

The week beginning 11th March



And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

During the Lenten season, this is a time for us to reflect on the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made for us by dying on the cross.

We are asked to sacrifice something during Lent as a form of remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice for us. We do this by giving up something that we really enjoy, like chocolate, crisps or video games. We are giving up something that means we have to put hard work in.

So this morning let us reflect:

Whatever I have given up, is it *really* a sacrifice for me?

How am I going to use this time of reflection to grow in my faith?

Let us offer up all our prayers by saying the Our
Father together:

**Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

The week beginning 11th March (Tuesday)



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Lieutenants George Fox, Alexander Goode, John Washington, and Clark Poling were chaplains of varying faiths stationed aboard troop transport ship *The Dorchester*.

When the ship was struck by a submarine's torpedo, the chaplains quickly rallied together and began handing out life jackets, and directing people to safety.

When the life jackets ran out, they selflessly gave away their own. When the ship went down, the four men linked arms and began singing. It's hard to say how many lives the men actually saved, but it is enough to say it got them into heaven - and then some!

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously on December 19, 1944. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961.

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.



Let us use the example of the Four Chaplains' selfless love today in our actions.

Let us pray:

**In a world of self-seeking, of self-sufficiency,
there is often very little space for love;
little time for giving or receiving.**

**In the midst of living within the hustle and bustle of life
there is real loneliness,
unnoticed by all but You.**

**Give us discernment, Father, to see people as You see them;
to be Your love in this world;**

**to be willing to give sacrificially of our time and self,
that others might know the depth of Your love.**

**In our busy lives, Lord help us to be Your love in the world.
All these things we ask through Your glorious name, loving
heavenly Father.**

Amen

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Pope John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. He was ordained in 1946, became the bishop of Ombi in 1958, and became the archbishop of Krakow in 1964.

He was made a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1967, and in 1978 became the first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years. A vocal advocate for human rights, John Paul often spoke out about suffering in the world.

He held strong positions on many topics, including his opposition to capital punishment. A charismatic figure, John Paul used his influence to bring about political change and is credited with the fall of communism in his native Poland.

In his later years, John Paul's health appeared to be failing. At public appearances, he moved slowly and seemed unsteady on his feet. He also visibly trembled at times. One of his doctors also disclosed that John Paul had Parkinson's disease, a brain disorder often characterised by shaking, in 2001.

John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, at the age of 84, at his Vatican City residence. More than 3 million people waited in line to say goodbye to their beloved religious leader at St. Peter's Basilica before his funeral on April 8.



Let us Pray:

O Blessed Trinity, we thank you for having graced the Church with Saint John Paul II and for allowing the tenderness of your fatherly care, the glory of the Cross of Christ, and the splendour of the Spirit of love to shine through him.

He has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life, and is the way of achieving eternal communion with you.

Grant us, by his intercession, and according to your will, the graces we need, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

The week beginning 11th March (Thursday)



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God can restore
what is broken and
change it into
something amazing.
All you need is
faith

Joe1 2:25

Read this piece of scripture and talk to the people around about what it means to you.

Jesus was broken in death, but his resurrection showed us the amazing love he has for each one of us, if only we believe in him.

Let us pray;

**O Gracious Lord,
infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your
Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind, that we may
understand the teachings of Your Word.
For You, O Christ our God, are the enlightenment of our souls
and bodies;
and to You we render glory,
together with Your eternal Father,
and with Your all-holy,
life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.
Amen**



**...because no one
should go hungry**

CAF  D Fast Day



A reading from the prophet, Joel *(2:12-13)*

“Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks – come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning. Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn. Turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent.”

Fasting is one way to let God love others through us. When we give up some food during the CAFOD Hunger Lunch today, we stand in solidarity with people living in poverty. It's like saying, "I want to stand beside you in your hunger". CAFOD turns the money we raise into something amazing that helps communities transform their lives.

This week have been reflecting on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us in his death on the Cross. Lets us reflect on this special day:

How is our sacrifice helping our Global Family in need?

Let us Pray;

Loving God, we pray for ourselves as we begin this season of Lent. Help us to open our hearts to you so that you can show us your love.

Merciful God, we pray for our school community. As we pray, fast, and give to others, help us also to be generous and forgiving towards one another.

Caring God, we pray for people living in extreme poverty. Through our fundraising, help us to support more communities so that they can provide for their families.

Amen.

