

James's Street Parish

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



3rd Sunday Ordinary Time – 26 January 2025

POPE FRANCIS 'YES', CHURCH 'NO'



Italians to explore public sentiment surrounding the Jubilee and the broader challenges facing the Catholic Church. The Jubilee's central theme, «hope,» resonates deeply in a world where 75% of Italians believe hope is in crisis. Rather than focusing solely on spiritual renewal, many view the Holy Year as a platform to address urgent societal issues.

A significant 70% hope the Jubilee will amplify efforts toward peace in war-torn regions, while a majority expect the Church to strengthen its advocacy against poverty, hunger, and inequality—hallmarks of Pope Francis' papacy. Two-thirds of Italians identify Pope Francis' commitment to peace and fraternity as defining features of his pontificate. His emphasis on aiding the marginalized and promoting Gospel values resonates with 60% of respondents. Additionally, his approach to communication, which combines -according to the study- clarity with compassion, has earned him widespread admiration. Notably, over 40% highlight his focus on young people and his vision of an inclusive Church attuned to the modern world. His environmental advocacy, exemplified by his encyclical «Laudato Si», is also seen as a signature aspect of his leadership. While Pope Francis enjoys high levels of trust, confidence in the Church as an institution lags at 45%. This gap reflects broader societal trends, including declining religious participation. Although 72% of Italians identify as Catholic, only one in six regularly attends Mass.

Key challenges identified by the public include reconciling faith with modern realities, addressing sexual abuse scandals, and engaging younger generations. Additionally, many see the need for the Church to maintain relevance in discussions about peace and justice while navigating a decline in vocations. As the Jubilee offers a moment of reflection, many Italians see it as an opportunity for the Church to evolve.

A majority, 57%, advocate for a more creative expression of faith to attract younger generations. Nearly 40% call for greater involvement of laypeople and women, while others suggest leveraging technology and social media to strengthen connections within the faith community.

Interestingly, a smaller but vocal segment—around 20%—emphasizes the importance of defending tradition as a means of revitalizing the Church. This tension between innovation and tradition underscores the complexity of the Church's path forward. Pope Francis' ability to address real-world concerns has made him a figure of trust not just among Catholics, but across the Italian population. As Demopolis director Pietro Vento observed, «Italians value the Pope's alignment with the genuine needs of families and his ability to communicate with clarity and authenticity.»

Courtesy Zenit News/Rome

Remembered this Weekend

We remember all belong to us who have died. We also remember those who have died and are dying through violence, hunger and war.



Guinness Storehouse turns 25

It's the 'must-do' experience for so many tourists visiting Dublin - to enjoy a pint of the Black Stuff in the Gravity Bar with its panoramic views of the capital. For 25 years, the Guinness Storehouse has been packing in visitors, eager to learn the story behind Dublin's iconic brew and to learn how to pour that perfect pint. Since opening in 2000, at the start of a new century, the Storehouse has welcomed over 25m visitors: everyone from humble tourists to celebrities, heads of state and royalty. The experience is regularly listed as the City's Most Visited Attraction and has won numerous international accolades.



Changes at Newmarket

Work has started on a series of pedestrian improvements at Newmarket. The measures include the removal of much of the car parking from the historic marketplace extended footpaths on the north side and a larger pedestrian space extending from the footpath on the south side. New crossings will be created and through-traffic will be restricted to a defined two-way carriageway.



Aware

If you or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, consider using Aware's phone-in and Zoom support and self-care groups, support line or support mail. For more information, visit www.aware.ie

The Mass

THIRD SUNDAY OF YEAR C
26 Jan 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(Stand)

O sing a new song to the Lord:
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

PENITENTIAL ACT (1)

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

A brief pause for silence follows.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

People: Amen.

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **People:** Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Christ, have mercy. **People:** Christ, have mercy.

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **People:** Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glorify to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer,
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah:

Extra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Extra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people—since he stood higher than all the people—Ezra opened the book, and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, "Amen, Amen!"; then they bowed down and face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah—His Excellency—and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, "This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep." For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, "Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold."

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 18

[R1] Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

[1] The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **[R1]**

[2] The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **[R1]**

[3] The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding forever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **[R1]**

[4] May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **[R1]**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

[shorter form: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27]

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians:

«Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.» If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how

would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

«Now you together are Christ's body, but each of you is a different part of it.» In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Stand)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:1-4; 14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eye-witnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the

assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."

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,
(*All 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.

SANCTUS

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

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH (1)

Priest: The Mystery of Faith,
People: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

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

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.