

Bishop Burbidge ([00:00](#)):

This is Bishop Michael Burbidge, and you are listening to The Walk Humbly Podcast.

Billy Atwell ([00:07](#)):

Welcome to The Walk Humbly Podcast. I'm Billy Atwell, Chief Communications Officer for the Diocese, and your cohost. I want to take this opportunity, especially as we're within the season of Lent and approaching Easter, to say, "Thank you," to all who have contributed to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal both this year as well as in past years. Many ministries of the Diocese are supported by the BLA, including the communications efforts here, so the studio that we're recording from, the microphone I'm speaking into, have been generously funded by those who've contributed to the BLA, so thank you.

Billy Atwell ([00:37](#)):

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Billy Atwell ([01:09](#)):

At the end of this podcast, we usually answer questions from the faithful. You can send those questions to info@arlingtondiocese.org or give us a call or text at (703) 831-7013. I welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how are you doing?

Bishop Burbidge ([01:24](#)):

Billy, I'm doing well. Thank you so much, and hope our listeners and the faithful throughout our diocese are doing well, especially as we prepare to enter the holiest of weeks, so thoughts and prayers are with all of you and your families.

Billy Atwell ([01:37](#)):

Absolutely. And let's actually start, we're approaching the most solemn week of the year, Holy Week. But we've also mentioned that it's a season of joy at the same time. It's almost a paradox of the two. We all know of Palm Sunday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday, and obviously, Easter. But there's a liturgy that I know is very special to you that we try to promote a lot, so that people are more aware of it. It's called the Chrism Mass. Could you tell people a little bit about what that is and why it's so important to you?

Bishop Burbidge ([02:00](#)):

Sure. And Billy, one of the things that I always say, it is called "Holy Week," but for it to be holy for us and in our own spiritual lives, then we need to cooperate with the graces that are available to us. So, really encouraging our listeners to make this week, Holy Week, different than other weeks, allowing a little bit more time for silence, meditating upon what we are celebrating during this sacred time as we recall the passion of Christ and his suffering, Death, and Resurrection. And also, if at all possible in your parishes, to attend--certainly on Palm Sunday, people will be there--but maybe consider attending the Mass of the Lord's Supper that evening, and also Good Friday. A beautiful service our parishes have at

3:00. Many have the living stations. And also, the Chrism Mass, as you mentioned, people can attend here at the cathedral, and also via the livestream.

Billy Atwell ([03:08](#)):

Yeah. We'll be livestreaming the Chrism Mass.

Bishop Burbidge ([03:09](#)):

Yeah. But in the Chrism Mass, it's one of my, I'll be honest, it's one of my favorite Masses of the entire year. It's just so powerful gathering with my brother priests and the faithful of our diocese. And it's in the Chrism Mass that we offer our prayer for our priests. In fact, it's part of the liturgy itself that the faithful are asked to renew their promise to pray for me their bishop, and their priests. And we pray for them as they offer sacrificial service. And it's on that day that they renew their priestly promises.

Billy Atwell ([03:46](#)):

It's such a beautiful part of the Mass.

Bishop Burbidge ([03:48](#)):

It is.

Billy Atwell ([03:48](#)):

Until I worked for the Church, I didn't know the Chrism Mass existed. And once I was there for one, I said, "How have I not been to this before?" This was a beautiful, beautiful Mass, and the renewal of the priestly promises, it's one of the most important parts.

Bishop Burbidge ([04:01](#)):

You hear all those priests in our diocese saying, "I do," renewing those promises. Of course, we renew them every day, but in the Chrism Mass in a formal way, and as brother priests. It's also the opportunity for all who gather to renew their own commitment to holiness and missionary discipleship, for all the baptized share, we know, in a priestly and prophetic and kingly work of Christ, the Anointed One.

Bishop Burbidge ([04:31](#)):

The other powerful part of the Mass of course is consecrating the Chrism and blessing the sacred oils. This is the Church's long tradition that we've had. And in today's practice, they may be blessed immediately after the procession. The oil of the sick is blessed first, oil of the sick, and then the Oil of the Catechumens. And then the Sacred Chrism is then consecrated. And before beginning, this is kind of interesting too, before beginning the prayer of consecration, the bishop pours their fragrant balsam into the olive oil, and then he breathes over the oil for the Spirit to purify. And during that prayer, at the plea for God to sanctify the oil, and instill in it the power of the Spirit. All the priests extend their right hand over the Chrism, a striking image of their sacred ministry.

Bishop Burbidge ([05:26](#)):

So, anointing with this holy Chrism signifies and effects the anointing of the Holy Spirit, new altars and churches are sanctified, the newly baptized are anointed in the priestly, prophetic, kingly work of Christ, confirmation of spiritual gifts strengthen the recipients to be more effective witnesses of Christ. So, the oil--you think about the Chrism that is consecrated--the oils that are blessed are then carried home,

carried home by the priests for the celebration of the sacraments. So all throughout our diocese in the entire year, the sacraments are celebrated. It's at this Chrism Mass that the chrism is consecrated and the oils are blessed for the celebration of the sacraments.

Billy Atwell ([06:07](#)):

That's an amazing symbol of the unity of the Church, that it's at this one Mass with all these priests present, renewing their promises, that these oils then go from large vessels down to very small vessels and carried out to each church and used. That is a wonderful sign of unity, and also the sending forth, as we're all called, these oils are sent out.

Bishop Burbidge ([06:24](#)):

Exactly. So if you can attend, it'd be great to have you, everyone. If not, please join us via livestream.

Billy Atwell ([06:30](#)):

Yeah. So you can check it out at arlingtondiocese.org. If you'd like to watch the livestream, please go to [YouTube.com/arlingtondiocese](https://www.youtube.com/arlingtondiocese). You can even get a reminder from that page to remind you electronically that the livestream is coming up. You can always of course watch it afterwards.

Bishop Burbidge ([06:47](#)):

Thursday morning.

Billy Atwell ([06:48](#)):

Yeah. Thursday morning at the cathedral. Bishop, there was a story that flew almost completely under the national radar. There's been a lot of big news. But this is certainly news of huge consequence. Oregon ended its residency requirement for assisted suicide. It legalized it back in 1997, so this has been there for a while. But there's no longer a residency requirement to receive assisted suicide there. This means that other people from other states can travel to Oregon and receive this life-ending procedure. And based on news accounts, there's really no in-person requirement for doctor's visits, so it has questions of telemedicine, which we've seen as a good thing in many circumstances. And in this case, it can be a devastating thing. The Virginia Catholic Conference is researching this and speaking with legal experts in our state. But I was wondering if you could offer your pastoral perspective on this.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:43](#)):

This is very, very important, Billy, and it's concerning for many reasons. For one, Catholics and other people of good will have said from the first time assisted suicide was considered for legalization that it would be exploited.

Billy Atwell ([07:54](#)):

Absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:55](#)):

And over time, we saw cancer patients, for example, being denied treatment by insurance companies, but instead, being offered assisted suicide. And now the business of assisted suicide is being used to encourage out-of-state revenue. So I don't mean to be harsh in saying those words, but there is this exploitation. And this is highly dangerous precedent, and one that I hope ends immediately.

Bishop Burbidge ([08:19](#)):

One of the key issues here from a spiritual perspective and often misunderstood in our society is that of our suffering. I think especially as we prepare for Holy Week and Good Friday, and we unite, we reverence the Cross and unite our sufferings through Christ. Our faith teaches us that suffering, while a consequence of the fall, original sin, is not every in vain when it's united to Christ, when it's united through Christ sufferings. It's not pointless. It can be oriented so that we are more unified with the suffering of Christ. That's challenging, of course it is. No one wants to suffer. No person is undeserving of their dignity. And treating a person who is suffering as though their life is worthless, and a person who's not suffering, strips away that dignity.

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

So in the time of suffering, when we ... I always say, "We unite it through Christ's suffering." Lord, I didn't ask for this cross, nor did you. But this cross has come my way. I unite it to yours. I think that has to be one of the moments in our lives that we're the most holy. I mean, how holy can you be when you're with Christ on the Cross? And then if you offer that suffering for a specific intention, for the Church, for loved ones, for a family issue, for someone you know who's carrying an even heavier cross than yours, that suffering's never in vain. And of course, we live in sure and certain hope that those who unite their sufferings to Christ will come to share in his glory. And so we are all aware of the many different groups of people and organizations and family members who are with their loved ones at the time of suffering, to doing everything possible, of course, to ease, along with the medical experts, to ease their medical, to ease their suffering, or their pain, or their agony, of course.

Bishop Burbidge ([10:28](#)):

But we entrust them to God. We don't determine this is the moment we die. We entrust that to God, always trying to give the best medical care, easing the pain. But we're not afraid of suffering if we embrace it in faith.

Billy Atwell ([10:43](#)):

Yeah. And John Paul II was such a great example of that.

Bishop Burbidge ([10:45](#)):

Well, of course.

Billy Atwell ([10:46](#)):

And really gave good witness to that. Yeah, thank you for that [crosstalk 00:10:49].

Bishop Burbidge ([10:49](#)):

We have to pay attention to this Oregon situation.

Billy Atwell ([10:52](#)):

Yeah. We could see it grow, for sure. Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level. It was a 220 to 204 vote. Three Republicans voting in favor and two Democrats voting against. Many have spoken out of this, against this, including members of the House of Representatives, citing concerning statistics regarding impaired driving in states that have

legalized it, and relevant data related to the risk of children, which, when you go through the numbers, is pretty staggering.

Billy Atwell ([11:25](#)):

For some, Bishop, though, it's not clear why legalizing marijuana's a bad idea. It's seen by some as maybe harmless or even innocent. Why should people be concerned about a vote such as this, no matter where it goes?

Bishop Burbidge ([11:36](#)):

Right. I'm often asked this question, especially when I visit our young people. And so I certainly want to be accurate when I express my concerns, and be preparing myself for responding to our young people when this question is asked of me, especially on our campuses and colleges, and knowing we're going to talk about it today. I have done my homework. And since Colorado legalized marijuana, there's been an increased demand on hospitals, and a sharp rise in emergency room visits by toddlers who consume edibles. Right? I mean, that's always a real concern.

Billy Atwell ([12:22](#)):

It's often disguised in candy or cookies, things that kids naturally gravitate to.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:26](#)):

Exactly. It looks attractive, and guess what happens.

Billy Atwell ([12:28](#)):

And if a parent's impaired, they're not watching the child as they should and keeping track.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:32](#)):

That's exactly right. And so the ER visits have increased 54%. Hospitalizations increase 101% year to year. Colorado has also seen increased addiction and suicide. THC, not alcohol, is the number one drug found in teens who die by suicide.

Billy Atwell ([12:49](#)):

That's staggering.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:50](#)):

I know, it is. And then from 2016 to 2019, the rate of teen suicide increased by 58%, making the cause of one in five adolescent deaths. Marijuana addiction can also lead, if we're impaired of course, to the neglect of children, sometimes with fatal consequences. In just 14 months after Colorado approved legalization in 2012, at least three children died because of marijuana-induced negligence. In addition for road safety, since recreational marijuana was legalized, all Colorado traffic deaths increased 24%.

Billy Atwell ([13:27](#)):

Wow.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:27](#)):

These are just statistics that are available to anyone. And a percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths that were marijuana-related increased from 15% in 2013 to 25% in 2019.

Billy Atwell ([13:40](#)):

That's staggering. That's six years.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:41](#)):

Right.

Billy Atwell ([13:42](#)):

Six years, and you have a 10% increase like that. Wow.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:45](#)):

So I mean, there are many, many reasons. And it would also bring us to in our day and age, talking about alcohol also, I mean because we know that alcohol, when we are impaired by that alcohol, and still at the same time, entrusted care with family, responsibility at home, that's a concern. Driving, thank the good Lord, there seems to be at least a greater, greater awareness of not drinking, not driving if you have been drinking. Our younger generation seems to get that. But still, we hear of horror stories of ... Just recently, I just heard a story of a friend from another part of the country, a friend of mine who a drunk driver seriously injured three family members.

Billy Atwell ([14:50](#)):

Oh, wow.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:51](#)):

So we have to aware this, marijuana, alcohol, any drug, just that realization of the responsibility all of us have.

Billy Atwell ([15:01](#)):

This will be something to follow, and for listeners, a reminder that in Virginia where the law stands now is that last year, Virginia enacted legislation to legalize marijuana possession and home cultivation. Sales, however, are not legal. But this is something that the Virginia Catholic Conference has been watching very closely, and so we need to be vigilant about this. There is an excellent resource at [vacatholic.org](#). That's the Virginia Catholic Conference website. The title of the blog is "Don't Let Virginia Go to Pot." So if you just Google search [vacatholic.org](#) and then that phrase, very creative, good marketing intuition there by Jeff Caruso and his team. But that's a very helpful article with a lot of the statistics that Bishop Burbidge mentioned, but others as well. And they're really on top of this and seeing how this is going to materialize in Virginia over time. So certainly stay tuned with what they've got going on.

Billy Atwell ([16:02](#)):

Bishop, before we get to some questions from the faithful, it's worth noting that we're in the midst here of Child Abuse Awareness Month. Every April, we recognize this. It's a national effort. But we use the opportunity locally to talk about how the Diocese works against child abuse. In the last year, a tremendous amount of work has been done with your leadership to bolster our efforts. Would you mind

kind of offering your thoughts on this month? But also, maybe give us a high level view of some of the changes.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:28](#)):

The fact that we have Child Abuse Prevention Month is just a reality that it continues to be an issue in society.

Billy Atwell ([16:36](#)):

That's right.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:37](#)):

And it's tragic and it's so sad, and we pray. We pray constantly that the abuse of children, all persons, will be eradicated. In the meantime, we have to be vigilant, and we have to be tireless in our efforts to do what we can to prevent such abuse. It's something I talk about in our Catholic Herald this month of April.

Billy Atwell ([17:05](#)):

Absolutely, your column.

Bishop Burbidge ([17:06](#)):

Yeah. Just to put it into context, I know we say this a lot, but sometimes I meet people, they're not aware of it, even though we think as a church we've communicated well. But to put it in context as far as the Church, in 2002, the United States bishops gathered to create a first of its kind initiative to deal in a direct and transparent way with the crisis of child sexual abuse by priests, and then the neglect of leadership to handle correctly that had gone unaddressed in many circumstances. We all are aware of that sad chapter in our Church. This has been reported on extensively, and I'm sure people know the crisis I'm referring to.

Bishop Burbidge ([17:55](#)):

However, the Church's responses to child sexual abuse have been covered far less. In other words, yes, sadly, and with heartfelt apologies and sorrow, the Church and as a representative of the Church, we offer our apologies and our commitment to continue to be vigilant. But this is in society. This isn't Child Abuse Prevention Month just in the Catholic Church. It's in society.

Billy Atwell ([18:24](#)):

Exactly.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:25](#)):

And as such, we have to put programs in place also. For example, all priests, deacons, religions, staff, lay volunteers, are trained. They're trained to understand how to identify and prevent abuse towards children. This includes background checks, fingerprinting, training, references, etc. This is run by the Office of Child Protection and Victim Assistance. Now the other part of the program is victims' assistance, as the name indicates. And that program works to help all victims of child sexual abuse, whether they were abused by someone connected to the church or not. I meet with any victim who asks to meet with me. We gather together in prayer and reflection and for retreats throughout the years.

And again, this has been a longstanding tradition in our diocese, a real commitment, and we continue to build upon it.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:17](#)):

And as a result of these conversations as well as the latest research in science, we continually update our program to ensure we're on the cutting edge of best practices to prevent child abuse. So for example, just this past year, we upgraded our VIRTUS program to be able to build upon the strong program we already had in place. So anyone who has volunteered or worked for the Diocese, you know the program I'm referring to.

Billy Atwell ([19:41](#)):

Right, yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:42](#)):

The training that is necessary. It's been adapted to help us to be more sensitive to the fact that some victims of sexual abuse are going through a training and may feel re-victimized. That's a reality.

Billy Atwell ([19:53](#)):

Sensitive information.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:54](#)):

Right.

Billy Atwell ([19:54](#)):

That makes sense.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:55](#)):

So we want to ensure that they're comfortable. Focuses on helping adults create safe environments and be mindful of behaviors. There are warning signs. There are things that you can observe, that you can see, that could indicate grooming or boundary issues. On February 2 this year, I promulgated a revised Code of Conduct. Some of the updates there include language that accounts for video and teleconferencing applications, clear language on the fact that child pornography's a crime in both criminal law and Church law, better boundaries in the use of technology with minors, and updates too.

Billy Atwell ([20:35](#)):

That technology piece is key, and that's something we're going to be continuously adapting to, but those are important updates, especially through COVID, the interaction of adults with minors through programs, schools, education. Every school is all of a sudden on Zoom. Where are those lines? And the updates account for where those boundaries should stay.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:54](#)):

Yeah, exactly. So always reviewing that, and we are always audited by an independent company to ensure we're complying with everything that's expected of us.

Billy Atwell ([21:05](#)):

And that's a thorough audit. For instance, I get interviewed as part of this audit. What are we communicating? What do we account for? What do we share with the media, all of those things? I have to go well prepared. They're expecting to see that everything we saw we're doing, we're doing.

Bishop Burbidge ([21:19](#)):

Right. And it's done by outside sources.

Billy Atwell ([21:21](#)):

Right, yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([21:23](#)):

And we have our own Diocesan Review Board, which consists of laypeople with expertise in various fields, which reviews any allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy. I've added a current law enforcement officer to the board, strengthened our guidelines for its decision-making process, and a layperson is serving as the chair of that review board.

Billy Atwell ([21:44](#)):

That's excellent.

Bishop Burbidge ([21:45](#)):

Key things to remember, we always say this when we talk about what changed in the Church in 2002, there's a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual abuse of a minor. For 20 years, we've had some of the most stringent policies possible based on good science and feedback from victims. There is no priest in active ministry who's been found credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor. Every allegation we receive is sent to law enforcement immediately.

Billy Atwell ([22:11](#)):

Absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([22:11](#)):

Whether we think, or even if we know that that could not have happened, if it's an allegation, it is sent to law enforcement. We continuously look to strengthen our policies. Nothing matters more than the safety of the faithful, especially our children. And pray God, we pray God, certainly within our Church, but within all of society because so sadly, so much abuse of children takes place within families.

Billy Atwell ([22:40](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([22:40](#)):

And so we have to be united in our prayers for the protection of children, and certainly do our part as a Church, as individuals, to all of our volunteers and our faithful out there, whether it be catechists, youth ministers, teachers, thank you so much, because our young people need you. And they need good example, and they need you to be that role model for them, allow their activities to continue. And

sometimes in this day and age when you realize, wow, there's so much you have to go through just to volunteer your time, to coach, or to teach, or something like that. Is this really worth it? I have time to go through all this? It is really worth it.

Billy Atwell ([23:24](#)):

Absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([23:25](#)):

We need you and the young people need you. And how God uses you in their lives, how often you hear young people talk about the teacher, or the coach, or the catechists, who influenced them, and they never forgot it. But in reality, in this day and age, all these protocols are necessary because we want to make sure everything, every protocol, every policy's in place that's going to help us to best ensure the safety of our children.

Billy Atwell ([23:56](#)):

Excellent, perfect. We've got a couple questions from the faithful. Actually, before we go to that, I want to ask. I didn't want to lead off this before Holy Week, of course. But have you been keeping up with the NCAA basketball tournament?

Bishop Burbidge ([24:06](#)):

Billy, I have been keeping up with the NCAA tournament.

Billy Atwell ([24:09](#)):

I'm not surprised.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:10](#)):

I know. And on Saturday, I had two confirmations. And that evening, I boldly predicted that, that night, Duke and Villanova would be the winners of those two games played Saturday night. And both of those teams, my favorites, lost that Saturday night.

Billy Atwell ([24:30](#)):

Good thing you're not a betting man.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:31](#)):

I was not in a good mood Sunday morning. And then I stayed up late last night to watch the university, UNC, against Kansas, a three-point game.

Billy Atwell ([24:42](#)):

That was close, yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:43](#)):

Yeah. These games are too late though. They don't start until 9:20 or so. I'm like, "Why am I tired this morning?"

Billy Atwell ([24:49](#)):

That might explain it.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:50](#)):

But at least it was a good game. And you give credit to all the players and the coaches, and their dedication and perseverance. At the end of the year, only one team can win.

Billy Atwell ([25:03](#)):

That's right.

Bishop Burbidge ([25:04](#)):

But you hope the others recognize the other important part of sports that really matter, the friendships that are formed, the lessons that are learned. And certainly, my brother, who's a girls' basketball high school coach, would be upset with me if I did not congratulate South Carolina women's basketball for their winning the women's tournament also, which provides great ... That was a great tournament also.

Billy Atwell ([25:34](#)):

Very good. All right. Well, we have a couple questions from the faithful here. The first is, "I always enjoy seeing beautiful stained glass windows in many of our churches and in cathedrals. Are there protocols churches have to follow before they commission windows? For instance, is there an approval process or guidelines? I notice green, red, blue and yellow are often prominent."

Bishop Burbidge ([25:52](#)):

Yes. Stained glass windows, the beauty. Right? We just love them in our churches. They serve a twofold purpose, enhancing the beauty of the church, of course, and then also, what they're really meant to do is to teach and to inspire the faithful. You should be able to stand in front of a stained glass window and look at the images, or the saint that's depicted, or whatever, and know the story, and to be able to tell the story to others. And when they're crafted well, they can add to the beauty of a church, as far as its lighting, an array of colors that bring life to the church.

Bishop Burbidge ([26:31](#)):

And like I said, practically, they're depictions of God, Mary, the saints, Bible stories, tenets of the Faith, symbols of the sacraments, by teaching through pictures. This is best understood when we think about the placement in large cathedrals of Europe at a time when many of the faithful were illiterate.

Billy Atwell ([26:51](#)):

That's true.

Bishop Burbidge ([26:52](#)):

For example, during the Middle Ages, and could not read the Bible, for example. So the stained glass windows in its rich history could serve as a tool to teach them about the faith. And so when the lives of Mary and the saints are depicted, the depictions in those windows, can inspire, hopefully inspire. Here in the Diocese, whenever there's a building or renovation project in our churches, we have a diocesan

building commission, formed again with people. One thing about the Diocese is we have so many people who have expertise in so many areas.

Billy Atwell ([27:29](#)):

That's true.

Bishop Burbidge ([27:30](#)):

And I need to surround myself with people who can assist. And so generously, people who serve on these councils and commissions and all those things, I'm so grateful to them. So we have a diocesan building commission, many are architects and people who have a construction background and whatever, and they help me to look through anything that's going to be added to the church, or a church that's built--financially, structurally, artistically, and so we're well supported. But some of the most recent churches we have dedicated are adorned with beautiful stained glass windows.

Billy Atwell ([28:07](#)):

Absolutely. I find it helpful with my kids, that teaching component, something I can point to and show them. And it's colorful, so it engages them a little bit. I get a whole five seconds maybe of attention span out of them, but that might just be enough.

Bishop Burbidge ([28:17](#)):

That's good.

Billy Atwell ([28:18](#)):

That's right. Another question. "I have an adult friend being received into the Church during the Easter vigil. We're all excited for this special liturgy. Any recommendations on what I can do to support them in the first few weeks and months after they're received into the Church? I don't want him to think that once RCIA classes have ended, he's on his own."

Bishop Burbidge ([28:37](#)):

Yeah.

Billy Atwell ([28:38](#)):

Great question. How do we help people afterward?

Bishop Burbidge ([28:40](#)):

It is definitely a great question. First of all, for all of the individuals who will be received and fully initiated into our Catholic Church at the Easter vigil, congratulations!

Billy Atwell ([28:53](#)):

Absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([28:54](#)):

This is going to be an Easter for you and your families like no other. It is just so powerful, and we're so happy for you, and we know it's been a journey through learning our faith, deepening your relationship

with Christ. And I know you've been supported, especially by those family members, members of the RCIA teams, and fellow parishioners, which is a reminder that our faith journey is one that we should always accompany one another. And I know at the Easter vigil, you'll be surrounded by all those people who've been part of that journey with you. There's going to be great excitement, great joy. But this is a great question, because what often does happen sometimes, when we look at the statistics in our Church, is that even those who go through the RCIA, sometimes a couple years later, are not fully living and practicing the Faith. So this is a good question that was asked.

Bishop Burbidge ([29:50](#)):

And what I would say is, make sure that you do your part to help a newly, someone fully initiated into our Church to get involved right away in service within the Church. Maybe serve in one of the ministries. You look at a parish bulletin, look at all the ministries that are possible for someone to be involved in, or the different groups, or pastoral outreach programs. So what can you do to help a person who is ... Get them involved in the Church because what we do learn is that those who are received into the Church and then get immersed into the community, especially in service, in pastoral outreach, catechetical programs, whatever, then that helps to kind of cement or to strengthen them in their faith. So that's a great question.

Billy Atwell ([30:43](#)):

That's a great answer, as well. All right, before we wrap up here, just a reminder for everyone, if you would like to see the Holy Week schedule of where Bishop Burbidge will be celebrating different masses and the Good Friday service and so on, just go to arlingtondiocese.org. We had mentioned the Chrism Mass, that's on April 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the cathedral. It'll be live streamed, but please feel free to attend. But that full schedule is there. And then also, we have two important ordinations coming up. We'll be livestreaming this, but they're also invited for ... All are invited to attend. The ordination to the transitional diaconate at the cathedral on April 23, and ordination to the priesthood is on June 4. Again, both will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Bishop, you have to be excited about these.

Bishop Burbidge ([31:27](#)):

Billy, I'm so excited. I have the great privilege because of God's goodness and the prayers of all the faithful in our diocese, to be ordaining eight men, as you mentioned, in April, to the transitional diaconate, meaning, God willing, these are men who will become priests.

Billy Atwell ([31:46](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([31:46](#)):

And then on June the 4, to be ordaining eight new priests for our diocese.

Billy Atwell ([31:52](#)):

That's wonderful.

Bishop Burbidge ([31:54](#)):

Both classes are just superb young men. I just say to the faithful, if we're looking for signs of hope and new life within our Church, and a bright and promising future, all you have to do is get to know these

men. And the Lord has blessed us, and thank you, everyone, for your prayers. Thank you for the many ways you support our seminarians, and help to assist in their formation, as you mentioned earlier. A big percentage of the Bishop's Lenten Appeal will go towards the formation of these men. And let me assure you, they are coming out--we use great seminaries--they are coming out ready and well prepared. I often hear a parishioner say to me, just the other day, he said, "Bishop, we have a newly ordained in our priests, and every time I see him or hear him preach, I can't believe he's less than one year ordained."

Billy Atwell ([32:49](#)):

Right, yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([32:49](#)):

So our men are getting ordained, they're ready to go. They're ready to go.

Billy Atwell ([32:54](#)):

That's excellent.

Bishop Burbidge ([32:54](#)):

They're filled with zeal and energy. And we have a great presbyterate, great group of priests here, strong fraternity. It's only going to get better.

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

That's excellent. So again, April 23 and June 4, both are at 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas More Cathedral. You're invited to attend in person, or you can check out the livestream on our YouTube channel. Bishop, any final thoughts? And if you'd send us off with your blessing.

Bishop Burbidge ([33:17](#)):

Right. Billy, I would just also, speaking about great priests, we lost one of our priests yesterday. He's been called home to the Lord, Fr. C.M. Trinkle. Many out in Front Royal, in that area, know him. He's been a spiritual guide and a director to so many people. He's one of our diocesan hermits, and just has shown a beautiful example of being alone and silent with the Lord, and guiding people to a deep relationship with him. His funeral will be on Friday, so if people could join me in praying for Fr. Trinkle and his eternal happiness and peace. And he was surrounded every day by priests and by lay faithful in his final days. And so it's just a beautiful witness to see, so thank you, everyone, for your prayers.

Bishop Burbidge ([34:13](#)):

And as I mentioned earlier, it is my hope and prayer that all the faithful in our diocese, that this is your best Holy Week ever. We have so many challenges going on in our world. We see them every day, including war and violence, and so much unrest. And we're still dealing with the impact of a pandemic. And we're just all longing for that peace and graces and blessings that we need in our lives. And so approach this Holy Week, come to the Lord, make this your best Holy Week ever. Be with him. And celebrate on Easter that great truth that no matter what cross, or suffering, or evil, or darkness, by his Resurrection, the one who's been raised from the dead, proved victorious. And his victory is our victory. And it's my hope and prayer that all of you throughout Holy Week and Easter will know the peace that

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only the risen Lord can give to us, and that peace will fill your hearts and your homes, as together we walk humbly with our God.

Bishop Burbidge ([35:26](#)):

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