Study Group Guide

Stage 3 of the Diocesan Mission

*These discussion points are aimed at stimulating thought and dialogue on the teaching of the Catholic Catechism, for groups and families following the Diocesan Mission. They can be distributed to groups, families or included each week with the Bulletin “Blurbs” provided*.

Ash Wednesday

(CCC 387, 405, 1855, 1863, 1847- 1849)

* What is sin?
* How is sin distinguished (Original, Actual, Mortal or Venial)?
* What are the effects of Sin?
* What is repentance or conversion?
* The Grace of Christ in Reconciliation
* What are the means we have to heal our souls?

First Sunday of Lent

(CCC 377, 410, 540)

* What are the roots of sin?
* What is meant by “triple concupiscence”?
* Is temptation the same as sin?
* How does Jesus teach us to overcome temptation?
* What does Christ’s first invitation in His public life “to repent”, mean for us?

Second Sunday of Lent

(CCC. 377, 410, 540)

* God, Who is entirely beyond our understanding, is made visible in Jesus Christ.
* The Transfiguration helps us understand the glory of Christ, and our future glory if and when we reach heaven.
* Jesus Christ, who is true man and true God shows our human nature in glory.
* The divinity of Christ allows us to see God “face to face”, his humanity allows us to be united to Him.
* The goal of our Christian life is to be with Christ in heaven.

Third Sunday of Lent

(CCC 1214-1216, 1226-1228, 2560)

* Convert and believe in the Gospel, the two go together.
* Conversion is a continuous work of our lifetime to overcome sin.
* How does the woman at the well come to conversion?
* Sins do not define us, even if it at times seem to dominate us. Christ’s call to grace defines us.
* Prayer and dialogue with Christ led the woman to desire to change her life.
* No one knows us and our heart as does the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

(CCC 1216, 2466, 2715)

* An effect of sin is spiritual blindness.
* Sin has a way of “trapping us” in ourselves, incapable of seeing the way forward.
* Sin binds us and takes away our interior freedom.
* The Pharisees preferred to stay with Moses rather than with God, sin often leads us to choose the lesser good.
* Freedom from sin fills us with joy.
* Christ is the light of the world, who takes away all darkness.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

(CCC 549, 646, 989-990,1003,2604)

* Christ shows His power over death – and foretells His own resurrection – with the raising of Lazarus
* If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our faith is in vain.
* Jesus promises the resurrection of our bodies as well.
* The body, temple of the Holy Spirit, is subject to the soul, but is to be respected in life and in death.
* To receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist is to participate spiritually in the resurrecting power of Jesus.
* Jesus calls all of us from the grave of our sinfulness to the fulness of life.

Palm Sunday

(CCC 601-602)

* The Passion of Jesus shows us the extent of God’s Love for us.
* The Passion shows us the evil of sin.
* The Passion of Christ is the price of our redemption.
* The passion of Christ, suffered once, is made present at the sacrifice of every Holy Mass.