

# Lent

## A Time to Renew

MARCH 2019

DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE

# NEWSLETTER

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## THE PASSION AND EASTER NARRATIVES

Two evenings of reflection on the Passion and Easter Narratives will be held in St. Oliver's Parish Centre, Clonmel on Tuesday 26th March and Tuesday 2nd April at 7.30pm. These evenings will be facilitated by Dr. Michael Mullins, Parish Priest of Ballybricken in Waterford. Fr. Mullins has written commentaries on the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and also on the Acts of the Apostles. Do join in this special event for Lent in the Clonmel Area.

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore will travel to Lourdes for the 61st time this year - 5th to 10th June. Booking at the pilgrimage office will open on Monday 14th January - every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 2.00pm. Telephone 051-878900. Book early to avoid disappointment.

# PRAYER INTENTION OF THE POPE

March 2019

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

God of Kindness, your son Jesus suffered misunderstandings and violence to show the world the truth of the Gospel, a truth that irritates the powerful of this world. Many Christians and communities of disciples remain as a sign of contradiction and are therefore persecuted. Give us the grace to unite ourselves to our brothers and sisters who are persecuted around the world. May our prayer be a consolation in their difficulties. Give us the grace to announce without fear Jesus' way of living and loving.

I ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## INTERCOM MAGAZINE

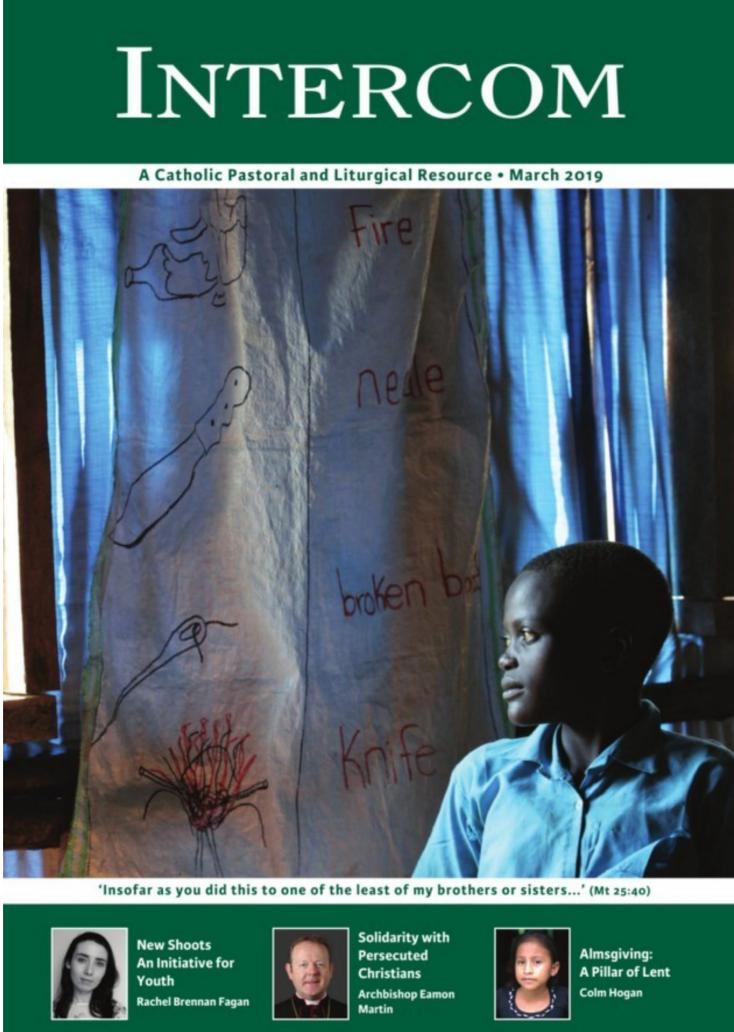
Intercom is a pastoral and liturgical resource magazine published by Veritas Group, an agency of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. The editor of Intercom is Father Chris Hayden and the editorial team is based in the Catholic Communications Office in Maynooth, Co Kildare.

Intercom is published ten times per year, and this includes a double issue for both July-August and December-January. This magazine would be a very useful tool for Parish Pastoral Councils, Liturgy Teams etc.

Annual subscription is €70. Please contact the membership secretary, Mr Ross Delmar, at Veritas House, 7/8 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1, by telephone +353 (0)1 878 8177, and by email [ross.delmar@veritas.ie](mailto:ross.delmar@veritas.ie). You may view more details about Intercom on [www.intercommagazine.ie](http://www.intercommagazine.ie)

## THE WORK OF ACCORD

ACCORD is a well known, respected and experienced agency that has in excess of 50 years experience working with couples and individuals supporting them in their Marriages and



**INTERCOM**  
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*'Insofar as you did this to one of the least of my brothers or sisters...'* (Mt 25:40)

**New Shoots**  
An Initiative for Youth  
Rachel Brennan Fagan

**Solidarity with Persecuted Christians**  
Archbishop Eamon Martin

**Almsgiving: A Pillar of Lent**  
Colm Hogan



Relationships. Accord provide couples with a comprehensive pre-marriage course for their marriage within the Catholic Church.

ACCORD offers a professional counselling service throughout the island of Ireland, through its 55 centres, facilitating couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and work to resolve difficulties that arise in their marriages and relationships. ACCORD counsellors are very experienced in working with individuals and couples on a wide range of issues and difficulties that arise in their relationships i.e. communication, intimacy, sexual issues, infidelity, problem behaviours, conflict, domestic abuse, health, family issues, finances, loss.

ACCORD accepts and values clients irrespective of their religious or ethnic background. ACCORD's counselling service is based on clients needs and not on their ability to pay.

Counselling can be arranged by contacting any one of ACCORD's 55 centres throughout Ireland. The centre secretary will take contact details and then arrange an appointment to see a counsellor. Outside of centre hours an answering service will be in operation and the secretary will contact clients on returning to the office. The Accord office is based at St. John's Pastoral Centre, Waterford and may be contacted on 051-878333.

All 55 ACCORD centres offer Marriage and

Relationship counselling. Other services offered by ACCORD in many centres include Domestic Abuse Counselling and a Fertility and Well Being Service.

Accord Counsellors are trained to the highest professional standards. ACCORD's Higher Diploma in Counselling is recognised by the National Association for Pastoral Counselling and Psychotherapy for accreditation purposes.

## **THE WORK OF TROCAIRE ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH CHURCH**

The season of Lent brings with it our Trocaire Boxes and the Trocaire Lenten Campaign. The Lenten Campaign is vital to the work of Trocaire – it is the core funding that allows us to do so much on behalf of the Irish Church in so many countries in the world. Trocaire is our organisation, working on our behalf to work for justice and help those in



need to help themselves. With the falling numbers attending our Churches, it is becoming harder to get out the message of the good work done throughout the year by Trocaire.

The Lenten discipline of sacrifice and almsgiving, combined so effectively in the family Trocaire Box, is not reaching families as before, and therefore, the call to work together for justice, and hold the poor and oppressed in our hearts, is not being heard. What can we do? Well, the first thing is to take the message to our own hearts. Perhaps the Lenten Campaign can be an added burden to

our busy lives, but it is a work that is really worthwhile, that makes a real difference, and while other N.G.O.'s also do great work, Trocaire works for Justice because of our faith, and on behalf of the Irish Church. We should be proud of Trocaire, and the difference made in the world in our name.

Give as generously as you can this year.

Trocaire – Where love conquers fear.

For more information visit [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

## **PARISH YOUTH INFORMATION MORNING**

SATURDAY 27 APRIL

10am - 1pm

The Diocesan Youth Committee is holding an information morning to showcase some of the youth initiatives that are available to all parishes in the diocese and country. It is also an opportunity for us all to gather together to see what great work is going on in our respective parishes and to share ideas with each other.

It will be an opportunity to meet people involved in groups such as Youth Alpha, Pope John Paul II Awards, Holy Family Mission, Altar Servers, Light Fever, and Summer Faith Camps among others. We hope the day will give us all a way to inspire us to developing a stronger network of youth ministries across our diocese.

Please contact your local priest or parish council for more details and to register your interest in attending.



# CARRYING THE CROSS

• On those days when life seems too demanding with all its cares, burdens and concerns....Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross

• When we feel the pain of our world and unite in compassion with the Earth's suffering people.... Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross

• When we struggle with decision making and the time comes to make good choices about our lives.... Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross

• When we are with others in their physical pain or when we vigil with one who has a terminal illness.... Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross

• When we are asked to go the extra mile, to be generous with our time and our presence.... Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross

• When we are challenged to risk our security and to accept new growth in our relationship with you.... Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross

• When worries and concerns choke our peacefulness and leave us with anxiety and fear....

• Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross

• Crucified Jesus, help us to take up our cross day by day. Through these crosses we can grow closer to you. Help us to lean on you and to learn from you. May we not give in to self-pity or self-doubt.

• Rather, let us trust in your presence which strengthens us. Remind us of your resurrection. Help us to keep our vision focused on life and growth.

Amen

(by Joyce Rupp)