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

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

Billy Atwell ([00:08](#)):

Welcome to The Walk Humbly Podcast. I'm Billy Atwell, Chief Communications Officer for the Diocese and your co-host. We want to begin by thanking all those who have been so generous to the Diocese, particularly to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. The BLA, as we call it, supports many ministries throughout the Diocese and certainly here at the Chancery, and one of them is the Communications Office that has this studio and provides this podcast. We want to thank those who have given to the BLA. If you are listening to this podcast, please write a review and tell us what you think on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, wherever you're listening.

Billy Atwell ([00:40](#)):

And if you're on YouTube, please subscribe to our YouTube channel and ring that notifications bell. Sign up for our e-newsletter at [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org). Follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter @BishopBurbidge, where every day you can get a short gospel reflection for that particular day. We are on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. If you have questions for Bishop Burbidge, send them to [info@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:info@arlingtondiocese.org) or you can call or text us at 703-831-7013. Make sure you go ahead and register now for the Eucharistic Symposium that's coming up on October 22nd at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More. We're going to have a number of wonderful things going on there.

Billy Atwell ([01:22](#)):

We're going to have Holy Mass in the cathedral with our celebrant, Bishop Burbidge. The homilist is going to be Archbishop Chaput, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He's going to offer a reflection. There's going to be a question and answer. There's going to be Adoration and Benediction. One thing I'll say about that is we do ask that you register. There's limited seating at the cathedral and we're seeing the seats fill up. But please register if you plan to go, but only register if you plan to go so that everyone that wants to attend is able to, to the best of our ability.

Billy Atwell ([01:53](#)):

Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac OB/GYN are sponsoring an interdenominational infant memorial service at St. Leo the Great Parish in Fairfax on Saturday, October 8th at 7:00 PM. This compassionate service is intended to help anybody who has experienced the loss of an infant due to miscarriage, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, fertility procedures, and more. RSVP by October 1st so that your baby can be recognized with a special gift. Email [memorialservice@tepeyacobgyn.com](mailto:memorialservice@tepeyacobgyn.com) for more info or to register. That's [memorialservice@T-E-P-E-Y-A-C-O-B-G-Y-N](mailto:memorialservice@T-E-P-E-Y-A-C-O-B-G-Y-N).

Billy Atwell ([02:34](#)):

This week is National Migration Week. We have events to celebrate, such as a cooking class, a soccer tournament, a refugee simulation, path to citizenship classes, and Bishop Burbidge is going to be blessing a new migration and refugee services office in Woodbridge actually and more going on that week. We have resettled refugees since 1975 through Catholic Charities. And since October of last year, we have resettled more than 1,200 refugees, 1,100 of which were fleeing Afghanistan. Go to [ccda.net](http://ccda.net) to learn more.

Billy Atwell ([03:07](#)):

Today's topics for the podcast, we're going to talk about the passing of Queen Elizabeth, the honoring of first responders on 9/11, Bishop Burbidge used a 15th century chalice at the Catholic University graduation, and an upcoming conference on human environmental ecology. I welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how are you?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([03:25](#)):

Billy, I'm doing well. Thank you so much. I hope all of our listeners are doing well. I'm sure everyone's back into more of a routine after hopefully having some time in the summer for rest and renewal. Thank you so much for highlighting some of those events. I'm very, very honored. I think it's a great privilege for our diocese, as you mentioned, to welcome Archbishop Chaput. Great bishop, very gifted author. I'm sure many of our listeners have read his books. A great speaker and I really look forward to the exchange with questions and answers. He really enjoys that kind of conversation.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([04:03](#)):

It's reminding us, it's hard to believe, but this is almost at the end of year one of our three year preparation for Jubilee in 2024. That concludes on the Feast of Christ the King, and then we'll begin year two, which will move from remembering the Eucharist to renew and our Blessed Mother. This symposium is one of those closing events, and you mentioned Migration Week, September 19th to 25th. A lot to be proud of with our great work in migration refugee services always done throughout our history and continues in an extensive way today through the great generosity of our parishioners.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([04:45](#)):

Thanks for that, Billy. We're recording on Our Lady of Sorrows. Beautiful memorial that reminds us that not only did Jesus give us his mother from the cross, that's where he said this, "I give you my mother as your mother." But it was at the cross that her heart was pierced with sorrow. We have a mother in Mary who not only loves us, but can identify with us as we have our sadness in life, our own trials, our own heartbreaks. We have a mother who understands us and identifies us. It is with that great faith and devotion and affection we turn to her for her help and prayers asking her son to turn our sorrows to joys and our suffering to glory.

Billy Atwell ([05:33](#)):

Absolutely. Bishop, we have a number of topics today, but first I'd like to ask you about an event that's been dominating the news cycle for almost a week now, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II at the ripe old age of 96, as well as the period of mourning that followed and is going to culminate with her burial at Windsor Palace on September 19th. There's been a great outpouring of sympathy to the royal family and to the British people in general on the death of their monarch, including condolences that were sent, including a telegram from Pope Francis.

Billy Atwell ([06:04](#)):

She had ruled the United Kingdom and other people of the Commonwealth for seven decades. It's a really remarkable thing. When you think on her time as Queen of England, what really comes to mind for you?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([06:19](#)):

As you mentioned, it's really good to see this outpouring of solidarity and prayer and knowing that a nation is mourning as they're also thanking God for the gift of Queen Elizabeth's life and service. I thought she, when you think of Queen Elizabeth, was very effective at remaining outside of politics in a way and being a stable and consistent voice for the United Kingdom always with such grace, always with such grace, that provided the UK with an opportunity to maintain their dignity of the country, which sometimes can be lost as we know amid tense political fights. The Queen was also a friend of the Catholic Church.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([07:01](#)):

We know that. She met with every Pope during her reign and seemed to have a good relationship with all of them and a hallmark of her reign as we're seeing played out and as we see the history of her life. You see so many photos and stories being told, is really I would say a humble devoted servant leader. And that's what we're all called to be. We are. We're in solidarity in prayer. You can thank God for the gift of her life. Pray for her eternal peace.

Billy Atwell ([07:34](#)):

Absolutely. Absolutely. Bishop, this past Sunday on September 11th, it was the anniversary of the attacks on New York and at the Pentagon, which we know so well here in Northern Virginia. You celebrated a mass honoring military and first responders at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in Fairfax. Talk about the meaning of that mass for you and the interactions maybe that you had with some of the first responders there.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([07:58](#)):

Yes. It's an annual mass. This year, it fell actually on the date of September the 11th. There was a solemn moment in the beginning of mass where we paused to remember all those who died on that tragic, horrific day our country was attacked, including many who were first responders who offer the ultimate sacrifice. We paused and we remember them in prayer, as we entrusted them to God's love and mercy, and also praying for continued strength and consolation for their families. I was very thrilled on September 11th here at St. Leo's to see so many in uniform, police and public safety officers, many of the military, young and middle aged and a little bit older.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([08:46](#)):

But it was really beautiful to see that. It was a day to express thanks, thanks for every day--what they do to offer their life and selfless service to protect our country, our communities, and to reach out to those who are in need of timely assistance. It was really a way to thank them and also to pray. Let them know that we are praying for them. Many of those on the police force and officers have a great...

Billy Atwell ([09:21](#)):

And firefighters as well.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([09:22](#)):

And firefighters. My grandfather, I had mentioned on this podcast before, was a police officer for many, many years. He used to walk the beat in Philadelphia.

Billy Atwell ([09:33](#)):

That's when they literally walked the beat.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([09:36](#)):

They walked the beat and they all knew him. He was there in service of the community. It was respected that way. Pray God, we get back to that sense of respect that is owed and due to those in the military, firefighters, police officers, anyone, first responders who serve our community so selflessly.

Billy Atwell ([09:56](#)):

Absolutely. You think that they obviously are willing to stand at the front lines of whatever happens in society, but they carry burdens with that too, fallen friends, whether it's a firefighter or a police officer, whoever. They carry that with them. My dad was a federal agent for 26 years. I think that what was harder than some of the dangers that they faced was the emotional struggle that comes with that line of work.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([10:23](#)):

Exactly. We thank their spouses and their children who share them so generously with the community. We pray for them also.

Billy Atwell ([10:29](#)):

Absolutely. Bishop, you served recently as the principal celebrant of the Mass of the Holy Spirit at The Catholic University of America for the beginning of that academic year. It was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. You had an incredible opportunity, I hear, to use in that Mass an early 15th century Irish chalice that disappeared in the mid-1500s after King Henry VIII, not a friend of the Catholic Church, sought to suppress Catholicism.

Billy Atwell ([10:58](#)):

It was discovered and sold I guess in the 1930s, then lost again. And then it was discovered I guess in a garden or garden structure of some sort. Talk about that experience. That's an uncommon thing even for a bishop to be able to use a chalice of that distinction.

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

A 15th century chalice from Irish... It was unbelievable. It's small. It wasn't that large. But I mean, you really did. When you held that chalice in which was the precious blood of Christ, you were like, "Wow! This is really a rich blessing to be able to go back so far in our history and think of all those people who have looked upon the chalice when Holy Mass was being celebrated." The chaplain at Catholic University, Dominican Father Aquinas said that some soldier, he said, centuries ago thought he was putting an end to mass by looting this very chalice. Well, his efforts were in vain because the Mass continues even with this very chalice. That was very, very powerful. You mentioned the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([12:02](#)):

I do that same mass as a nice tradition in our Catholic Church, where I do that in our four high schools and our Catholic campus ministry programs. I was kind of a special guest at Catholic University of America. The chancellor Cardinal Gregory was in Rome at the time, so I was very privileged and honored to offer that mass for The Catholic University of America as they begin a new academic year with a new

president, Dr. Peter Kilpatrick. We wish him many blessings. I always want to put a word of support in there for The Catholic University of America, that's the Bishop's university. Bishops are entrusted with the care of that university.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([12:42](#)):

It's an excellent university doing so well in excellence in academics in all their schools, whether it be law, finance or nursing or whatever. But the beauty of it is that it's strong in faith and reason. Right on the campus there, the Basilica Shrine. I hope some of our men and women who are discerning what college they might go to or university, they might give The Catholic University of America some serious consideration. Billy, at The Catholic University of America that day and at the Masses of the Holy Spirit at our Catholic campus ministry programs. Mary Washington, I'll have Sunday and George Mason and Marymount. I'm always the one who leaves inspired.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([13:24](#)):

I think our listeners will be so proud to see young people, college age students being there as they begin an academic year to call upon the help of the Holy Spirit and God's divine assistance and to do so with such reverence at mass, with such joy, it really gives you a hope. It really gives you a hope for the future. I'm the one who always leaves inspired when I celebrate those masses and ask God's blessings upon all of our students who are beginning a new academic year.

Billy Atwell ([13:50](#)):

When you visit at Christendom... Is that chapel the first time you'll celebrate mass in the chapel?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([13:57](#)):

Christendom always is the beginning of my tour of the Masses of the Holy Spirit. That was not in the new chapel, because that won't be dedicated until Divine Mercy weekend.

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

Oh, okay. All right. That'll be exciting for them and for us.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([14:12](#)):

Christendom gets me off to a great start. Another treasure in our diocese.

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

That's great. Very good. Bishop, in 2015, Pope Francis promulgated his encyclical Laudato Si' on Care for Our Common Home, which calls on the faithful to care for God's creation, both human and natural ecology, as it's referred to in the encyclical. This Saturday you'll be joining Father Bob Cilinski, who oversees the Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission, and is also the pastor at Nativity. I think it's Dan Misleh. Is that the right pronunciation? The founder of the Catholic Climate Covenant and others for the Peace and Justice Conference.

Billy Atwell ([14:49](#)):

The theme for this is, Why should I Care for Our Common Home? It's going to be held at Nativity where Father Bob is the pastor. Talk about this conference, why it's important for the Diocese and for parishioners to be interested in the topic and highlighted in this way.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([15:03](#)):

Sure, Billy, thank you. Laudato Si' was promulgated seven years ago. Two years ago, on the fifth anniversary of the encyclical, the Holy Father established the Season of Creation, he called it, which begins September 1st and runs through October 4th. How appropriate, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The season is time for Christian churches and people of faith and goodwill to reflect on God's gift of creation. The Holy Father's invitation says... He says in that invitation, "Listen to the voice of creation," he says. That's a beautiful phrase, "Listen to the voice of creation."

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([15:41](#)):

It's an important starting point for us to recognize the vital need to protect the environment, as well as the most vulnerable people who are threatened by the harm to the environment that we so often see. But I love that phrase, listen to the voice of creation. We can run through a day and we just run and run and run. Sometimes just to stop and look around you. Look at the many ways that God shows us himself and signs of His presence with us in the beauty of what He created. It's always good to pause and to breathe in that air.

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

Our Diocese, I'm so proud of our Diocese, has taken to heart a care of God's creation at the Holy Father's encouragement also by taking measures to ensure our parishes are environmentally conscious. Our office and building and in construction and all are really at the front lines helping parishes to do this whenever they are initiating new building projects or whatever. We're in the year 2022, and we have to build that way with this kind of consciousness, awareness of the environment. For example, four parishes have installed solar panels, St. Bernadette's, Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Anthony of Padua, and Nativity.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([16:58](#)):

Some parishes have formed groups to study the encyclical, which I encourage or have launched environmental ministries or teams to educate parishioners about the impacts of climate change and how they can make a difference. Several of our parishes formed a Diocesan Care for Creation network to share resources and encourage other parishes. Saint John Neumann Church in Reston, whose Care for Our Common Home Ministry has reduced, listen to this, parish energy consumption, achieving a 28% reduction in electricity used and has cut the annual fuel bill by \$15,000. I think we also learn from them.

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

The parish's name is Certified Cool Congregation by Interfaith Power and Light and the environmental ministry of St. Mark Church in Vienna build a Mary Garden on its grounds. I think Saturday's conference will be a great opportunity to learn more, not just about what our parishes are doing, but how we are teaching as a church: care for God's creation in our schools, our parishes, how families can live more simply in their own homes. I look forward to this conference.

Billy Atwell ([17:58](#)):

Yeah, it'll be great. If you want to learn more about it, go to [ArlingtonDiocese.org/wsic22](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/wsic22). It's "why should I care", if you're at wondering. It's [ArlingtonDiocese.org/wsic22](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/wsic22). Bishop, we have a question from a person before we wrap up here. It says, "Why is communion not given to a political person in one diocese, but that same person can receive communion in another diocese? I thought a sin was a sin

regardless of geography. I find it very serious that some politicians use their religion to make a political point." This is something you've stated too. And then he finishes, "In essence, this issue is thrown to the public square where it does not belong."

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([18:35](#)):

Yeah, thank you for the question. We don't mind politicians using their religion to make a political point as long as it's in accord with the Gospel. Because they are given a platform and given an opportunity because of their position to enact laws that are just, but pray God, always in accordance as Catholics with our beliefs and not to separate themselves from that. That's why we pray for our elected officials that they are men and women of integrity and as Catholics never diminish or compromise or water down what they believe.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([19:18](#)):

I know the concern that's being asked here because it's asked a lot of me, and we've talked about it numerous times on this podcast, that there are some unfortunately Catholic politicians who use their faith to profess their Catholicism, but then follow with statements that are contrary to the mandate of the Gospel.

Billy Atwell ([19:42](#)):

Yeah, the most fundamental teachings.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([19:45](#)):

Yes, and the rich tradition and teachings of our faith. And that's very, very alarming. As a bishop, as a shepherd of souls, a privileged responsibility that God has given us at those times because of the impact, because of the scandal that can cause at such a significant level, it is the duty of the bishop to speak with that politician. Now, many times it's being done and there is ongoing conversation and dialogue that you keep confidential because it's a relationship. It's sometimes one that needs to be repeated.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([20:26](#)):

But it cannot be ignored when a bishop in his own diocese is aware of scandal, where our Catholic faith is being used to bring forth that scandal. Refusing Holy Communion, as we know, is a step after everything else has been tried, and then you have to just say, "Well, you have separated yourself from receiving Communion." But again, many, many steps should take place before that. I know my brother bishops, so many of us are constantly doing that, but we don't necessarily make that public.

Billy Atwell ([21:07](#)):

Right, right. Very good. Thank you. Any final thoughts, and then if you would send us off with your blessing?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([21:11](#)):

No, thank you. I thank you for our listeners, thank you for your great support of our Diocese, allowing us to carry out so many ministries in service of evangelization and in service of those brothers and sisters of ours who are in most need. Thank you so much for your prayers. We're back in full swing in September now, and I just pray that God continues to shower his blessings upon you, that Mary will watch over you, and that together we will walk humbly with our God.

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Bishop Michael Burbidge ([21:41](#)):

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