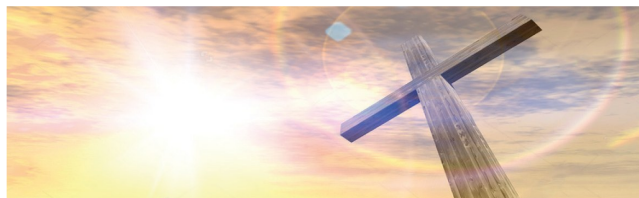


"Hope Does not Disappoint"  
Living Lent 2025 as Pilgrims of Hope

A Lenten Message from Bishop Brendan Leahy



In this Jubilee Year 2025 Pope Francis wants us to focus on the theme: "Pilgrims of Hope". Lent is a good time to ask the Holy Spirit to grant us an increase in the virtue of hope.



**What is Hope?** Hope is not simply optimism. It is a strength that comes from God. It instils a confidence in us that no matter what happens in life, God is looking after us and is working for our good. We can move forward into the future trusting in God's providence. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that hope is "the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life a sour happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (§1817).

#### Hope as a "little sister"....

In the Christian life, we speak a lot about faith and above all love. But we can forget the importance of hope. The French writer, Charles Péguy spoke of faith, hope and love as three sisters saying: "Hope, the little one, walks beside her two older sisters, practically unseen... Yet she, the little one, drags everything along. Because faith only sees what exists. And charity only loves what exists. But hope loves what will be... She is the one who makes the others keep walking. She is the one who leads them on and makes them all walk together". In other words, hope is what keeps faith alive and helps us to persevere in our love of God and neighbour.

#### Split the Pot

Congratulations to **Tiernan Hally** winner last weekends draw.. Envelopes available at the back of the church. All proceeds of the draw go towards maintenance of the Cathedral.

#### Priests of the Parish

Canon Gerard Garrett  
Fr Leo McDonnell  
Canon John Daly  
Fr Peter Claver Emeke Eze  
Fr Daniel Tomasik

#### Mass Times

Mon—Fri 10am, 5.45pm  
Sat 10am & 6pm Vigil  
Sun 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon  
Holy Days  
Vigil Weekdays 5.45pm  
Weekdays 10am, 5.45pm

#### Confessions

Saturday 10.30am

#### Baptisms

Saturday 4.30pm

#### Recently Baptised

Welcome to the Christian Community

**Dermot Lynch**

**Honey Moloney Walters**

**Sonny Fanning**

We wish them and their families every happiness.

#### Recently Deceased

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of :

**Joseph McNamara RIP**

**Anthony Shine RIP**

Who's funeral mass took place in the Cathedral.

#### Eucharistic Adoration

**Fridays 4pm—5.30pm**  
**In the adoration chapel.**

#### Practical actions

St. Augustine wrote that hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that we can do something. We must do our part to reduce suffering in its various personal and social forms.

#### Reaching out to the marginalised

There are many types of situations of people marginalised around us, not least migrants. The Community Sponsorship initiative is about local people coming together and welcoming a refugee family or individual to Ireland. It is a project parishes or pastoral units might consider for their area.

#### Taking care of our planet

Recently, representatives of various parishes in the Diocese attended a gathering entitled, "seeds of hope". It was a day full of energy and ideas, celebrating Pope Francis' encyclical on the care of the planet, *Laudato Si'* and exploring how to return biodiversity to parishes. It outlined many practical initiatives parishes can do in co-operation with others, such as Tidy Town groups in promoting bio-diversity and greater attention to environmental issues.

#### Hope in Eternal Life

Ultimately, focus on hope prompts us to dream! Dreams, yes, of a better world. But our dreaming reaches right into the dream of dreams - eternal life in heaven. Teresa of Lisieux said: "God would never inspire me with dreams which cannot be realised! So, in spite of my littleness, I can hope to be a saint". That hope is true for all of us. The last words spoken by the great Teresa of Avila before she died were: "My Lord, it is time to move on... O my Lord and my Spouse, the hour that I have longed for has come. It is time to meet one another." She approached death with the belief and hope that she would be meeting Jesus who would introduce her to eternal life. Indeed, it is the teaching of the Church that, on death, we encounter Christ. Our great Christian hope is that we, with all our loved ones who have died, will be united in Christ in the eternally dynamic life of the Trinity. May Lent be a time of renewed hope for each one of us.

Brendan Leahy