



First Sunday of Lent – 09 March 2025

GUATEMALA FAMILY STRUGGLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



Ilma and Julio have a strong family unit. Both parents want their children to continue their education. Ilma and Julio make a living through farming. In the community, everyone has their own plot of land. They grow cardamom and corn and depend on selling cardamom for their livelihood. They also have chickens and turkeys and will pick herbs and berries when they are available. The family used to plant crops twice a year but now

only plant once a year because of the extreme weather conditions. A recent drought has devastated their cardamom crop, and for the first time, Julio has had to find a job selling mangoes in nearby market to support his family. Flooding has also affected their home and livelihood. Bad flooding in 2020 due to hurricanes Eta and Iota destroyed their crops. The family were cut off from the rest of the community and had to take refuge on higher ground to save their lives. Five families lost their harvest, including Ilma and Julio. The community shared their food and supported the families who were affected. Miriam who is Ilma and Julio's daughter (12) recalls the hurricanes, she said: "We didn't have any classes because the teacher was not able to come to the community and we didn't have any food. But we were able to get food from neighbours. We waited a month for the water to go down." After these hurricanes they took part in Trócaire's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Early Warning System (EWS) training and moved to higher, safer ground. Since then, they have been safe from flooding but not from the extreme weather that hurricanes and storms can bring. Ilma told us, when talking about climate change: "We have noticed the weather changing in the last few years. It is now hotter and we have more droughts. Then it starts to rain, and it won't stop raining. A more intense rain, more frequently." She also said: "It affects our crops. When there's drought our crops die. And then when it starts raining it also kills all our crops. So, we don't know what to do anymore." When Ilma was asked if she worried about the weather she said: "Yes, we worry very much. Because when we plant our crops, it's very dry. We depend on the cardamom and maize to send our kids to study as well. Unfortunately, our crops are not growing and my husband has to go and work in another area, in another community, to provide for our family. So that's kind of hard for us. I do worry about that" Their children's education is one of Ilma and Julio's biggest worries. They attend a primary school in the community and their eldest child, 12-year-old Miriam, is due to go to secondary school which is an hour away by bus. It costs just under €5 a week for the bus but as climate change is now affecting Ilma and Julio's livelihood they can not afford the fare for Miriam. Julio told us: "My daughter is finishing (primary) school and I am hoping to be able to provide what she needs in order to continue her education." Ilma added: "I'm afraid that my children will suffer and won't be able to go to school because of the weather." When Miriam was asked if she would like to go to secondary school she said: "I would like to study because in the community there's no place to study for high school." Her favourite subjects are Maths and Spanish. Since moving to higher ground and building a new home, they have been better protected from flooding but the extreme weather has implications for the families' safety and the erratic weather conditions are a constant threat. There was one particularly bad storm this year (May 2024). Ilma told us: "The children were screaming because the steel sheets on the roof flew off. We stayed in the house because of the risk to my children if I took them outside. There was a lot of wind, a lot of trees falling." Miriam (12) said about the same storm in May 2024: "We were inside the house. We didn't go out but we were afraid." The homes in the community are made of wood with corrugated metal sheet roofing so the house offers little protection to severe weather. When Julio was asked what he wishes for his family he told us: "My first wish, and challenge, is for my children to pursue secondary education. My second wish is to construct a stronger house using cement blocks. But unfortunately, because of the situation with the land and the farm I won't be able to do it because of the droughts. With the salary I earn, it's not going to be possible."

Courtesy Trócaire

Remembered this Weekend

Elizabeth McCormack (M. Mind)
Michael Carroll
Simon & Josie Dunne
Pauline Marshall
Michael & Eileen Gayson
Paddy & Mary Hoare
Rita Devlin (3rd A)
Roman Laussermayer (6th A)
Sarah O'Leary (4th A)



St. Vincent de Paul Collection

The monthly collection for the local SVP takes place this weekend. Please be as generous as you can as the money is spent in our own parish.



Culture Date Dublin 8

Help Shape the Future of Culture Date with Dublin 8! Culture Date with Dublin 8 is developing a long-term strategy and would love your input! Whether you've attended their events before or are new to the festival, your feedback is invaluable in shaping an experience that truly reflects and celebrates our community. They've created a short audience survey and would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Take the survey here: <https://tally.so/r/mZZ9QB>



Newmarket

The first phase of work at Newmarket to create a more pedestrian friendly layout has now been completed. New extended pavements have been created, including a 12m wide expanse on the south side that will lend itself to outdoor uses. Traffic has also been restricted to a defined carriageway, calming and controlling vehicles moving through the square. Two new crossing points have been added. There's work still to do.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Penitential Rite

As we enter into the mystery of God's enlightenment and love let us remember God's immense goodness to us.

You lead us to your light and life. Lord have mercy

You open our minds to your truth and our hearts to your love. Christ have mercy

You renew our ability for compassion. Lord have mercy

May our tender and ever merciful God forgive us our sin and draw us gently to life everlasting. Amen.

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement: "My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, the Lord, have given me." 'You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Romans 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word (that is the faith we proclaim) is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Humankind does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Humankind does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and

said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, you bless us with the season of Lent, the time of your love and compassion. We bless your name. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, you come to us as the Living Word to transform our lives. We bless your name. Lord hear us

Holy Spirit, you guide us through life's challenges and difficulties. We bless your name. Lord hear us

We call to mind all those who have died; let their memory strengthen us in the ways of the Lord and bring us together in the Kingdom of God's love. Lord hear us

Let us reject completely, all violence, without equivocation. Let us reject the heartlessness of violence. Help us Lord, to bring your peace to our world. Lord hear us

In quiet we call to mind those who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

Sin isn't drinking too much
Sin isn't eating too much.
Sin isn't smoking too much.

Sin is about getting lost.
Lost in my own importance.
Lost in my own desires.

Sin is losing my compass.
Sin is losing my perspective,
so that nothing, and no one, is more important than me and what I want.

Sin is the ultimate human isolation, where even the most inhumane thinking and actions become possible:
violence, war, genocide, the destruction of our planet.

Above all it is when we stop being human, when feeling and compassion disappear into the darkness.