

Sinnopskornið Easter 2021

How has Lent been for you? I bet some of you have been so busy that you wonder where the time has gone since Ash Wednesday on 17th February! Some others will wish you had been stricter with yourselves about keeping your Lenten resolutions. Some of you may wish you had managed to pray a little bit more. There are certainly things to which I should have paid more attention! The three disciplines we observe during Lent are: *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*. Each Friday in Lent we have prayed **the Way of the Cross** at 19.30 in our church. **Caritas** has asked us to give alms by contributing to an appeal to provide bicycles for schoolchildren in Burkina Faso. The silver box will stay at the back of the church until Lent is over: to know more, contact Rakul (tel. 512844). **Fasting** is something left to us as individuals or families. There is still time!

By the way, we are encouraged to fast from something every Friday throughout the year, and in the Eastern tradition every Wednesday, too. Children under 18 and people aged 60 or more are not obliged to fast. Nor are people of any age who are seriously ill. From age 14 onwards, we are expected to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and Fridays during Lent.

It will soon be **Holy Week**. Here is the 2021 Holy Week programme for the Catholic parish in the Faroe Islands. Everything will be in **Mariukirkjan** except when **Kerit** is mentioned.

Don't Forget! Clocks GO FORWARD ONE HOUR (Sunday morning).

Sunday 28 March (Palm Sunday): 11.00 - Mass with the blessing of palms and the solemn reading of the Passion of Our Lord.

Monday 29 March: 17.30 - Mass in Kerit.

Tuesday 30 March: 17.30 - Mass in Kerit.

Wednesday 31 March: 19.30 - Mass with some children and their families.

Thursday 1 April (Maundy Thursday): 17.00 - Mass of the Lord's Supper, with the Washing of the Feet. After Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to Kerit, where there will be adoration until midnight.

Friday 2 April (Good Friday): 15.00 - Celebration of Our Lord's Passion.

Today there will be the annual collection for the Holy Places, the sites of events in the life of Jesus. The COVID pandemic means the number of visitors is disastrously low. If you can possibly do so, please contribute.

Saturday 3 April (Holy Saturday): 10.00 - *Święconka*, the traditional blessing of baskets of food (*po polsku*).

21.00 - the Easter Vigil with the blessing of the Easter Fire and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Sunday 4 April (Easter Sunday): 11.00 - Mass with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Monday 5 April (Easter Monday): 11.00 - Mass.

Tuesday 6 April and onwards - we return to our regular timetable.

2 things about Holy Week: first, we need a few volunteers to have their feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. It is wise to consider what you wear, but don't be shy. It is a beautiful reminder of what Jesus did for his Apostles. Second, because the Corona crisis has not completely disappeared, individual veneration of the crucifix will not be part of the service on Good Friday. We shall kneel together in silence.

May the ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter bring you closer to Our Lord, not only in His suffering, but especially in the gift of new life, the gift we receive in baptism. It is not an extension of our present life, but a different kind of life, which Jesus called 'eternal life', life with God. In a way, eternal life begins during our earthly lives, because the grace of baptism and the other sacraments can transform us. There is a promise of life after we die, but God's grace can enrich our lives while we are still on earth. If grace does not change us, it may be that we are not allowing it to do so. If you have any thoughts about this, please feel free to share your thoughts with me. I would be happy to hear how you think God works in your life.

A year to reflect on the Joy of Love

On the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday 27 December 2020, Pope Francis announced that a year of reflection on one his Post-Synodal Exhortations would begin on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, 19 March 2021. 5 years earlier, on 19 March 2016, he published *Amoris Lætitia*, which is the fruit of the 2-part assembly of the Synod of Bishops on marriage and family life. That year of reflection has now begun. The Holy Father would like as many people as possible to do whatever they can to get involved in the discussions and projects that have been inspired by *Amoris Lætitia*, no

matter how humble they think their contribution will be. Here is a taste of what he said on Saint Joseph's day: "So let us support families! Let us keep them safe from whatever compromises their beauty. Let us approach this mystery of love with wonder, modesty and tenderness. And let us commit ourselves to protecting its precious and delicate relationships: children, parents, grandparents.... We need these relationships in order to live and to live well, to help humanity become more fraternal". If married people look at their life together with wonder, modesty and tenderness, surely there we have three strong pillars to support their relationship. And if young people are brought up to think of marriage with wonder, modesty and tenderness, they will surely find that love can give them lasting joy. If you have any thoughts on ways our parish could celebrate the joy of married love in these coming months, please share them!

2 final points: Bishop Kozon answered my question about receiving Holy Communion on the tongue by saying that the rule in the Diocese is still that everyone should receive in the hand. Done with dignity and reverence, it is no less respectful. Choice will return soon, I hope. Given the current situation in the Faroe Islands, the parish council decided that we would no longer offer a second Mass on Sundays (for the moment).

Father Peter