



33rd Sunday Ordinary Time – World Day of the Poor – 19 November 2023

POPE FRANCIS TO ATTEND COP 28



Pope Francis' trip next month to the United Nations climate summit will be a significant moment, say Catholics and environmental officials. The event, they say, will provide him an opportunity to raise his

powerful moral voice at a pivotal time when planet-heating emissions continue to rise. But they say that what the pope says, or the Vatican does, could determine whether his presence serves as a spark to redouble actions to limit climate impacts, or as a distraction for fraught negotiations that face increasing questions of credibility. In early November, the pope announced his plans to attend COP28, the 28th meeting of the U.N. climate change conference, which will be held Nov 30–Dec 12 this year in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He will be the first pope to ever take part in the international climate summit in its nearly 30-year history. His visit comes a year after the Holy See formally became a party to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The pope's three-day trip will include a Dec. 2 address during the high-level summit at the start of COP28. Francis will also take part in private bilateral meetings and help inaugurate the first-ever Faith Pavilion at a U.N. climate summit. "The pope is hard to ignore, and the fact he'll speak at the start of the summit will hopefully set the tone for the rest of the negotiations," said Lorna Gold, board president of the Laudato Si' Movement, a network of nearly 900 Catholic institutions working on climate action and ecospirituality. Bill McKibben, the longtime environmental writer and founder of grassroots climate groups 350.org and Third Act, in an email to EarthBeat called the pope's presence at COP28 "a powerful sign." "Along with Greta Thunberg and a very few others, he's become the planet's conscience on the climate crisis," McKibben said. "It should inject a note of physical and moral reality into the highly contrived greenwashing that usually dominates these talks." Already, COP28 has faced low expectations and credibility questions. The host country, UAE, has plans to expand production of its deep oil deposits. COP28 president-designate Sultan al-Jaber is head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (though he also helped establish the International Renewable Energy Agency) and has avoided calls for a full phaseout of fossil fuels, whose burning is the primary driver of climate change. While numerous reports have stated that nations can still avert the more devastating climate impacts expected with surpassing 1.5 C of warming, it would take substantial action this decade, including no new fossil fuel development and for global emissions to peak soon. The planet has heated an average 1.1 to 1.2 degrees Celsius since the late 1800s, and is expected to eclipse 1.5 C in the 2030s. The opening segment of COP28, called the world climate action summit, is where Francis will join other heads of state in addressing the conference and its expected 70,000 attendees of negotiators, climate activists, civil society actors and industry lobbyists. Presidents and prime ministers often use this time to call attention to negotiating priorities or announce new actions and investments to curtail greenhouse gas emissions. Many expect the pope to repeat parts of his recent apostolic exhortation, Laudate Deum, which he focused entirely "on the climate crisis." The text expands on calls to action he made in his 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

Courtesy Brian Roewe – National Catholic reporter

Liberties Weavers

Liberties' creative group, The Liberties Weavers, were winners at this year's IPB All Ireland Pride of Place Awards, held in Armagh on Friday 10th November. The group excelled in their category of projects contribution to Creative Places. Founded by a committed group of weaving and history enthusiasts in 2018 with the support of Dublin City Council South Central Area community team, The Liberties Weavers has been going from strength to strength, hosting popular workshops and classes on weaving and promoting the craft and tradition of weaving in the area through talks and walking tours. More info here:

<https://www.thelibertiesweavers.ie>



Christmas Fair

Immerse yourself in a festive atmosphere at Richmond Barracks during our two-day Christmas Fair, taking place on Saturday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 3rd, from 11 am to 5 pm at Richmond Barracks, Inchicore, Dublin 8. Beyond a traditional market, the Richmond Barracks Christmas Fair invites you to engage in various activities for creativity, discovery, and fun.



Jonathan Swift Festival

The Jonathan Swift Festival returns to Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 24th November 2023. The festival promises a captivating celebration of literature, wit, and culture inspired by the renowned Irish author and satirist. Full details:

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie

33RD SUNDAY — WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the Lord, let us remember God's care for all.

You call us to poverty of spirit. Lord have mercy

You set us free to work for the poor. Christ have mercy

You make us rich in your mercy. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A perfect wife—who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, with me bears fruit in plenty Alleluia!

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third is one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will

trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness". Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness". Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, you bless us with hope and joy. Praise be to you. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, you come to us as the Living Word for the poor and the marginalised. Praise be to you. Lord hear us

Holy Spirit, you inspire us to work for justice and peace in the world. Praise be to you. Lord hear us

We call to mind all those who have died, and all who mourn for them. Lord, grant us all a sense of your peace, until we meet again in the kingdom of your love. Lord hear us

Lord, you bless us with many gifts and abilities. Give us the courage to put them at the service of your people. Lord hear us

In quiet, we put aside our own needs and remember all who need our Prayer and Support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

Then said a rich man, "Speak to us of Giving." And he answered: You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow? There are those who give little of the much which they have - and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome. And there are those who have little and give it all. These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty. There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

Kahlil Gibran