

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: MOTHER'S DAY

'Whoever lives the truth, comes to the light.'

(John 3:21)

Newsletter Insert

Happy Mother's Day from all in Trócaire. In the Machinga district of Malawi, Malita is a strong and resilient woman, despite the challenges she faces. She works tirelessly in her community to improve the life of all its members. Like all mothers, she prays for the best for her children. She wants them to have an education and opportunities for a better life. Trócaire and its local partners are working with women like Malita to build a more just world. To learn more, go to: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/>



'A society without mothers would be a dehumanized society, for mothers are always, even in the worst moments, witnesses of tenderness, dedication and moral strength.'

(Pope Francis, General Audience, 7 January 2015)



Malita.

Photo credit: Muiru Mbuthia, Trócaire

Sacred Space

Add a notebook in which people can express their thanks for mothers. There are many different types of mother in our lives, including those who step in to mind us in our hour of need. Give thanks for these women today, those who are still with us and those who have gone home to God. Today we remember Our Lady, who is constantly there to help and guide us.



Prayer of the Faithful

- 1) We pray for mothers and all in a mothering role. We remember especially mothers living in situations of war, conflict and climate change. May God give them the strength they need to support and guide their families through difficult times.
- 2) We pray for women and mothers who are survivors of gender-based violence, and who live each day in danger because of their gender. May we work together to create a world in which girls and women can live and flourish safely.



Music

'Out of Darkness' by Christopher Walker

'Lord of Sorrow, Lord of Shame' by Liam Lawton

'Our Eyes are Fixed on the Lord' by Ephrem Feeley



This Week

As a family have a look at our study guide.



GOSPEL REFLECTIONS BY FR PAUL THORNTON

John 3:14-21

Our celebration of the Eucharist today begins with the word 'rejoice'. As we go through the season of Lent, we are given this day to focus on the transformation that is going on within us. Lent is a time of letting things go because we want to embrace the new life that Christ gives us.

In the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, Jesus says that change will come about through his death and resurrection, and he will save the whole of world. 'Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life' (John 3:16). The change that comes about in a person comes from deep within. It is not enough to know, talk about or explain the actions of Jesus; we must believe this in our hearts and from that knowledge comes the desire to change and to embrace the love of God. The same is true of the willingness of nations and individuals to embrace the conversion that is needed to heal our common home. This ecological conversion is 'grounded in the convictions of our faith, since the teachings of the Gospel have direct

consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living' (*Laudato Si'*, 216).

This Mother's Day let us think of Malita, who is the mother on our Trócaire box this year. Malita is so proud of what her children are doing in school and looks forward to a better future for them. In responding to the needs of Malita and the people of her community, it is not enough to simply install infrastructure; this has to go hand in hand with education that empowers local communities. Malita's village is at the start of a programme that begins with listening to people and supporting them to address issues around health, farming practices, financial management and gender-based violence.

We think of all mothers who worry for their children, who at times cry themselves to sleep as they face situations over which they are powerless; let us pray for them, let us support them, let us never forget them, let us celebrate their strength and determination. Read more about Malita's story and find homily notes at: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/>

Take Action Day of Celebration – World Water Day

World Water Day occurs every year on 22 March. In 2024 this falls on a Friday just before the Easter break. Use this day to celebrate all things water in your parish. The following are just some suggestions for integrating water issues into your parish for the day. We would encourage you to join with your local school, youth club and community groups for these activities.

- A Pledge Waterfall: Create a waterfall of pledges in a public area. Each water droplet coming down the waterfall can be an individual pledge.
- Organise a river or beach ritual using this Trócaire resource: <https://www.trocaire.org/documents/trocaire-river-ritual-season-of-creation/>

- Do a water liturgy review. How many times during our Catholic celebrations do we use water? One example is during baptism; can you find more, especially as we enter Holy Week?
- Join the Trócaire volunteer programme: <https://www.trocaire.org/join-us/volunteer/>
- Fundraise for Trócaire: <https://www.trocaire.org/ways-to-help/fundraise/community-fundraising/>



Patrick uses the water pump at Puteya Primary School.
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