

Bishop 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 cohost. If you're listening to this podcast, then you are benefiting from the generosity of thousands of people from throughout the diocese who have given to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. The BLA supports a lot of ministries throughout the diocese, supporting the poor, supporting families, the right to life, a lot of different issues, the youth vocations, but it also includes the communications office.

A big thank you to anyone who has given to the BLA this year. If you're looking for a way to re-energize the rest of the advent season, because we still have a little bit more advent, and also throughout the whole Christmas season, there's two ideas for you. The first is from the Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry. They've created a series of resources for families and small groups called Encounter. It's a way to learn the faith in a non-classroom environment. Topics include sacred scripture, Pope John Paul II, Rome, and more just.

Go to [arlingtondiocese.org/encounters](http://arlingtondiocese.org/encounters). It's encounters with an S for that. The other thing is to consider the Just One Yes campaign. This runs through the Christmas season, not just up to Christmas day. And just imagine our world if each one of us chose to do one thing for God that we're not doing right now. It might be prayer or some sort of self-sacrifice. It could be something to help the poor or the needy. The idea is this, just one yes can change your life and it can change the world.

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Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. And you can send your questions for Bishop Burbidge to [info@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:info@arlingtondiocese.org). I welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how are you doing?

Bishop Burbidge (02:07):

I'm doing well, Billy. I hope all our listeners are doing well and that they have enjoyed the blessings of this advent season. Our preparation certainly intensifies during these final days leading to the celebration of our Lord's birth. Just a word of respectful encouragement to all of our listeners to really stay focused on what we are about to celebrate. I know it's a busy time of year and many demands and things like that, but make sure that your spiritual life, your heart is ready and prepared to celebrate the birth.

These are very blessed gifted days that God gives us, so let's take full advantage of them and keep encouraging each other in our faith. Wishing everyone continued blessings and, as promised, pray daily for you and your families that God will keep you all safe and healthy.

Billy Atwell (02:58):

Wonderful. Thank you, Bishop. Bishop, we spoke in a previous podcast about the fall plenary session of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. I want to go back to that for a minute. One of the outcomes of that session was the formation of a committee that would work to communicate with the new US

president about the priorities of the church and areas in which the US Bishops hope to make progress during that term. Archbishop Vigneron of Detroit is the chair, and you were selected to serve on that committee as well.

I know you can't get into a lot of specifics. I don't know if the group has met yet or not, but what do you hope to accomplish with that committee as you all begin your meetings and deliberate?

Bishop Burbidge ([03:31](#)):

Yes. I am very honored to serve on the committee under Archbishop Vigneron's leadership and with brother bishops who are extremely gifted and talented. The Conference of Bishops always engages with the administration. It's no different with this incoming in administration. We need to be engaged with them. The purpose of the committee is to help, Billy, to begin a productive working relationship in which the new president understands and his administration what our church teaches on key issues.

We represent so many people, wonderful citizens, fateful citizens in our country, and to make sure that we are in dialogue not only with him, but with his members of his staff and cabinet, where we can promote all that helps to lift up the sacredness of human life, the dignity of all human persons, the sanctity of marriage, the protection of religious freedom, and of course, service and care of those vulnerable and in most need. Now, this working committee is unique. We never had one like this before, so it tells you that the situation is unique.

We have an incoming president who proudly and publicly shares the fact that he is a Catholic. No one is to judge his heart. I'm not doing that at all. But at the same time, he also publicly and somewhat confidently speaks about positions that he and his administration will take that are in complete opposition of what the Catholic church believes and teaches. Now this puts us in a position of how do we engage with this administration at this particular moment in history? The working committee, we don't represent all the bishops.

We can give recommendations on to how the Conference of Bishops might do this, but it's ultimately up to the president of a conference in the body of bishops of what we would want to do, but the issues are many. This is going to be a very tireless effort. We have a lot of work to do. That work needs to be guided by the Holy Spirit, and so I do ask for everyone for their prayers. There's a couple of things at stake here. As bishops, we worry. Our job is to help people to get to heaven. Their salvation is key.

And when we have an incoming president who is probably the most famous Catholic in the country, we as bishops, especially his local bishops both in the diocese where he'll be living, I think he will still be where his home is now and certainly when he comes to DC, our bishops have to lead him in that direction of you're called to be holy. You're called to get to heaven. You have to rethink some of these positions and your worthiness to say that you're in communion with the church.

There's a lot of stake there. It's scandal. We can't allow the president to be the teacher of the Catholic faith.

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

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:06](#)):

You know? He's not, and we don't want to give any scandal where people can say, "Well, I'm a Catholic, and yet I promote the killing of the unborn or same-sex marriages," as if that doesn't matter. It does matter, and we're all held accountable for that. We have to be very, very careful there. As successors of

the apostles, we're the teachers of the Catholic faith. We don't shut the door where there are areas of agreement.

There are some issues where he will promote I believe like the dignity of the human person when it comes maybe to the immigration laws, death penalty, or things like that, service to the poor. We don't shut the door and say, "Well, we're not going to work with you. We're going to work with you where there's areas that are consistent with our beliefs." I do ask everyone's prayers for this working group that the spirit leads us and that the bishops have the strength and courage and clarity to engage properly with the incoming administration.

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

I've noticed too when people speak about this issue, what the bishop should or shouldn't do, it's often taken as, what's the political strategy of the bishops? You've talked about this before, but that's not the role of a bishop. The bishop is there to be a pastor.

Bishop Burbidge ([08:28](#)):

Right.

Billy Atwell ([08:28](#)):

Right? And to guide them in faith, like you said, help guide them to heaven, but also create clarity. So that guides the way you would approach public officials is in a pastoral way.

Bishop Burbidge ([08:38](#)):

Exactly. We bring the faith into the conversation so that the decisions made are right and just.

Billy Atwell ([08:46](#)):

Yeah, that makes sense. Again, on a topic related to the US Conference of Bishops, earlier this week, Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, he's the chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, he's the chairman of the USCCB committee on pro-life activities, issued a statement on the new COVID-19 vaccines. And this has been a question we've gotten a little bit. I think we're going to get more as people start receiving it.

I just saw today that the vice-president received the vaccine, so it's going to be a question we get even more. There have been questions about whether or not they're morally permissible, these vaccines that are coming out. These bishops issued this letter and this statement. Bishop, if you could kind of summarize, there's a lot of science in there, but if you could keep it simple for us, what do we need to know from that statement?

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

Yeah. I definitely want to answer, because I've been hearing the same questions. I don't mean to get too technical and I'll summarize it.

Billy Atwell ([09:44](#)):

I'll try to keep up with you there.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:48](#)):

The statement that was issued by a Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann certainly was in collaboration with moral theologians.

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

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:58](#)):

Oh, absolutely, with experts. And it's a very helpful document. The bishop, who has to teach about this, I found the document to be very, very helpful. Maybe if I could just share a couple of highlights with our listeners. But you're right. Before we get on the bandwagon in a sense with regard to vaccines or medical care, any medical care, we first consider what is moral and permissible based on our Catholic faith. And not everything that a doctor offers us is moral. We know that, right?

The statement clarify that there are three vaccines currently being worked on and considered, Pfizer, Moderna, and the AstraZeneca, I think, are the ones right now that are front and center. The first two, the Pfizer and Moderna, are very similar in how they were created and both are morally permissible.

Billy Atwell ([10:56](#)):

Yeah, that was kind of the key takeaway.

Bishop Burbidge ([10:58](#)):

That's the key document based on the study, the research of people in medical ethic field, moral theologians. That is what we are saying as bishops.

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

So there's three. There's Pfizer and Moderna. Those are morally permissible. Then there's the other one, that's AstraZeneca.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:16](#)):

Right. Let me just talk about the Pfizer and Moderna use. They used what we say morally compromised cell lines in the design, development...

Billy Atwell ([11:24](#)):

They didn't use that.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:25](#)):

They did not.

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

Right. Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:27](#)):

They did not. Pfizer and Moderna did not use morally compromised cell lines in the design, development, and the production of vaccines. They did not. That's key, right? A confirmation test,

however, employing the commonly used but morally compromise what they call the HEK 293 cell line was performed on both of those vaccines.

Billy Atwell ([11:55](#)):

It sounds like after the vaccine was created, they did some confirmation tests and that's where they used some morally compromised cells.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:59](#)):

Exactly.

Billy Atwell ([11:59](#)):

Okay. But not in the creation of the vaccine itself.

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

Not in the creation of vaccine. That's the key issue, right?

Billy Atwell ([12:03](#)):

That is key.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:04](#)):

Right. While neither vaccine is completely free in the ideal world, completely free from any connection to morally compromised cell lines, in this case, the connection is very remote from the initial evil of...

Billy Atwell ([12:18](#)):

Abortion. All right.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:20](#)):

In view of the gravity of the current pandemic, and we were already in a grave situation, and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use.

Billy Atwell ([12:38](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:39](#)):

Okay? Despite the remote connection to the morally compromised cell lines. Looking at the whole picture and in understanding what I just said, I would say absolutely they are morally permissible.

Billy Atwell ([12:55](#)):

Pfizer and Moderna are good.

Bishop Burbidge ([12:56](#)):

The AstraZeneca vaccine is more morally compromised. Okay? So again, they refer to the HEK 293 cell line was used. See the difference? Was used in the design, development, and production stages of the vaccine, as it was in the confirmation test following. So that's the difference. And the current vaccine for rubella developed earlier relies on morally compromised cell lines in much the same way as the newly developed AstraZeneca vaccine.

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

Yeah, and that's been talked about in the news in the past and stuff. That sounds like a familiar argument there.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:31](#)):

Right? The AstraZeneca vaccine should be avoided if there are other alternatives available.

Billy Atwell ([13:37](#)):

And I think it would be a matter of just letting your doctor know. If you're going to get it, just let them know ahead of time, "Listen, based on my faith, I can get the Pfizer and the Moderna one," and then you can work it out.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:47](#)):

Right, yeah. So if you go to get vaccine, do your best to get Pfizer and Moderna versions.

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

Okay. That's great.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:51](#)):

I mean, it's pretty complicated. I hope I summarized it well enough for the listeners.

Billy Atwell ([13:54](#)):

No. At the end of the day, I think it's helpful to know which ones are morally permissible, which ones are not based on the advice of these experts in the field.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:00](#)):

And Billy, the letter also pointed out in the end, which was very good, a very pastoral approach at the end, and also let's continue to be extremely vigilant in promoting the gospel of life.

Billy Atwell ([14:17](#)):

Yeah, exactly.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:19](#)):

This is a clear reminder of that and the evil of abortion and our stance on that.

Billy Atwell ([14:24](#)):

And I think it's good if you're listening to consider when you're on social media and you're going to get the vaccine at some point, post why you chose the Pfizer or the Moderna one. It helps people think

through the decision before they go. I think a lot of people, it's not that they're intending to participate with evil, they just don't think about kind of that bioethical question before they go. It's a good kind of witness of faith.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:42](#)):

I shared these facts with our listeners, and I know that they bring out the prayerful discernment, as well as our obligation for the health and well-being of all of our community to do what is morally permissible.

Billy Atwell ([14:54](#)):

Well, that's a great resource in the USCCB. Bishop, thank you.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:57](#)):

Thanks.

Billy Atwell ([14:58](#)):

Bishop, about 10 days ago in a surprise move, Pope Francis announced a year of St. Joseph to begin on the day it was announced, which was December 8th. I know we're still in the works, kind of the front end stages regarding what we're going to do for this year. But what was your reaction and what do you hope that people will gain spiritually from this year of St. Joseph?

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

Yeah. I mean, the Pope is filled with surprises here. He announced the year of St. Joseph. Oh, and by the way, it begins today.

Billy Atwell ([15:24](#)):

Yeah. Right. Right. I think every morning we wake up, we have to grab the phone real quick and see did anything big come through.

Bishop Burbidge ([15:30](#)):

I mean, from the beginning, Pope Francis has talked about his love of St. Joseph and the devotion of St. Joseph. Remember it was Pope Francis who added the name of St. Joseph to the canon for the Eucharistic prayer.

Billy Atwell ([15:43](#)):

Oh, really? I didn't know that. Oh, that's wonderful.

Bishop Burbidge ([15:45](#)):

So poor St. Joseph was never mentioned in the Eucharistic prayer until Pope Francis came. I said, the day it was announced that this year of St. Joseph was December 8th, right, the Immaculate Conception, I said in my homily that day, I said, "I hope Mary is not a jealous person."

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

I got it.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:03](#)):

She had to share her day. We know she's not because she's a saint. But I'm sure she was very happy that Joseph shared his day with her.

Billy Atwell ([16:09](#)):

I think at other marriages, there may be a little argument there.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:12](#)):

We got to get working on this of how we can help the faithful liturgically, spiritually, pastorally to keep our focus on St. Joseph. He teaches us so much, doesn't he?

Billy Atwell ([16:22](#)):

He does. He really does.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:22](#)):

I mean, St. Joseph, faithful, obedience, trust in God's plan. Pope Francis refers to the tenderness of St. Joseph as a loving father. A great example for fathers too, right?

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

Exactly.

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

And beautiful. The other interesting thing too is that Joseph is very silent in the gospel.

Billy Atwell ([16:43](#)):

Yeah, that's true.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:44](#)):

You never hear Joseph said.

Billy Atwell ([16:46](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:47](#)):

I think there's a good reminder in our lives. Sometimes the most we say is when we say nothing. It's our silence. The example that we are given from St. Joseph is by his actions, by his deeds. Isn't that true for all of us?

Billy Atwell ([17:02](#)):

It's true.

Bishop Burbidge ([17:03](#)):



That the best example we give is our actions, whatever vocation God has given to us, husband, father, priest, whatever vocation. It's through our actions, through the quiet, the daily, living our faith in ordinary circumstances day in and day out. Pope Francis is saying, "Hey, we have a great intercessor in St. Joseph. Let's turn our attention to him throughout this year." And we'll be coming up with some creative ways for parishes to do that.

Billy Atwell ([17:37](#)):

That's wonderful. Yeah, no, that'll be a great year, like I said, especially for dads, but for everybody. Everybody can really draw a lot from him. Bishop, we're just a few days away really from Christmas. A week out almost exactly. What's your message for the faithful? This has been a wild year. So as we get into this joyful season, what do you want us to think about? What's your message?

Bishop Burbidge ([17:56](#)):

I mean, again, this time last Christmas, we could never have imagined, right, everything that would develop a few months later and everything that we've been dealing with. But our Christmas this year in so many ways is probably one of the most important, significant Christmases we ever celebrated, because it reminds us that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Onto us a savior who has been born. And in our Christmas mass or readings at the Christmas mass, we are told who he is. He is the word made flesh. He is the son of God, the son of Mary.

He is the light who has conquered the darkness, the one who promises to deliver us, to recreate us and all of creation. In the midst of very challenging and demanding times for all of us, we are a people of joyful hope. And what we celebrate at Christmas explains and reveals and reflects to the world why. It is my hope and prayer that this Christmas is a source of renewal and peace and joy for all of our listeners. God is with us. God is with us. And his love is perfectly revealed in the savior who has been born onto us.

Billy Atwell ([19:25](#)):

That's wonderful. Now, if I'm correct, your patron saint takes some center billing this season, St. Nicholas?

Bishop Burbidge ([19:33](#)):

Well, St. Nicholas. Yeah, great, because I was installed on the feast of St. Nicholas from the bishop of Ireland.

Billy Atwell ([19:37](#)):

Oh okay. There you go. Yeah. That's connection.

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

That's great, right? The giver of gifts.

Billy Atwell ([19:43](#)):

That's true. That's true.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:49](#)):

It's great.

Billy Atwell ([19:50](#)):

Very blessed season.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:51](#)):

Thanks.

Billy Atwell ([19:51](#)):

I've got a couple of things to plug in, then we're going to have some questions from the faithful. Again, the JOY campaign, don't forget, Just One Yes. Go to [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org) to learn more about that and to put in your yeses. We're trying to get to 100,000 yeses this season. So if you can participate, that would be wonderful. And also, you maybe start seeing some teasers videos for this, a digital Christmas card that we're posting on social media soon. Stay tuned for that. Make sure you're following us.

If you're not signed up for our e-newsletter, go to [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org). We've been working on that for a few months now, and it's really beautiful and you're going to like it a lot.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:23](#)):

We have a great communications team here under your leadership, and they are extremely creative.

Billy Atwell ([20:31](#)):

Yes.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:32](#)):

They said, "Bishop, you send a Christmas message every year. Let's do something really creative this year." They're a lot younger and I'm saying, "Okay, I'm going to trust you guys. See what you come up with here." And I have to say, first of all, it's a very sincere and heartfelt message being delivered with expressing my prayers and best wishes to all the people, but it's done in such a beautiful and creative way. And I tell you, when I looked at the teaser, I got chills. I'm not going to ruin it.

These guys are getting nervous that I'm going to tell the surprise here, but I won't say anything more than that. But I want to stress, it's a sincere and heartfelt greeting to all the faithful in the diocese.

Billy Atwell ([21:15](#)):

Thank you, Bishop. All right. First question comes, it says, "With all the challenges of technology over the past couple of decades, as well as the way COVID-19 has changed society perhaps forever, what do you think the church will look like in 20 years?"

Bishop Burbidge ([21:29](#)):

I don't know what it's going to look like after Christmas, so I'm not sure 20 years from now. Oh, it's impossible to say, but I'm hopeful, right? I'm hopeful based on reality. I think we're going to see a resurgence of faith. I think people are coming to realize that yes, technology is good and our access to information, internet, and the technology that allows us for entertainment and things like that. If used appropriately, it's fine. But I think most people are realizing it's never going to be enough.

I mean, at least to us being isolated in unnecessary ways, it can take us away from personal relationships and intimacy. It can be beginning to control us. And it doesn't provide the answers that we're looking for.

Billy Atwell ([21:29](#)):

That's so true.

Bishop Burbidge ([22:28](#)):

We're looking for truth. We're looking for, where do I find peace? Where do I find the meaning of my life? Where's this all going? And that's only found in relationship with Christ and the living of our faith. I think people are seeing that more and more. We'll use technology to convey the truth and communicate, but it's not the answer. I pray to God more than ever and especially with what we've been going through. We're reminded that we're frail and weak. Life is short. We all do have a purpose.

It's to live joyfully in this life so that we enjoy the fullness of life and happiness in the kingdom of heaven. The things of this world, the material things of this world, the technology of this world, they don't provide the answers. Billy, I'm hopeful. I'm trying for a resurgence of faith.

Billy Atwell ([23:20](#)):

Very good. All right. Next question, as you know, our new president claims the Catholic faith, but he works against God's truth when it comes to abortion and other issues. How should church leaders respond? Similar to what you're talking about before, how do you think church leaders should be responding to it?

Bishop Burbidge ([23:34](#)):

I mean, I think basically what we said earlier in the podcast. I mean, we have to remember who we are. We're teachers of the truth, teachers of the faith. That's our job. We have to be concerned about anyone in our flock's soul and have to help him or her to grow in holiness and not to be afraid to teach the truth and to challenge appropriately always in love. I think we have to do that, and I think our faithful have to do that. They know, they expect bishops to say certain things and all that, but they need to hear from the people.

Hey, I'm a faithful Catholic and what you're saying and what you're doing is unacceptable. I want you to know that. I mean, because I think, as we talk often about, phone calls or letters or emails to offices of elected officials really make a difference.

Billy Atwell ([24:37](#)):

Oh, it's a huge difference.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:38](#)):

I'm asking our faithful, don't sit back and just rely on your bishops to do that, which we have to. We have to be strong and courageous. We need you too. We need your voice.

Billy Atwell ([24:48](#)):

Sometimes we won't hear back. We'll put out a statement or maybe you'll address an elected official. We don't hear anything from them until their phone starts ringing from parishioners.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:57](#)):

That's right.

Billy Atwell ([24:58](#)):

I live on Wall Street. I live on Smith Lane or something. Then they realize, oh, these are real people. These Catholics really believe what this bishop is telling me. When we get that phone call, then all of a sudden...

Bishop Burbidge ([25:11](#)):

Yeah, and we've heard that. We've heard that from our parishioners who have interned for elected officials saying, "Oh no, no. They are listening. We have to count for them. We have to give them the number of messages and all those things."

Billy Atwell ([25:23](#)):

Yeah, very good. Last question is from several people. We've gotten this question a number of times in different forms, so I'm just going to kind of phrase it for you, but it's not from just one person. Basically it relates to Governor Northam recently in one of his COVID updates press conferences said, "This year we need to think about what is truly the most important thing, is it the worship or the building? For me, God is wherever you are. You don't have to sit in the church pew for God to hear your prayers."

There was a lot of pushback not just from Catholics, but from other faith traditions who do believe that sacred spaces matter and being there is different. It's not the same as watching it on your iPhone or something. So if you could just to kind of address that statement.

Bishop Burbidge ([26:02](#)):

Yeah. That statement does deserve some pushback. It was not carefully thought out nor respectful of what various faiths, certainly the Catholic faith, truly believe. There's a difference between personal devotion and public worship, and they fulfill different purposes. As a Catholic, we certainly believe that the Holy Eucharist when we're in person at the celebration of the holy sacrifice of the mass is the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are to receive. It cannot be e-mailed. It cannot be live streamed or anything like that.

I mean, nothing is more important than us coming together. We are in communion. Our Lord himself told us, "Come together. Do this in remembrance of me. Encourage and lift up each other in faith." We, as Catholics, share that communion in a beautiful way, and we do not live in... We don't celebrate and live our faith in isolation. We're part of the body of Christ. When we are not there at for the celebration of the holy sacrifice mass in that sacred building, something's missing. Something is missing.

We have to really be very, very aware that the body of Christ coming together is absolutely essential to our spiritual and our emotional and our mental well-being. And not just for ourselves. Our presence is a gift to others. When you go into a sacred building, it's different than being in your room.

Billy Atwell ([27:46](#)):

That's definitely true.

Bishop Burbidge ([27:46](#)):

You are in the real presence of Christ to us. You're surrounded by the sacred images that lift our hearts and our voices to the Lord. This is a reminder to all the faithful. Maybe I could use this as an occasion, that certainly the desire and the goal was for all of our faithful, please, please come back to church for the celebration of the mass. I'm begging and encourage all of our parishes to implement the protocols that we put in place. They were given to us by a panel of experts that will keep people safe and healthy.

And especially if we're choosing to publicly go out in other spaces, that has to apply to our spiritual lives too. At the same time, the health and well-being of all the parishioners is the key, especially at this critical time in the life of the pandemic. Dispensation is still place, right? Some people are compromised and cannot do it. Some people are mentally or emotionally compromised and just are paralyzed and can't do it. You're not committing a mortal sin if there are the circumstances, but something's missing when you're not here.

And pray God, pray God with these vaccines and us moving forward that we are to be together real soon as the body of Christ in a sacred building. We need to be together. I disagree with the governor very much so. I am praying. I am praying so hard that when we get to that point, our churches are going to be overflowing because we miss each other.

Billy Atwell ([29:36](#)):

I recommend anyone that wants... Bishop, he wrote about this in your November column in The Arlington Catholic Herald. The article was titled, Lord, it is good that we are here talking about the transfiguration. Go to [catholicherald.com](http://catholicherald.com) to read that. You can search Lord, it's good that we're here or go to just the section for Bishop Burbidge's column. It's a great piece. It kind of helps you really think that why do we need to be in that space together? Why is it special? It's very, very well done. Bishop any final thoughts?

Bishop Burbidge ([30:01](#)):

No, Billy. This was a comprehensive podcast. You gave me the opportunity to convey my prayers and best wishes to everyone. I repeat them. My dear friends in the Diocese of Arlington, know that you are a gift to me for which I am very, very grateful. I'm so grateful for your support and encouragement, especially during these trying times. You are a true gift to me, and I thank God for you every day.

And I pray for you, and I pray that you and your families will have a blessed Christmas, renewed in the conviction of God's great love for you, that he sent his only son as our savior, the light who has conquered the darkness. Let us be renewed in faith and joyful in hope, and with his graces to continue to walk humbly with our God. Wishing all of you a bless at Christmas. Thank you for listening to the Walk Humbly Podcast. Make sure you check out more episodes on iTunes, Google Play, Stitcher, and Spotify.

You can follow me on Twitter @BishopBurbidge where I offer gospel reflections each morning and share photos and updates of what is going on in the Diocese of Arlington. Stay up to date with news, event information, and inspirational content by subscribing to our e-newsletter at [arlingtondiocese.com](http://arlingtondiocese.com).