2017, and hundreds of thousands more fled their homes in the face of violence and persecution. Standing in the wreckage of a Mosul church, the pope urged the country's dwindling Christian community to forgive the injustices against them by the extremists and to rebuild. During the visit, about 10,000 Iraqi police were deployed to protect the pope and curfews were imposed to limit the spread of Covid-19. The book was originally planned to come out after Francis's death, but is instead being published to coincide with the beginning of the jubilee 2025, a year of celebrations for Catholics around the world to reconnect with their faith. The pope officially opens the event, which occurs every 25 years, on December 24th. The Italian publisher Mondadori said *Hope* was the first autobiography published by a pope, although Francis has published other memoir-style books. Francis has embarked on more than 40 overseas trips since becoming pope in 2013, his longest and most arduous being a 12-day Asia-Pacific tour in September.

Courtesy Angela Giuffrida & The Irish Times

Remembered this Weekend

We remember all belong to us as well as those who have died through violence, hunger & war.



Reconciliation Services

James's Street this Sunday 22 December at 11am.

Meath Street Monday 23rd December at 7.30pm

Francis Street 23rd December at 3pm for those who do not wish to come out at night.

For all other Christmas Services see [here](#).



Crosscare Appeal

Crosscare, the social care agency of the Archdiocese, is once again asking for support for their Christmas Food Poverty Appeal. As families struggle to cope with the cost of Christmas, there will likely be a spike in the number of people seeking help in the weeks ahead. Anyone wishing to contribute can donate online at www.crosscare.ie call 01 8360011, or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, D07 Y768.



Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage

We are delighted to announce our plans to have a group representing the Diocese at the Jubilee of Youth gathering in Rome during the summer. If you can't make it, there's also an option for a 'Rome @ Home'! Fill in your details to express interest in being part of the group or mark your option for 'Rome @ Home'. Email: natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie Register Interest: <https://forms.office.com/e/9fGvLqil7t>



Aware

Look after your mental health. www.aware.ie

The Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C
22nd December 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Stand)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

PENITENTIAL ACT (3)

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Priest: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: You are seated at the right hand of the

Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



FIRST READING

Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah:

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure.

for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 79

[R] God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

[1] O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **[R]**

[2] God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **[R]**

[3] May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. **[R]**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,

prepared a body for me;

You took no pleasure

in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;

then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, "God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will."

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave aloud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

(Sit)

THE CREED

(Stand)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

1-▶ SIT ▶-1

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Stand

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

1-▶ KNEEL ▶-1

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH (3)

Priest: The Mystery of Faith.

People: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and resurrection, you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb ...

People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,

but only say the word

and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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