



# NEWSFORUM

## PARISH OF THE BLESSED TRINITY

February 2018

### Light struggling with darkness The Journey of Lent The Experience of the Desert



**T**he beginning of February in the season of the Church is the end of the Christmas period. The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, with the symbolism of light, both scripturally in the words of Simeon and physically in candles, brings us forward in faith to live our lives day by day.

Despite the light, in truth most of us have to accept that we need to live by faith – which is often weak and clouded. We need courage to be, the humility to accept that God loves us even when we fail to love him or each other, the trust to put ourselves unreservedly into his care.

Part of us is likely to know that this has to do with love. With the tip of a finger, as it were, we can sense this love. Then, at another time, it can be deeply overwhelming in its fullness and strength.

The reason is that God is love and it is for him to be present to us as he sees best-suited to the condition of each of us at any given time. Love can be expressed by presence or by apparent absence, by joyous and sweet communication as well as by the giving demand of sheer continuing-to-be-and-to-trust.

However, if we even remotely love, the Church finds a way for us to express this love by giving us the forty days of Lent. As this commemorates for us the time Jesus spent in prayer and fasting in the desert, we can be led that way also. And the essence of what we are at is a combination of listening to him and making ourselves ready to listen by stripping ourselves of all the encumbrances of living which block out the sound of his voice.

Lent is a time for prayer, and penance. The two can be the same for many of us. Let us, then, begin and go forward into Lent with a determination to be open and available for him, through time set aside, through listening to his word in scripture by reading and by sharing in the liturgy. Finally, we can take seriously his advice that some devils can only be thrown out by prayer and fasting.

Whatever else happens at the beginning of this special time, let us get stuck into Lent, let us *really* get stuck in. Each of us is therefore urged to take this admonition seriously, to plan something for the Lenten season and to carry it out and through all that we say and do and are. Nothing is more public than crucifixion, the witness of Christ to God's love. We, too, are witnessing!



*Fr. Thomas Murray*

### PARISH PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ  
You call our parish to continue  
Your saving work of drawing all  
people to Yourself.  
Open our hearts to the promptings  
of the Holy Spirit so that,  
strengthened in faith, growing in  
hope, and living in charity, we may  
be missionary disciples making  
Your name known and loved.  
Give us the grace to work together  
to be a parish that reaches out and  
gathers in, sowing the seeds of  
Faith and Mercy, making disciples  
of others and reaping the harvest of  
joy with You who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy  
Spirit, one God for ever and ever.  
AMEN.

Our Lady Immaculate and  
Queen of Peace, pray for us.

### PARISH INFORMATION

Parish of the Blessed Trinity  
Zaaiersweg 180, 1097 ST Amsterdam.  
Tel (020) 465-2711  
email: [info@blessedtrinity.nl](mailto:info@blessedtrinity.nl)  
[www.blessedtrinity.nl](http://www.blessedtrinity.nl)

#### Masses In English

Sunday at 10:30am & 12.00 noon;  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 12:30 pm  
Both Sunday masses offer a special liturgy  
for children 4-8 years.

#### Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at  
11.30 am & Saturday at 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday from 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm or  
call to make an appointment.

Religious Ed. Classes for children 8-15 years are  
held on Sunday from 11:45 am -12:30 pm

#### Sacramental Ed. Classes for

✠ 1st Holy Communion (8 years +)

Classes are held on  
Saturdays 11.15 am - 12.30 pm.

✠ Confirmation Classes are held on  
Sundays 11.45am - 1.00 pm.

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Murray  
Emergency 06-54320840

*The Parish of the Blessed Trinity is  
primarily funded through  
Contributions and Donations. Please  
give generously.  
Direct contributions can be made to  
Rabobank*

**"The true aim of our Christian life is to acquire the Holy Spirit of God."  
This Holy Spirit communicates Grace to us, just as at the First Pentecost  
Grace was bestowed on the Apostles, to live as God has invited us to live  
in wholeness and in fulfilment, fully human, in the image of God.**

## United in prayer for peace; a whole year praying the rosary for peace together with the Bishops

The Bishops of the Netherlands issued a letter of Invitation on 14th November 2017 to all the faithful to join them on a special day each month in 2018 in praying the Rosary for World Peace.

Every month there will be a special prayer meeting in one of the dioceses and the bishops invite all the faithful to join in this prayer meeting.

On October 13, 2017 the year of the centennial jubilee of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima ended. The call of Our Lady to pray the rosary for peace, however, did not end. This call is still very urgent in our present world.

The bishops wrote in their letter: *"We want to pray that God will give peace to the world and that He will as St. Francis said in his prayer make us instruments of His peace. It would be great when all the faithful come together for this purpose, knowing that you are praying in unity with many others."*

The days on which all the faithful in the Netherlands will be united in praying the Rosary for peace in 2018 are:

January 1st – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and the World Day of Prayer for Peace

February 2nd – the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

March 19th – Solemnity of St. Joseph, Bridegroom of Blessed Virgin Mary

April 9th – Solemnity of the Annunciation

May 31st – Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Visitation to Elizabeth

June 9th – Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

July 7th – Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sweet Mother of Den Bosch

August 15th – Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

September 8th – Feast of Mary's Birthday

October 7th – Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary

November 1st – Solemnity of All Saints

December 8th – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Fr. Peter Klos*



### *What Should I Do For Lent? Pope Francis' 10 Tips*

Every year Catholics try to answer the age old question: What should I do for Lent? Well, who better to pick for as your Lenten spiritual director than Pope Francis? He has some great ideas for you!

Here we selected 10 of his best tips:

1. Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil

"[Lent] is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us." – General Audience, March 5, 2014

2. Do something that hurts

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." – Lenten Message, 2014

3. Don't remain indifferent

"Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation." –Lenten Message, 2015

4. Pray: Make our hearts like yours!

"During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference." – Lenten Message, 2015

5. Take part in the sacraments

"Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ." – Lenten Message, 2015

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## What's happening ...

**Holy Hour**  
Come spend time in  
the presence of Jesus.



"Could you not keep  
watch with me one  
hour?" – Jesus (Mat.26:40)

**Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**  
every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 11.30 a.m.  
Also on Saturday at 3.00 p.m.

**Rosary** Every 3rd Sunday of the month the Rosary  
will be prayed between the two Masses for 'World  
Peace'.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** Every 2nd Sunday of the  
month, after the 12 noon Mass, the Chaplet will be  
prayed.

**ASH**  
WEDNESDAY

**14th February**

Holy Mass at 12.30 p.m. & 7.00 p.m.  
Including Blessing & Distribution of

  
*Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.*

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### 6. Prayer

"In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering." – Homily, March 5, 2014

### 7. Fasting

"We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him." – Homily, March 5, 2014

"Fasting makes sense if it questions our security..." - Pope Francis

### 8. Almsgiving

"Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others." – Homily, March 5, 2014

### 9. Help the Poor

"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing." – Lenten Message, 2014

### 10. Evangelize

"The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness." – Lenten Message, 2014

You probably won't be able to take huge steps forward in all of these areas. Instead, pick a couple that stand out to you and try to find practical ways to grow in your love of God and your love of your neighbour. Which one of Pope Francis' tips sticks out to you the most?

**Stations of the Cross**  
Every Friday during Lent  
at 7.00 p.m. followed by  
Holy Mass.

Part of the rich Lenten  
tradition of our Catholic  
faith is praying the  
Stations of the Cross as we  
remember the journey  
Jesus took to the cross. It's  
a wonderful way for all of us to recalibrate our  
lives and focus the season of Lent in prayer  
together.



Father, help me to see this  
holy season of Lent as a time  
of spiritual renewal, rather  
than a time of deprivation.  
Motivate me to reach a new  
level of experiencing  
your grace.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?  
DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO  
IS SERIOUSLY ILL?  
PLEASE LET US KNOW.  
THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FIND YOU  
IS IF YOU TELL US. LET US KNOW  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A VISIT.  
Tel: 020-465 2711 or  
email [info@blessedtrinity.nl](mailto:info@blessedtrinity.nl)**



Our Lady Health of the Sick, we trust to your gentle care and intercessions those who are sick, the elderly, their caregivers, the lonely and those who are hurting. Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God. We lift up Anna Carolina, Toos Welling, Ben Tjeung, Baby Chris, Baris & Jennifer Klop, Kazuo Fudeuchi, Thomas Gerard, Cecile Gozo, Edith Bajnath, Toni Nierop, Begum Baker, Nathalie Trindade, Victor Nalpon, Alice Enriquez, and Abigail Sharpe. Our Lady, Health of the sick; Pray for them.

**Christian Aid** For advice on social matters, please contact one of the Christian Aid members directly on Sundays. Doreen King, Marilyn Blancaflor, Natie Otico, and Dominic Okyere.



<b>December 2017</b>	
<b>Weekly Collections</b>	€ 8,659.70
<b>January 2018</b>	
<b>Weekly Collections</b>	€ 5,788.09
<b>Charity Collection Homeless</b>	€ 1,424.33

*from Fr. Murray*

I feel that I ought to reiterate my thanks to all those who contributed and participated in the Christmas and New Year celebrations. We are so blessed to have the many who responded to the call for help to clean, decorate, replacing of light bulbs in the high ceiling of the church, taking down the decorations and other many works in and around the church. Also thank you to the teachers, parents and children who participated in the Advent Children's Retreat, and the choirs. Thank you also to all who organised and participated in the Potluck Lunch and those who provided food. It was a joyful experience to see the many, many volunteers putting their hearts and souls in their service to the Lord. Many wearing a smile and singing along as they did the work. In addition, thank you to all who donated to the Annual Christmas Gifts for the Homeless. The Missionaries of Charity were pleased and expressed their heartfelt thanks. Last but not least a big thank you to those who donated flowers for the Nativity Crib. Everything seemed to go very well and I must also thank all those who sent me cards and gifts. Above all, thank God and praise the Lord for His abundant blessings on all of us. Glory to God!



Some Gospel quotes should seem familiar to people. Lines like "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" and "be perfect just as the Father in Heaven is perfect" are often quoted and unfortunately, just as often taken out of context. Jesus quotes a line from the Old Testament, about 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'. What Jesus is saying is that we are called to a higher standard than those who oppose, attack, criticize or condemn us. In other words, we have to turn the other cheek and love, even when love is the last thing we feel like doing. The verse 'Be perfect as your father in heaven is perfect' represents the capstone of Jesus' teaching... We are to care for others the way God cares for us (both the good and the evil, the righteous and the unjust) all the time... Even to the point of loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us. This is a tall order but at least one can try. For, as Christians, we are Christ for others. We teach others the way to live by our word and action; in doing so we reveal God. In other words, being "perfect" really means showing others how God is faithful and how he has a loving concern for the world.



#### St. Francis of Assisi 1181-1226

Stigmata is a term used by our faith to describe body marks, sores, or sensations of pain in locations corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ, such as the hands, wrists, feet and side. St. Francis of Assisi is the first recorded person to receive the stigmata in Christian history. In 1224, two years before his death, he embarked on a journey to Mount LaVerna for a forty-day fast. One morning, a six-winged angel appeared to Francis while he prayed. As the angel approached, Francis could see that the angel was crucified. He was humbled by the sight, and his heart was filled with elation joined by pain and suffering. When the angel departed, Francis was left with wounds in his hands, feet, and side as if caused by the same lance that pierced Christ's side. The image of nails immediately appeared in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side often seeped blood. When Francis, saw these things he was filled with wonder, but he did not know what the vision meant. He rejoiced greatly in the gracious expression with which he saw himself regarded by the angel, whose beauty was indescribable; yet he was alarmed by the fact that the angel was affixed to the cross and was suffering terribly. Francis, one might say, became sad and happy, with joy and grief alternating in him. He wondered what this vision could mean, and his soul was uneasy as he searched for understanding.

His wrists and feet seemed to be pierced by nails, with the heads of the nails appearing on his wrists and on the upper sides of his feet, the points appearing on the other side. In the same way, the marks of nails were impressed on his feet. Moreover, his right side had a large wound as if it had been pierced with a spear, and it often bled so that his tunic and trousers were soaked with his blood.

Thomas of Celano, St. Francis' first biographer, reported these events in his 1230 First Life of St. Francis. Do you want to learn more about Franciscans? Contact [johnk687@yahoo.com](mailto:johnk687@yahoo.com)

*The NewsForum is a publication of the Parish of the Blessed Trinity. All contributions are welcome. Submissions will be edited for brevity and clarity, punctuation and spelling. The deadline for submitting items for the March 2018 issue is 19th February. Please send your articles to [info@blessedtrinity.nl](mailto:info@blessedtrinity.nl).*