



# NEWSFORUM

## PARISH OF THE BLESSED TRINITY

September 2018



### Our Lady of Sorrows - A Reflection on the Sufferings of Mary

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS falls on 15th September (Saturday) and commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels or through Tradition. This feast day was born of the Servite Order, and in the seventeenth and eighteenth century it spread throughout the Catholic Church.

I would like to share an excerpt from "Our Lady of Sorrows" by Fr. Paul Haffner (Inside the Vatican, Sep. 2004):

"This feast is dedicated to the spiritual martyrdom of Mary, Mother of God, and her compassion with the sufferings of her Divine Son, Jesus. In her sufferings as co-redeemer, she reminds us of the tremendous evil of sin and shows us the way of true repentance. May the numerous tears of the Mother of God be conducive to our salvation: with which tears Thou, O God, art able to wash away the sins of the whole world."

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, there were two Feasts devoted to the sorrows of Mary. The first Feast was instituted in Cologne in 1413 as an expiation for the sins of the iconoclast Hussites. The second is attributed to the Servite order whose principal devotion are the Seven Sorrows. It was instituted in 1668, though the devotion had been in existence since 1239 - five years after the founding of the order.

Our Lady of Sorrows feast day calls to mind these seven sorrows and we ought to reflect on them. They are:

- The Prophecy of Simon (Luke 2:25-35)
- The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
- Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (Luke 2:41-50)
- Mary Meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (Luke 23:27-31, John: 19:17)
- Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (John 19:25-30)
- The Body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (Psalm 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37)
- The Burial of Jesus (Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47)

On this feast day I urge you to do something special, something out of your way, to honour and reflect on Our Lady of Sorrows.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



*Fr. Thomas Murray*

### Prayer to Shine the Light of Jesus by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Dear Jesus, help me to spread  
Thy fragrance everywhere I go.  
Flood my soul with Thy spirit  
and love. Penetrate and possess  
my whole being so utterly that  
all my life may only be a radiance  
of Thine. Shine through me and  
be so in me that every soul I come  
in contact with may feel Thy  
presence in my soul. Let them  
look up and see no longer me  
but only Jesus. Stay with me and  
then I shall begin to shine  
as you shine, so to shine as to be a  
light to others. Amen.

### 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 and Thursday at  
12:30 pm  
Both Sunday masses offer a special liturgy  
for children 4-8 years.

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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 11:30 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 11.30 am - 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  
IBAN NL97RABO 0359675182*



### Praying Before Mass

It is good to greet fellow parishioners as we gather for mass, but it is also important that we have time to pray and recollect ourselves before mass begins.

And our silence will allow others to make prayers that may be very important to them.

Friday evening I visited the Blessed Trinity parish in Amsterdam to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to the candidates there, coming from different backgrounds and places, but members of the English speaking parish of the Blessed Trinity. This year already we count twenty years since Fr. T. Murray was appointed the parish priest of the highly frequented English speaking parish, located in the church at Zaaiersweg 180 in Amsterdam. He is inspiring not only because of his jokes, but above all because of his living faith and closeness to people.

The candidates were well prepared, I am grateful for that to the teachers who spend many hours since October last year to teach them catechesis. The celebration was well prepared too, with a beautiful liturgical booklet and a nice choir singing. After the Holy Mass there was a reception with food and soft drinks and a nice atmosphere. I was invited to cut a big confirmation-cake specially prepared for this occasion.

May the Lord bless these candidates and their families and may the Holy Spirit guide them and bestow upon them His love, wisdom, discernment, courage, faith and reverence for the Lord!

Monsignor Jan Hendriks



#### Confirmation

An extremely enlightening process in which probably even the strongest of believers will learn at least a thing or two. God gave us the privilege of choosing and we can make it count by choosing Confirmation.

Manuel Kuriappan



#### How I Felt?

When the Holy Spirit came down on me during the confirmation I was renewed. I felt like never before. Full of energy and unending joy. Words of prayer and thanks-giving didn't seem like enough. And when I opened my eyes and turned around, I saw the entire congregation with smiles on their faces and I felt like they were saying something to me. It was like they were telling me we are all in this together. That moment, I connected with the family. The family of God: God Himself, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit and God's own people. I don't know any other way to express how I felt and still feel but I am glad that I do feel it.

Mary Dufie

The journey of receiving confirmation was amazing and interesting. I learnt a lot during lessons. I learnt more about God and Holy Spirit. More than ever I feel closer to God. Being able to receive the Holy Spirit and the seven gifts is an honor. And it was fun to experience this with the other candidates and teachers who made it comfortable and easy to understand the Word of God.

Catherine Filson

My Confirmation experience: The feeling I had when the bishop anointed me with the chrism oil was incredible. It felt like my relationship with the holy spirit went from a string to a very big and strong beam. I felt so much more mature from that day on. It was truly incredible and phenomenal!"

Kevin George

#### Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist

On the 9th of June, 5 children from our parish: Caitlin, Daisy, Geniva, Emake and Kinsey received Jesus for the very first time. It was a wonderful and joyous celebration and the children have been preparing diligently for this sacred encounter with our Lord Jesus by attending classes on Saturdays from October 2017 to May 2018. They have worked hard to learn their prayers and do their homework.

The beautiful celebration was led by Father Murray and the voices of the Ghanaian choir brought a joyful and an amazing energy to the celebration. Family and friends came from near and far to join in the celebration on that memorable Saturday afternoon and to support the children.

Thank you to Father Murray and the teachers of the First Holy Communion class for preparing the children for the Sacrament.

Congratulations to our children once again for reaching this milestone.

May this be the beginning for the children to develop a lifelong friendship with Jesus because in walking with Jesus we do well and life becomes good.

Caroline Thangavelu





**REGISTER  
NOW**



**Register your child/youth for  
the various Religious &  
Sacramental Education  
Programmes.**

- ✦ \*Liturgy of the Word (LOW) 4 - 8 years old
- ✦ First Holy Communion 8+ years old
- ✦ \*Formation after Holy Communion
- ✦ \*Intermediate after Formation
- ✦ \*Pre-Confirmation after Intermediate
- ✦ Sacrament of Confirmation after Pre-Confirmation (at least 13 years old)
- ✦ Youth Group (Seeds of Hope) after Confirmation

**Parents' / Teachers' Meeting  
on Sunday, 2nd February  
at 11.45 a.m.  
Lower Level of Parish Hall**

**\*General Rel. Ed. first day of class is  
on Sunday, 9th September  
11.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.  
in the Parish Centre.**

### *Pope Francis: A Man of His Word*

Monsignor Dario Viganò, the head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, invited filmmaker Wim Wenders to make a film on Pope Francis. Wenders was raised a Catholic in postwar Dusseldorf. After many years away from Catholicism, Wenders became a churchgoer again, this time as a Protestant; the work of the Catholic Richard Rohr, a Franciscan spiritual writer based in New Mexico, has had a powerful effect on him. Wenders was given uncommon access to Pope Francis, and to the Vatican's footage of Francis's pontificate. Wenders was assured substantial independence, with the Vatican exercising no formal approval over the final cut or over his approach in general.

The film title, "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word," suggests the nature of the work. In his five years as Pope, Jorge Bergoglio has made certain ideas the basis for his work. The best known is mercy. In a September, 2013, interview with Jesuit priest Fr Antonio Spadaro, Pope Francis said, the Church should be like "a field hospital after battle," a place to care for others without making distinctions based on faith or lack of faith. "It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol, or about the level of his blood sugars. You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else." At the same moment, he set out another crucial idea. The Church, he said, "needs to warm the hearts of the faithful . . . it needs nearness, proximity." The Church, especially the clergy, should be among the people—most importantly the poor—seeing their lives and challenges near at hand. Friends and family should be in proximity to each other, through time spent together: meals, conversations, affection, tenderness. All this is framed by the conviction that the central Christian mystery—God becoming man, the father sending his son—is about the divine effort to draw nearer to humanity, and vice versa.

Fr Anthony Egan SJ concludes his examination of the first five years of Pope Francis' pontificate by saying, "One disturbing feature of the first five years of Francis' pontificate is Catholic attitudes towards him. While among non-Catholics, non-Christians and even non-believers, Francis is generally liked, even loved, Catholics are divided about him. Most lay Catholics like him as a person. But opinions divide as one moves to both left and right of the majority in the centre."

Fr Egan goes further to say, Catholics leaning towards varying degrees of conservatism, would be more hostile to Francis because they claim he's undermined doctrinal truth and perhaps the 'dignity' of the office. They object to his 'tampering' with Church laws on divorce and remarriage, feel he's introduced moral relativism into the Church by his apparent emphasis on conscience and mercy over law. His criticism of clericalism (clericalism - a policy of maintaining or increasing the power of a religious hierarchy) has, they say, also attacked the integrity and dignity of the priesthood. Some go to the extreme edge to label Francis' social action and teaching as 'communist' or at very least proof that liberation theology has overthrown Catholic orthodoxy. Moving to clergy and bishops we see a similar split in attitudes to Francis. Once again, from reading and conversations, I sense that there is both a theological and generational split. At the risk of oversimplifying, I think that clergy who either remember Vatican II with affection, or who have done extensive studies particularly in church history, are unworried by Francis. Those formed in a more conservative theological environment, who remember the turbulent post-Vatican II period with unease, or who enthusiastically embraced John Paul II's pontificate, tend to be hostile. Another factor is one's theology of priesthood. Those who see priesthood as ministry *with* God's people – preaching, teaching, ministering the sacraments, together with some degree of social engagement – are I suspect sympathetic to Francis. Those who see priesthood as *primarily* being 'a breed apart', 'chosen' find him terrifying. When Francis lambasted priests for clericalism early in his pontificate – perhaps quite harshly, perhaps over-stressing the worst excesses of clericalism, though by no means inaccurately – it put them into a panic, confirming for some that he was 'undermining' the Church they 'knew' to be true.

Whatever their extent, the fact that a significant number of clergy and bishops are to varying degrees uneasy with or opposed to Francis is a problem. While balanced, reasoned, respectful and sincere dialogue is something Francis clearly accepts. Outrightly aggressive opposition, passive obstruction or a decision to sit out the pontificate is unhelpful.

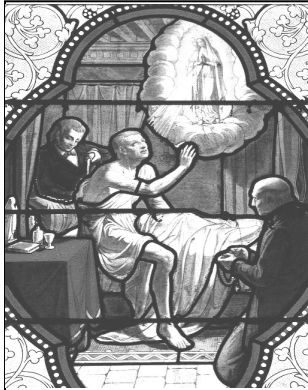
*A lot of the material used in this article is borrowed from what Fr Anthony Egan SJ has written, as also Fr Antonio Spadaro SJ.*

Gerard Lobo

**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)**

#### Christian Aid

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



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 James & Esther Elias, T. Joseph Gerard Murray, Tony Kofi, Kazuo Fudeuchi, Elizabeth Ehigiene, Cecile Gozo, Toni Nierop, Baris & Jennifer Klop, Victor Nalpon, Alice Enriquez and Abigail Sharpe. Our Lady, Health of the sick; Pray for us.

#### Weekly Collections 2018

May	5,844.20
June	5,401.60
July	6,723.42

#### Charity Collection

Tiltensburg Seminary  
1,168.33



## JOURNEY IN FAITH FOR ADULTS

*An Invitation to a Faith Life that is filled with many invitations!  
Some invitations can lead us to totally unexpected experiences.  
We extend to you an invitation that can lead you to a life of love, faith and hope as you learn to walk with the Lord.*

- \* If you have never been baptised and find yourself attracted to the Catholic faith, we extend to you an invitation to explore the possibilities of becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church.
- \* If you have been baptised in another Christian faith tradition, we offer the invitation to join in full communion with the Catholic Church.
- \* Perhaps you have already been baptised in the Catholic faith but have never received the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. Your invitation is to complete your sacraments of initiation.

All of these invitations lead you to a new way of life, a way that draws one closer to God and to His people.  
If you feel this invitation may be intended for you (or you know of someone you could pass it along to), take note;

A new course will begin in October.  
Classes are held on Saturdays 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm at the Parish Centre.

This course will lead to the  
Rite of Full Initiation into the Catholic Church on  
Easter Vigil 2019.

Register your interest during the month of September.  
For more information speak to Fr. Murray



**Peace does not divide but restores.**

#### Francis of Assisi 1181-1226

In 1225, Francis' eye problems turn worse and he stays for a while with Claire and the Sisters. At the insistence of one of the Brothers, he undergoes medical treatment with no improvement. Almost blind he writes the "Canticle of the Creatures". Enjoy!

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, all praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing.

To you, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name. All praise be yours, my Lord, through all you have made, and first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and through whom you give us light. How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor; Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness. All Praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them, bright, and precious, and fair. All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers wind and air, and fair and stormy, all the weather's moods, by which you cherish all that you have made. All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure. All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten up the night. How beautiful is he, how cheerful! Full of power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs. All praise be yours, my Lord, through those who grant pardon for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy are those who endure in peace, By You, Most High, they will be crowned. All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death, From whose embrace no mortal can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those she finds doing your will! The second death can do them no harm. Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks And serve him with great humility.

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 October 2018 issue is 18th September. Please send your articles to [info@blessedtrinity.nl](mailto:info@blessedtrinity.nl).*