

# James's Street Parish



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

Presentation of the Lord – 02 February 2025

## POPE FRANCIS WILL NOT VETO TRUMP'S VATICAN AMBASSADOR



Pope Francis is not expected to veto President Donald Trump's choice of a high-profile critic of his papacy as the next U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, according to two senior Vatican officials, despite misgivings about his stance on many issues. Brian Burch, who leads a right-wing advocacy group, has said the pope's pastoral

agenda, such as being more welcoming of LGBTQ Catholics, was causing "massive confusion" for the world's 1.4 billion Catholics. Trump nominated Burch for the Vatican role in December. At the time, Austen Ivereigh, a papal advisor who co-authored a book with Francis in 2020, said the Vatican had "every right" to refuse to accredit Burch as ambassador. The two Vatican officials, speaking to Reuters on background on a matter still under discussion, said Francis, who may need to appoint a new Vatican ambassador to the U.S. during Trump's four-year term, wanted to avoid a diplomatic scuffle and was not planning to veto the appointment. Burch, whose Senate confirmation hearing has not yet been scheduled, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. At the time of his nomination, Burch said on X: "I am committed to working with leaders inside the Vatican and the new administration to promote the dignity of all people and the common good." Francis, leader of the global Church since 2013, is usually careful about engaging in political debates. But he has been sharply critical of some of the president's priorities, such as plans to deport millions of undocumented immigrants. On the eve of Trump's inauguration, the pope called the deportation program a "disgrace". Burch has been part of CatholicVote since 2005. In 2023, he sharply criticized the pope's decision to allow priests to give blessings to same-sex couples, and said a future pope would need to "clarify" some of Francis' teachings. Burch also accused the pope of governing the Church with a "pattern of vindictiveness," following Francis' 2023 decision to remove a Catholic bishop in Texas who had taken to posting right-wing material and conspiracy theories on social media.

Two former U.S. ambassadors to the Vatican told Reuters that Burch might have a difficult time making inroads among Vatican officials, given his criticism of the pope. "People in the Vatican, they read the news," said Ken Hackett, who served as President Barack Obama's ambassador from 2013-2017. "They don't like getting dissed or having negative things said about them or about the Holy Father." Francis Rooney, President George W. Bush's ambassador from 2005-2008, said Vatican officials consider their relationship with the U.S. administration very important, but are cautious about interacting with papal critics. "If the kitchen gets too hot on some of these issues publicly, that would certainly make (Vatican officials) draw back," said Rooney, a former Republican congressman. "The one person they're not going to get crosswise with is the pope." CatholicVote is known for being closely allied with Republican politics. In 2020, the group sent a guide to voters in swing states, describing Trump as aligned with Catholic teaching on issues such as abortion, religious freedom and healthcare. The guide did not mention Francis' criticisms of Trump. CatholicVote also collected data from people's cellphones as they attended Mass. The practice, called "geofencing," allowed the group to identify potential Catholic voters, and send them political ads favoring Trump, raising ethical concerns. Rev. Tom Reese, a U.S. Jesuit priest and commentator, said the Vatican expected ambassadors to push their country's agenda. "He's a lobbyist for the U.S. government in the Vatican," Reese said of Burch's future role. "But ... a lobbyist who's obnoxious is not going to accomplish much."

*Courtesy Joshua J. McElwee  
National Catholic Reporter*

## 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.



## Accord

Accord is now seeking marriage preparation facilitators. Might this be you? Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. If you are supportive of marriage in the Catholic Church and have the enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team that supports couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage then Accord wishes to hear from you. An Accord marriage preparation facilitator is a personally fulfilling role, blending life experience and faith. Successful applicants will receive professional training in the Accord marriage preparation programme and be part of a team delivering programmes locally. Contact Aisling at 01 5053112

[marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie)  
further info: [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)



## Towards Peace

Towards Peace is a service offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically emotionally, sexually, spiritually, in a religious/church environment. Towards Peace was established in October 2014 by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Association of Leaders of Missionary & Religious Leaders of Ireland. Office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9am to 4pm and Wednesday 9am to 12noon. For further information phone 01 5053028 or 086 7710533 or visit [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie) or <https://www.facebook.com/TowardsPeaceSpiritualSupportService/>.

# The Mass

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 Feb 2025

Today's Mass may be preceded by a procession and the lighting of candles.

The faithful gather in church, holding candles. The Priest, with the ministers and the faithful, goes to a suitable place. The candles are lit and the antiphon *Behold, our Lord* (no. 3) or another appropriate chant is sung.

The Priest blesses the candles, and then the procession to the altar takes place, with singing.

*The Mass continues with the Collect.*

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(Stand)

Your merciful love, O God,

we have received in the midst of your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth;

your right hand is filled with saving justice.

## PENITENTIAL ACT (2)

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

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**People:** For we have sinned against you.

**Priest:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**People:** And grant us your salvation.

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us,

and bring us our sins,

and forgive 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

Glory 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,

O 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

Malachi 3:1-4

*A reading from the prophet Malachi:*

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

*The word of the Lord.*

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 23

**[R1]** Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.

**[1]** O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory! .....

**[2]** Who is the king of glory?

The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,

the Lord, the valiant in war. ....

**[3]** O gates, lift high your heads;

grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory! .....

**[4]** Who is he, the king of glory?

He, the Lord of armies,

he is the king of glory. ....

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, he too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

*The word of the Lord.*

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA

(Stand)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

[Shorter Version: Luke 2:22-30]

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:*

**People:** Glory to you, O Lord.

«When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord — observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord — and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said

“Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.”»

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother: “You see this child; he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected — and a sword will pierce your own soul too — so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.”

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Pannuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom and God's favour was with him.

*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, 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

▶▶▶ SIT ▶▶▶

## PREFACE DIALOGUE

**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. ...

▶▶▶ KNEEL ▶▶▶

## THE MYSTERY OF FAITH (2)

**Priest:** The Mystery of Faith.

**People:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord,

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

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

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