



The journey to Easter



Easter is late this year – 20 April. We are well into the 40-day preparation period of Lent when we focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent this year feels particularly hard because of the constant battery of news about global conflicts and uncertainty.

I became particularly aware of this during a visit in February to Lesotho to see projects funded by 'Seeds for the Future', a local charity.

Lesotho is a small independent nation surrounded by South Africa and classified by the United Nations as a least developed country.

Wales and Lesotho have been twinned for 40 years. It is a beautiful mountainous country and, as on previous visits, we were welcomed and made to feel at home. But there is acute anxiety around the reduction in aid for food support and health

programmes. Lesotho has the second highest incidence of HIV in the world, Tuberculosis is a significant problem, it only produces around 20% of its food requirements and 50% of the population live below the poverty line.

Across the world there is anxiety. The US alone accounts for around 40% of humanitarian assistance, the closest we have to a global safety net for people coping with climate emergencies and conflict-related displacement, as well as those living in countries like Lesotho who need investment to lift themselves out of poverty. The withdrawal of, or reduction in, aid (as planned by the UK government) has an immediate adverse impact on millions of people.

What does that have to do with Lent? From the beginning Christians have been marked out by hope. Pope Francis has written that hope is both a gift and a duty. It is a gift based on God's steadfast promise of salvation, love and mercy. It looks forward to the realisation of peace and justice in the Kingdom of God at the end of time.

But hope is also a duty – it provides the impetus for action now. Christians are called to share the gift of love we have received. As pilgrims of hope, we are committed to trusting that the world can be made better and that actions towards peace and social justice matter.

In the face of all that is wrong in the world, it is tempting to give up and shut ourselves off from the terrifying and terrible things going on. But that is not an option. We cannot escape – instead we are called to act to bring about change.

Plenty then for us to pray about and to make the focus of our almsgiving as we approach Easter with its message of new life and renewed hope in the risen Jesus.

We wish the readers of *Lisvane Link* a joyful Eastertide of renewed hope.

Elizabeth Taylor,
Christ the King Parish Advisory Council

Church services

Services are streamed live at www.3churches.org

Saturday, 6pm: Vigil Mass of Sunday

9.30am: Sunday Mass – with children's liturgy in term time

9.30am: Tuesday Mass

9.30am: Thursday Mass

Good Friday, 18 April, 3pm:
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Easter Saturday, 19 April, 8.30pm:
Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, 20 April, 9.30am:
Family Mass

Activities (in the parish centre)

- Monday, 9.30 – 11am: Baby and Toddler Group
- Wednesday, 11am – 1.30pm: Welcome Space
- Friday, 6.30pm: Junior Club in term time (School Years 3–6)
- Thursday 10 April, 7pm for 7.30pm start: Community Quiz Night
- Saturday 12 April, 11am – 1pm; 2 – 4pm: Sustainable Clothes and Books Market

For further information, contact Christ the King's parish office (phone 2075 3945, email llanishen@rcadc.org) or Canon Matthew Jones (phone 2075 2389, email matthew.jones@rcadc.org) or visit the website at www.3churches.org

The church and parish centre are located at Newborough Avenue, Llanishen, CF14 5DB.