

Bishop Burbidge (00:00):

This is Bishop Michael Burbidge, and you are listening to the Walk Humbly podcast.

Billy Atwell (00:07):

Podcasting from the St. Clare Studios here in the Diocese of Arlington, welcome to the Walk Humbly podcast. I'm Billy Atwell, Chief Communications Officer for the Diocese and your co-host. The Diocese, through the Bishop's Lenten Appeal, supports so many ministries for post-abortive women, for those in need of medical care, for youth ministry, for our Vocations Office, so many different offices, but one of them is Communications, and so we want to say thank you to those who have given to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal, certainly in years past, but also for this year. We're just after Easter, and so we just want to thank everyone who's given and who are fulfilling those pledges. We are so grateful for all of your generosity. If you're listening to this podcast on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, wherever, please rate the podcast, write a review wherever you can. And if you're listening on YouTube, subscribe to our YouTube channel.

(00:54):

Ring the notifications bell so you know when we've got new content up there. Sign up for our e-newsletter at arlingtondiocese.org. You can follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter or on Instagram. On Twitter every day, he provides a short Gospel reflection and on Instagram we're providing great content from quotes, different homilies and messages that Bishop Burbidge provides. We're capturing a lot of those moments there. You can follow the Diocese on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Send your questions to info@arlingtondiocese.org or send us a message on social media. Before I bring in Bishop Burbidge, one reminder, we've got our Marian Conference coming up. We are asking for people to register and there are still spots available. It's going to be at St. Bernadette's parish in Springfield. It's going to begin at 9:00 AM with a beautiful Mass and it's on April 29th. The speaker is, Archbishop Broglio. The title of his keynote is "Mary Went In Haste". He's also going to answer questions and answers from the faithful who are there. Just go to jubilee.arlingtondiocese.org to learn more and to register. I welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how are you doing?

Bishop Burbidge (01:57):

I am doing well, Billy. I hope you're doing well and all of our listeners are doing well. Thank you for mentioning that Marian Conference. That's part of our second year preparation for our Golden Jubilee with our focus on Mary and the theme, "rejoice". And we are so blessed that we have Archbishop Broglio, the Archbishop for the Military Services or the Archdiocese of Military Services, and also the recently elected president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Archbishop is a tremendous speaker, very well known in our diocese. He assists me with the Confirmation, so he's very well known and beloved by our priests. And so I hope many of our parishioners can attend.

Billy Atwell (02:34):

And he's known in this diocese also because he assists with Confirmation.

Bishop Burbidge (02:36):

Yes.

Billy Atwell (02:37):

So people have seen him before and you might not even remember the name, but he's very generous to our diocese and we're so grateful that he's doing this conference even after being elected president of the USCCB, which is a major undertaking. So, he's very generous with his time. Last episode, we announced the launch of your Instagram. It's @bishopmichaelburbridge. You're up to almost 600 followers. Yesterday I checked, it was like 581 or 586, something like that.

Bishop Burbidge (03:01):

They're mostly my family, mostly Burbidge.

Billy Atwell (03:04):

It's a lot of Philadelphians but I was just curious, your reaction to the growth of it and it seems to be catching on.

Bishop Burbidge (03:11):

No, it's great. The job of the bishop is to share the good news, to proclaim the Gospel, to get out as much as possible to our parishes and schools but you can't be everywhere.

Billy Atwell (03:22):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge (03:22):

And so you use the tools that are given to us and as they are meant to be used, properly, and we found another platform to do that. So we'll continue to try our best to be where people are.

Billy Atwell (03:37):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge (03:38):

I mean, I'm grateful to you and your team for the support and adding another platform to our means of communications.

Billy Atwell (03:44):

Oh, we're happy to do it. So yeah, just @bishopmichaelburbridge, and if you want to follow on Twitter, it's @bishopburbridge. You ordained two men to the transitional diaconate this past weekend. It was a joyful event for everyone involved certainly. You shared a unique message with the two deacons because we have lots of numbers. This year's unique in that we have two transitional deacons being ordained. You had a message for them and their families during your homily. How are you feeling coming out of that ordination?

Bishop Burbidge (04:08):

Oh, it was a magnificent ordination. It was really two wonderful men. And just for our listeners, maybe as a reminder, when we say transitional deacons, we mean that these are men who are preparing, God willing, transitioning to priesthood. So different than permanent deacons that many are assigned to our

parishes throughout our diocese. And these are two wonderful men. And I was very fascinated, as you heard in the homily, about the number two.

Billy Atwell ([04:33](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([04:34](#)):

Because the Lord, we read in the Gospel, sent his disciples out in pairs and I always thought that is a good reminder that we never go out alone. We never go out in our own name. We go out in the name of Jesus. We accompany one another as we go forth to proclaim his name and the beautiful message, one of my favorite Gospel passages is when he sent them out in pairs, he told them, "Leave behind your money bag and a sack and walking stick and anything that will weigh you down."

([05:04](#)):

Now, he wasn't speaking to them as a travel guide. He was trying to mention the point, "When I send you forth..." And this is a message for all of us, "When I send you forth to live and to proclaim the Gospel, don't be weighed down, not just by material things, but don't be weighed down by doubt or fear or anxiety." Those things weigh you down. They take you away from the mission. Just be assured that the one who chooses you equips you for the mission. So my theme to the transitional deacons was travel lightly. You have all that you need. You have the grace of the sacrament. You have the assurance that the Lord is giving you. Travel lightly, enjoy your ministry, and be confident that God will use you as his instrument and provide the strength that is required.

Billy Atwell ([05:51](#)):

It is hard to trust that he'll give us what we need for the road ahead. It requires abandonment to him, which is so unnatural in some ways.

Bishop Burbidge ([05:58](#)):

Really, I think it requires just being reminded, because when we look back on our lives, we see all those times that God did exactly that, when we thought it was almost impossible to get through this situation or "Wow, how did I get this responsibility? How am I ever going to be doing it?" And when you look back on where God actually did that for you, then I think that's what I try to do sometimes because that increases my... "Well, what was I worried about?" He's come through as he has promised. He's not going to all of a sudden be unfaithful to that promise. So it's a reminder to increase trust, it's just, look back on how God has acted in your life.

Billy Atwell ([06:37](#)):

That is so true.

Bishop Burbidge ([06:38](#)):

Yeah.

Billy Atwell ([06:38](#)):

The ordination Mass is so beautiful. For those who would like to attend the priestly ordination, that's going to be on June 3rd. That's at 11:00 AM, it's at Holy Trinity Church in Gainesville. Remember, we

have some renovations going on at the Cathedral there, but again, it's Saturday, June 3rd at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Church in Gainesville.

Bishop Burbidge ([06:55](#)):

Scheduled to ordain nine new priests. This is very exciting.

Billy Atwell ([06:59](#)):

That is wonderful. Very wonderful. Bishop, last week in your role as the Chair of Pro-Life Activities Committee for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, you shared a statement about the situation involving the abortion drug, mifepristone, and the legal component's kind of complicated, so I'll try to keep it simple, but the FDA wanted to loosen access and safety standards for the drug. A district court reversed that decision and the ruling was partially upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The circuit court overturned the part of the ruling that would've suspended the approval of mifepristone to be on the market while the case continues to proceed through the courts. The Supreme Court is now going to decide if that type of suspension is legal. I was wondering if you had any thoughts or reflections on that. Obviously we issued a statement.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:44](#)):

Oh, sure. Yeah, definitely.

Billy Atwell ([07:46](#)):

It keeps evolving.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:47](#)):

Yeah, no, thanks for raising it.

Billy Atwell ([07:48](#)):

Of course.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:48](#)):

It is evolving. But the Fifth Circuit was right. The Fifth Circuit was right to recognize the dangers of unrestricted chemical abortion to women's health and safety. We're grateful for the restoration of protections and any limitation on use of these lethal drugs. We hope that the final ruling, and we'll pray for this, will result in removal of chemical abortion from the market altogether.

Billy Atwell ([08:14](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([08:14](#)):

I mean, that's our ultimate hope and prayer. As we know, Billy, abortion is never the right choice for difficult or unexpected pregnancy as it always ends one's life and risks another. We pray ardently, fervently that our nation will authentically support and accompany women so that ending the lives of their children alone in their own homes especially will just be unthinkable.

Billy Atwell ([08:39](#)):

And the dangers of this have been highlighted by the Pro-Life Committee at the USCCB.

Bishop Burbidge ([08:43](#)):

Oh, sure.

Billy Atwell ([08:43](#)):

And they've got all kinds of stats on their website about that if you want to check that out. And I think medicine, if you're going to take a medicine that has harmful negative effects to the user, it's because it's going to heal you of some greater thing like chemotherapy. You'll endure the pain of chemotherapy because, "I want to be free of cancer." This is a drug that harms women and kills a baby. There is no good outcome that comes from this.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:05](#)):

Right, absolutely. And it's so important that you highlight that connection. Any statement or trying to articulate our position, it is out of our love for the child, it is out of our love for the woman also.

Billy Atwell ([09:23](#)):

Absolutely. And we offer other routes, certainly do. On the topic of abortion, actually the city of Alexandria made a lot of headlines lately, local, but it also made national news as well. The city's zoning board passed a measure for consideration by the city council that would greatly expand the zoning options for abortion facilities inside the city's boundaries. The proposal allowed for clinics to provide abortion services to be set up in areas, what they call "by right." The Virginia Catholic Conference highlighted that that's important because it means no consideration has to be given to the negative effects of the area. And regardless of Alexandria's needs for primary care physicians and other lifesaving health clinics such as pregnancy centers and what we have with Mother of Mercy Clinic, they're not considering that kind of... The zoning board sent it to the city council. And despite a lot of pushback from our community, they did pass that measure. What concerns do you have about this passage? And do you have any thoughts now that we're a few days out from this vote?

Bishop Burbidge ([10:21](#)):

Sure. I have many concerns. But I want to begin by thanking everyone who responded to the Virginia Catholic Conference Action Alert and all the faithful who emailed the city council and voiced their disapproval. This is what we mean about bringing our faith into the public arena.

Billy Atwell ([10:40](#)):

Absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([10:40](#)):

We were called to do as faithful citizens. I am particularly grateful to those who attended the city council meeting personally, including Father Christensen, the pastor of St. Rita's, who offered a very, very powerful witness to the Church. His remarks were so convincing and compassionate and thank you Father Christensen and all who attended that meeting. The new zoning designation fails to consider neighbors, I believe, in the community.

Billy Atwell ([11:09](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:10](#)):

An abortion facility having a special, as you said, a special right to appear virtually anywhere they want will inevitably create issues when one appears next to a school, for example, or a daycare or a church. The zoning board and the city council, I think, rushed this through. Most people, including those who are truly in the know in these types of matters, were blindsided by this. And to me, anytime the system is manipulated to achieve a specific outcome, it is clear that the wrong thing is being done. Why are you manipulating?

Billy Atwell ([11:48](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:49](#)):

This is supposed to be respectful of the community, of the citizens, really allowing all voices to be heard, being thoughtful and discerning. And this was not the case here. The community had a right to weigh in fully and they were denied the opportunity. And that is just not acceptable.

Billy Atwell ([12:05](#)):

Absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:06](#)):

One factor that many people dismiss or overlook is the impact a highly visible abortion facility has on women who have suffered the pain of abortion and are still traumatized by it. And so seeing an abortion clinic could easily trigger stress and anxiety, and this should be considered regarding the potential locations of abortion facilities. And lastly, why does the city council go to such great lengths to increase access to abortion and grant those facilities special privileges, but they don't take the same effort to increase adoption services or financial and practical support for single mothers and struggling families? Why is abortion their primary focus and not supporting mothers who choose life? That's a question that needs to be answered.

Billy Atwell ([13:01](#)):

I agree.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:02](#)):

And the Church continues, this is really a wonderful opportunity for us to reaffirm that the Church and our diocese continue to walk with moms, especially moms in need through our free medical clinics, which you just mentioned, which offer prenatal care, Catholic Charities ministries that offer food, housing assistance, clothing, diapers, food, and more, plus post-abortion counseling assistance. We offer women life giving choices. And I wish the Alexandria City Council offered women these choices as well. So thanks again for all of our faithful citizens who are making your voices heard. And don't be discouraged. Don't be discouraged. Continue to persevere. God uses our efforts and the seeds we plant according to his planning in his time so we don't tire of doing what is right.

Billy Atwell ([13:56](#)):

Absolutely. Thank you so much. So we're going to end on a high note because we started off the podcast talking about an ordination, which is one of the most beautiful things that can happen in the Church. And then this past weekend you drove straight from that ordination and went to the dedication Mass for Christ, the King Chapel at Christendom College. This project has been underway for quite some time and it was well worth the wait. The chapel is stunning. What was going through your head as you dedicated the chapel and consecrated the altar there?

Bishop Burbidge ([14:22](#)):

Oh, it was indeed such a blessed celebration and such a joyful day. I'm so proud of Christendom College. And as I said in my homily, Christendom College is a treasure within the Diocese of Arlington and a special gift to the entire Church. And that is because of the sound Catholic education rooted in faith and reason that is given to our students preparing our young people for service to the Church and to our country in such marvelous ways, such gifted professors. I mean scholars - this is a college right in our own backyard that people from all over the country seek out. And I am so, so proud of the college. And then to enhance its campus with such a glorious, magnificent, timeless chapel giving glory to God, it is just so beautiful. And to see the enthusiasm of the students and the benefactors and the friends of the college was just incredible. I congratulate Dr. O'Connell and his team for this endeavor. The architect who we know is from our own diocese, he's from the Diocese of Arlington, Jim O'Brien.

Billy Atwell ([15:42](#)):

You've worked with him before.

Bishop Burbidge ([15:43](#)):

Yeah, I worked with him before on the Cathedral in Raleigh and now in the renovation of our cathedral, who just did such great work. And as I've said before, the dedication of a church or chapel is one of the most powerful liturgies in the Church. It really highlights the prayers, the signs, the symbols, the actions, gestures of the liturgy, really highlights everything we believe as Catholics. And so it reminds us who we are. And then many of the gestures move from the altar to, in fact, the church itself, which we are. We are the Church. And so it reminds us that what you have just seen, you've been strengthened to go forth and to proclaim the truth in a world that is so lost and confused.

([16:30](#)):

And to show that the only way our world's going to be transforming, we're going to find that newness of life is in Christ, the truth of his Gospel and his commands and the beautiful teachings of our church. And again, that's what Christendom College is preparing our students to do. So I was just so thrilled. I was so happy for the entire community and I congratulate them. What a beautiful title, Christ the King.

Billy Atwell ([16:56](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:57](#)):

Christ the King, may he reign in our hearts. May he reign in our diocese and throughout the Church. Another great gift that the Christendom College has given us are holy vocations.

Billy Atwell ([17:08](#)):

Yes.

Bishop Burbidge ([17:08](#)):

So many marriages from Christendom College students and they return to the community to celebrate their love. And now I know that I was talking to a bride who is scheduled to be married in Christ the King Chapel, I think not this weekend, next weekend. I was like, "Well, that was an act of faith. You were really pretty convinced we were going to be done in time." So they're off to a great start.

Billy Atwell ([17:34](#)):

She must know Jim O'Brien and be keeping up with the schedule. It's his work.

Bishop Burbidge ([17:40](#)):

Christendom College is also celebrating its 45th year. I mean, imagine a vision of building the college out in that part of our diocese. And here it is, 45 years later, strong and vibrant. And in 45 years, Billy, this is an incredible statistic, in 45 years, they have given the Church in the country, and many of whom are in our own diocese, over 100 priests. So in 45 years-

Billy Atwell ([18:09](#)):

Wow.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:10](#)):

A hundred plus, I think 102 maybe, one of whom will be ordained with us, priests in 45 years.

Billy Atwell ([18:20](#)):

They're doing something right.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:20](#)):

I know, exactly. Exactly. Many of them from various diocese, our own diocese included.

Billy Atwell ([18:26](#)):

That's right.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:27](#)):

Many of the priests concelebrated the Mass on Saturday. It was wonderful to see that.

Billy Atwell ([18:30](#)):

Oh, that is beautiful.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:31](#)):

Yes.

Billy Atwell ([18:31](#)):

Well, congratulations to them on the anniversary and certainly for that accomplishment of vocations.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:34](#)):

For sure.

Billy Atwell ([18:36](#)):

Before we close out here, just want to remind people of a "Jubilee Journey with Mary." We're doing as part of our second preparatory year of our Jubilee celebration, there are 12 churches in the Diocese of Arlington named after Mary or one of her many titles. And so if you would like to do a kind of mini retreat, just go to arlingtondiocese.org/jubileejourney. There's all kinds of information there about those churches and how you can go pray at each one of them and follow that devotion. So again, arlingtondiocese.org/jubileejourney. Bishop, any final thoughts and then if you'd send us off?

Bishop Burbidge ([19:11](#)):

No, thanks, Billy. I'm looking forward to Saturday of this weekend. We have BASH, which is the gathering of young middle school students from throughout our diocese. It's always great to bring them together. And may I say that I would expect to see as always lots of high energy.

Billy Atwell ([19:30](#)):

Yes. Even you might be tired by the time you leave there, and you're pretty extroverted.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:35](#)):

Oh my goodness. But Kevin Bohli, his team, does a great job in really providing them with a wonderful day of activities, but most especially being united in the faith. So it's always great for me to be with our young people. But thanks to all our listeners, continued Easter blessings to all of you. May the Risen Lord's peace be with you in your hearts and in your homes as we continue to walk humbly with our God.

([19:59](#)):

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