

Salt and Light - Day For Consecrated Life
St. Anthony's Church, Clontarf - 2 February 2017

Antiphon **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Ecce Dominus noster cum virtute veniet, ut illuminet oculos servorum suorum, alleluia. (*Behold, our Lord will come with power, to enlighten the eyes of his servants, alleluia.*)

Song **Let The Peoples Praise You, O Lord (Columba McCann OSB)**

All sing: Let the peoples praise you, O Lord, let all the peoples praise you.
Let the peoples praise you, O Lord, let all the peoples praise you.

Opening Prayer **Let us pray together,**

All say: God our creator,
Your Son, Jesus, calls us to be the salt of the earth,
and the light of the world.
May your Spirit of wisdom guide us in our reflections
and open our hearts to the invigorating and enlightening grace of
this celebration of consecrated life on the Feast of the Lord's
Presentation.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading **Matthew 5:13**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.'

Instrumental **Súile an Choilm (Ronan McDonagh)**

Reflection **Pope Saint John Paul II (Address to Young People in Ischia – 2002)**

Salt: a very important image. When there was no other way of preserving food, salt did not only serve to give food savour, but was often indispensable to guarantee the possibility of *access to it*. In saying: "you are the salt of the earth", the Redeemer entrusted a twofold mission to his disciples: to give life a *savour* by showing its meaning as revealed through him and *to make accessible to all the food that comes from on high ...* be the salt of the earth that *gives beauty and savour*.

Show with concrete gestures and convincing words that *life and living together* the love that Jesus came to reveal and give us is worthwhile. Be the salt that *enables the food of Heaven to be distributed to all*, so that even the least reflective and those who have wandered far off, through your enthusiasm, passion, humble and persevering dedication, may feel called to believe in God and to love him in their neighbour.

Song **Ubi Caritas (Taizé)**
All sing: Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Prayer **Let us pray together,**
All say: God of marvels and wonder,
We give thanks during Catholic Schools Week for the generations of teachers, especially those in consecrated life, who 'gave life a savour' as they shared the Good News of Jesus Christ. We bless them for their ministry of love that enriched the lives of young people and enabled 'the food of Heaven to be distributed to all'. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song **Marvellous Things (Spiritual)**
All sing: God has done marvellous, God has done marvellous things.
Praise the Lord.

Readings **Leviticus 2:13**
You shall not omit from your grain offerings the salt of the covenant with your God; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

Reading **2 Kings 20**
'Bring me a new bowl,' said Elisha, 'and put some salt in it.' They brought it to him. Then he went to the source of the water, threw salt into it and said, 'God says this, 'I make this water wholesome.'

Reflection **The Covenant of Salt**
During ancient times agreements and promises were sealed by a salt covenant. Each person would take a pinch of salt from their pouch and place it in the pouch of the other. This agreement could not be broken unless an individual could retrieve their own grains of salt. In this spirit of total commitment we acknowledge the grace of the water and salt to be blessed now as we renew in our hearts the vows of our consecration.

Blessing of Salt and Water

Poem **You Are the Salt of the Earth (Fenny West) ©**

You are the salt of the earth
Called to be medicinal
And deter decay;
Called by the Great Physician - the Way,
To heal sin-sick souls.

You are the salt of the earth;
Called to ignite gloom-filled lives,
With long-lasting love from above.

You are the salt of the earth
Placed here to purify and edify
Born to beautify and magnify the Most High;
Placed to preserve and protect that which is good.

You are the salt of the earth;
A seed sown to season tasteless lives;
Bring music to mournful souls;
Bring the brightness of the sun and the Son
To those who moan and groan in the dark.

Song **Send Forth Your Spirit (Liam Lawton)**
All sing: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew, renew the face of the earth.

Presentation of Bread and Salt

‘The sharing of salt is usually an accompaniment of bread-sharing; a covenant of salt between two parties is generally made by their partaking of bread and salt together. The bread is the vehicle of the covenant-making salt. To this day bread and salt are presented to dignitaries who visit the Czech Republic and this evening Sr. Emanuela, who is a native of that country, will make this presentation to Archbishop Martin.

Song **Lux Mundi (Trevor Thomson)**
All sing: Lux mundi tenebras dissipa, et corda nostra illumina,
et corda nostra illumina.

Reading **Matthew 5:14 – 16**

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your father in heaven.

Song **Christ Be Our Light (Bernadette Farrell)**
All sing: Christ be our light. Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light. Shine in your Church gathered today.

Address **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin**

Reflection **Light A Candle**

A candle brings light in the darkness
It cannot light itself,
it must come in touch with a light already in existence.
The wick lies in the centre of the candle, it is it's heart,
It keeps the flame burning steadily.

Lord, each of us is like a candle
With light to give each other
We live in the light which together we yield,
dispelling the darkness around us.

For a candle to light itself
from another, it must come close
It must not remain apart.

We receive the light from others
through our unselfish love for one another,
thus lessening the distance between us.
Like the wick within the candle, Your love Lord,
remains within us always,
waiting to be ignited, waiting to be fanned into a flame.

As we allow Your love for us
and our love for each other
to take possession of our lives,
Ignition takes place,
Your flame of love burns brightly.

Call to Service

By our Baptism we were called to be witnesses to the light of Christ. By our consecration we make a covenant of salt with God as we offer our lives in the service of building up the kingdom of justice, truth and peace here and now.

Song **Ps. 145 - My Soul Give Praise (Ciaran Coll)**

All sing: My soul give praise to the Lord, I will exult you, my Lord and King
My soul give thanks to the Lord, I will sing to the Lord all my life.

Sign of Peace

Prayer for the Deceased Eternal rest grant unto them...

Song **Peace I Leave With You (Cherubini)**

Reflection **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin S.J. ©**

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

Song **Ag Críost An Síol (Seán Ó Riada)**

All sing: Ag Críost an síol, ag Críost an fómhar,
In iothlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn.
Ag Críost an mhuir, ag Críost an t-iasc,
I líonta Dé go gcastar sinn
Ó fhás go haois, is ó aois go bás,
Do dhá láimh, a Chríost, anall tharainn.
Ó bhás go críoch, ní críoch ach athfhás,
I bParthas na nGrást go rabhaimid.

Blessing of St. Columba

Song **We Will Walk With God (Swaziland Traditional)**