

LENT COURSE 2023
THROUGH LENT WITH POPE FRANCIS

Francis the Teacher

8 March 2023

Why is this topic important?

- The teaching ministry of the pope
- How seriously Francis takes this
- It's all integrated – a 'seamless robe'
- Easy access:
 - www.vatican.va
 - YouTube: Sunday Angelus, Wednesday General Audience
 - Independent Catholic News, The Tablet, Catholic Bishops Conference





What we won't cover this evening

- Refugees and migrants (last week)
- Love and marriage (next week)
- Dialogue and synodality (did a bit last year and we're doing it on 29 March)
- International relations (two years ago)
- Teaching during COVID

What we will look at this evening

- Liturgy and Vatican II
- War and Peace (though we did a little on this two years ago)
- Creation and climate change (though we did a bit in 2015/2016)
- Forms of lay ministry
- The place of women
- Mercy and Penitence

LITURGY AND VATICAN II

- Missal of 1970 following Vatican II
- Those attached to the 'old rite'
- 2007: *Summorum Pontificum*
- 2021: *Traditionis Custodes*
- What Francis teaches
 - Unity of the Church and liturgy
 - Vatican II reforms not 'up for grabs'
 - Dangers of unity being undermined
 - Opposition to Vatican II
 - Further clarifications and restrictions
 - Reactions.....





WAR AND PEACE

- Developments in Catholic teaching
- Francis and Benedict's teaching about the deterrent
- What the pope said in 2020 in *Fratelli Tutti*
 - Just war teaching
 - Self-defence?
- The Ukrainian war
- Christian teaching and the diplomatic work of the Holy See
- A real challenge for many Catholics and other Christians in this country
- 60th anniversary of St John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*

CREATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- The abiding importance of *Laudato Si'*
- How it was promoted....
- ...how it was not
- Liturgical initiative
 - Day of Prayer, 1 September
 - *Season of Creation*, 1 Sept – 4 Oct
- Some follow up initiatives
 - *LiveSimply...*
 - Bishops Conference: Pentecost 2021 Pastoral
 - Theologians

LAUDATO SI'

ON THE CARE OF
OUR COMMON HOME



POPE FRANCIS



FORMS OF LAY MINISTRY

- What laypeople have been able to do....
- Informal v official ministries
- The position from 1972 until 2021
- What the pope has done – *all open to women as well as men*
 - Reader
 - Acolyte
 - Catechist
- *Sunday of the Word of God*
- Pastoral importance

THE PLACE OF WOMEN

- Importance of International Women's Day
- Pope's teachings about the gifts of women and abuse against women
- Clericalism and misogyny
- Role of women in safeguarding
- Women in peacebuilding – the work of *Caritas*
- Deacons....
- Practical steps
 - Council of the Economy of the Vatican
 - Vatican congregations





MERCY AND PENITENCE

- 2015-2016 Year of Mercy
- The link between showing mercy to others and seeking forgiveness
- Church as 'field hospital'
- The continuing poison of abuse scandals
- What the pope has said and done....