

Bishop Burbidge (00:00):

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

Billy Atwell (00:08):

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Bishop Burbidge (01:13):

I'm doing well, Billy. A beautiful we're taping our podcast on this solemnity of the annunciation. And so, a great day to encourage our faithful to turn to Mary when those times come in life when God asks something we were not expecting or planning, or maybe even desiring, and it may be overwhelming to us, but we look to Mary's example who trusted that promise. Nothing will be impossible with God, do not be afraid. And we all know in our lives that when we say yes to God's will, it always works out. It's his promise that he'll give us the grace to carry out his call and actually, it's that yes that leads to our holiness, to our own joy and peace. So if for perhaps, maybe some of our listeners right now are like, "I don't understand God's plan or why this came my way," what a beautiful day to ask for Mary's powerful intercession. So, like Mary, we can say yes.

Billy Atwell (02:11):

Now last podcast, you said you're having a good lent. We're closing in on the end of lent here, almost at Holy week. Are you still having a good lent?

Bishop Burbidge (02:16):

Yeah. It's really been a blessed lent, it really has been through the grace of God and I hope also for our listeners, and even if you've stumbled through lent, we still have time to prepare to enter into the holiest of weeks. So just a word of encouragement to just look forward and make these days very special. So we're ready and prepared to celebrate Holy week and Easter.

Billy Atwell (02:42):

Wonderful. Bishop, before we jump into the main topics, there has been some really tragic news since our last podcast. One of those events occurred in Atlanta in which eight people were killed at three different spas in that region. And the other occurred just this past Monday in Boulder, Colorado, a man killed 10 people at a grocery store, including one police officer. You put out a statement in which you mentioned that in the face of hate and loss, may we renew our resolve to pray daily for the protection

of all human life and the dignity of each and every human person. You also called for prayers for the victims, their families, and the communities in Atlanta and Boulder. We've sadly seen shootings like this in the past, and we've almost become callous to the news that a new cycle almost moves on quickly to it. How should we process events like this when we see them?

Bishop Burbidge ([03:26](#)):

Yeah, I think you're right. I think there's maybe two things that may be helpful is one again, as you said, so sadly and tragically every time we turn on the news or read articles on social media, whatever, we see violence, we see killings, we see gang violence, the exploits of drug cartels and so on. And so, we never just want to, God forbid, become numb to that.

Billy Atwell ([03:54](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([03:55](#)):

It should cause us to pause and to have compassion and sadness, and don't become numb to these evils. It should stop us in our tracks because we have to be aware of our circumstances and our surroundings. And in the midst of this, we can't say, "Well, there's nothing I can do about this." Well, the first powerful thing we can do is what you said I mentioned in my statement is our prayers.

Billy Atwell ([04:27](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([04:27](#)):

Our prayers are powerful for the victims and for the families that are left behind. Imagine the strength, the grace, the help they are going to need in the midst of such grief and sadness. So we can do something and our prayers are so important. And then also, yes, I can do something to confront, to stop this evil by [inaudible 00:04:50] witness of my own life, my own example that no one sees for me words or actions that reflect any unjust anger or hatred or bitterness or anything like that. So, dear friends, when we're numb to evil, that's how evil spreads and that's what the evil one wants to happen to us. He wants to numb us. Don't let that happen. It should be a cause of sadness and grief and compassion and a motivation to pray and to be renewed in our own witness.

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

Yeah, absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([05:21](#)):

And I extend heartfelt sympathy to all the families who are suffering in Atlanta, in Colorado and beyond. Sadly, every day, every day we see such such violence.

Billy Atwell ([05:37](#)):

Right. We had talked about this next news item last time when the death penalty had been voted by the legislature here and it was going to the governor, well, the governor's signed that bill now. And so, the death penalty is officially abolished. What are your thoughts on that? I know we've talked about it before, but it'd be good to hear your thoughts at this point.

Bishop Burbidge ([05:56](#)):

Real briefly. We rejoice because this action is consistent with our commitment to preaching and to living the gospel of life, which is the reverence for all of human life and every human person, even those who don't [inaudible 00:06:12] life.

Billy Atwell ([06:12](#)):

Right.

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

And so, the fact that this is the end of the death penalty, I think is a victory for the gospel of life. And we are grateful to our Virginia Catholic Conference and all the people throughout our diocese who helped to support this historic legislation.

Billy Atwell ([06:28](#)):

Yeah, and you also mentioned in the last podcast the need to pray for the victims of those who ended up on death row, that for them, their pain still goes on and they still struggle.

Bishop Burbidge ([06:36](#)):

Absolutely.

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

You hosted a conference on the topic of racism recently, called Open Wide Our Hearts [inaudible 00:06:44] to love, which was the name of a pastoral letter from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that we've talked about on this podcast as well. You welcomed a keynote from just across the river, Cardinal Wilton Gregory of D.C. [inaudible 00:06:57] a few days out from the conference now, and you have this advisory council you set up on racism, so you're thinking about this issue a lot. What are some of your takeaways from that event?

Bishop Burbidge ([07:05](#)):

First of all, we're very grateful to Cardinal Gregory who has been a champion fighting against evil of racism throughout his life, and also, throughout his ministry, his priest and Bishop and so, we were honored by his presence who could speak so personally to this topic. And Cardinal gave a wonderful keynote address and actually emphasized, I guess, the title of the document you mentioned, Open Wide Our Hearts Wide embracing all people without exception, no matter their color or their background or their culture, whatever. We love all people. And so any attack against a person because of their race of course, is an evil, it's a sin. And so, the Cardinal in a very beautiful way reminded us of that mandate of the gospel.

And I think he beautifully stressed the need to be able to listen to people who have suffered from racism. This is not just in the past. Tragically, we know as part of our history, but it's also in the present. We heard stories at our own listening sessions, and it is important for people to say, "This has been my experience. This is my story." And we can, again, extend our compassion, our sorrow that they had to experience like that. And for any of us to deny that racism and discrimination doesn't exist today in communities, in the workplace, God forbid maybe even within the church, it would be less than vigilant to have that disposition.

So I think it's always important for us as a church, for us as an organization or a business, as a family, as an individual, to be examining our own protocols, our own practices, our own behaviors, the things we say and the things we do. And again, with God's grace to make sure that no one is the victim of racism or discrimination or bias because of the color of their skin or their background from which they come.

Billy Atwell ([09:15](#)):

Yeah. And anyone that wants to go back and listen to some of the keynotes and the homily and so on, you can go to our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/aringtondiocese](https://youtube.com/aringtondiocese). It's there that we've got the live stream from that event.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:27](#)):

And we will be blessed by the way, with some panelists who joined us even from our own diocese.

Billy Atwell ([09:31](#)):

Oh, that's right.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:33](#)):

I think that's part of that live stream that they offered tremendous responses to.

Billy Atwell ([09:36](#)):

Absolutely. On March 15th, the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a response to a question related to whether it was appropriate for priests or deacons to offer blessings to same sex marriages or unions. Obviously, the church teaches that marriage can only happen between one man and one woman. But the question was whether a blessing could be given to two people of the same sex who were in a civil marriage or union of some sort. In short, the Vatican's answer was that those civil marriage and unions could not receive a blessing. Could you explain some of the reasoning for that? Obviously, the news media ran away with it, but I think a little clarity on the topic would be helpful.

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

Yeah, I think so too, because it's a very sensitive topic, right? And so, I think it's important to repeat what we just said in the past topic. The church always encourages and reminds us of the teachings of the gospel, that we embrace and love all people and respect every person. And so, right away, we have to say here that we reaffirm that for anyone dealing with a same sex attraction or a homosexual inclination, whatever, we love the person, always.

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

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([10:47](#)):

And so, whether it's our brother or sister, our son or daughter, grandson and granddaughter, family member or friend, we love all people in the midst of that. But here's the answer to your question and the reason it's a question is because many priests are faced with the challenging situation of wanting to walk with those who are engaging in a homosexual lifestyle in the Catholic faith while also ensuring they understand the church's teaching.

Billy Atwell ([11:19](#)):

Yeah, it's a delicate balance.

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

It's a pastoral challenge. The intent is never to push someone away or to feel unwelcome, all right? But we also have to be consistent and principled about who we are and what we believe. So the question of blessing same sex marriages or unions comes up from time to time. And as you mentioned, the congregation in Rome and the doctrine of faith offered clarity on this reaffirmed by our Holy father, Pope Francis. It does not mean, Billy, that we agree with everyone, but our rejection of a lifestyle or belief system does not mean in any way that we reject the person.

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

Right, right.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:56](#)):

That's the key.

Billy Atwell ([11:56](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:57](#)):

But based on, and I'm getting a little technical here, so I hope our friends bear with us but I want to respond to the question on how the congregation responded. And what the congregation explained was that blessings fall into the category of what we call sacramentals, all right? Which is when the church calls us to praise God, encourages us to implore his protection, exhorts us to seek his mercy by holiness of life. Many times, people as I'm leaving church or walking through a hospital, "Father, can I have your blessing?" In addition, they are in imitation of the sacraments, and are a reminder to spiritual benefit that we receive when we receive the grace that flows from the church.

That's what a blessing is, all right? And because, "Blessings reflect the sacraments," the congregation says, "when a blessing is invoked on relationships between two people, for instance, in addition to those people having good intentions, it is a necessary condition of the blessing that it is objectively and positively ordered to receive and express grace, according to the way God created us. Therefore, blessings can only be given to relationships that reflect the order of God's design." And that's a quote summarizing what the congregation said.

Billy Atwell ([13:20](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:20](#)):

So as you said, the conclusion is for this reason, it's not listed to impart a blessing on relationships or partnerships that involve sexual activity outside of marriage, okay?

Billy Atwell ([13:34](#)):

Okay.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:35](#)):

And furthermore, since blessings on persons who are in relationship with the sacraments, the blessing of homosexual unions can not be considered. This is because they would constitute a certain imitation of the nuptial blessing invoked when the man and woman unite in the sacrament of matrimony.

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

And the church used that same explanation when referring to same sex marriage in the United States, well can we accept unions? And so on. Well, we can't create parallel institutions to marriage and just call it something else.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:03](#)):

And that's right.

Billy Atwell ([14:03](#)):

There's a consistency here I'm recognizing.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:04](#)):

And that's a practical application of this reality that we're trying to explain here.

Billy Atwell ([14:09](#)):

Right, right.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:10](#)):

But again, the CDF just said, and the CDF, I mean the Congregation of Doctrine of Faith, it said what I just said earlier. It says that we are called to welcome people who have same sex attraction with respect and sensitivity and accompany them in striving to live out the church's teaching. We acknowledge that it's difficult at times, but if we truly love, this is what I really believe, if we truly love our brothers and sisters, we'll take that journey with them. And at the same time, people in same sex relationships who desire to be part of the church's community life should receive the teachings with our consistency, compassion, and conviction.

So I know this is a sensitive subject, and I hope that this explanation upholds what everyone deserves and expects. That we love and respect all people, but not to be surprised that the church as she has been is going to be consistent on the teaching of marriage. We have always said in light of what Jesus taught us, and we will always say that marriage is the sacred union of one man, and one woman forever, open to the transmission and the giving of life. That teaching can never change and we cannot, as you say, use parallel forms to express anything different than the teaching.

Billy Atwell ([15:40](#)):

Now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, just as you did now, they began and ended with the point of charity and love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, right? No matter their living situation or whatever. Another distinction they made was the blessings of individuals versus the blessings of relationships. And they reaffirmed that a blessing for an individual is still allowed whether they're homosexual or not, is that right?

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

Oh, absolutely. Thank you. That's a good point. If someone, for example, publicly that I know is in a situation like that and says, "Bishop, can you give me a blessing? I'm dealing with some crosses in my life, I'm worried about my future or my parents or whatever." Absolutely. The individual, absolutely can receive that blessing.

Billy Atwell ([16:29](#)):

Yeah. Very good.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:30](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Billy Atwell ([16:31](#)):

Bishop, Catholic leaders throughout the nation are decrying what is the, it's the so called Equality Act. It's a clever name, but the reality is much different. Could you take us through what is so dangerous about this particular bill?

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

Well, I think you're right. It's a little deception in calling it the Equality Act, right? Because people hear, oh, the church is not in favor of the Equality Act. Well, how can you not be in favor of equality, right? So I do think there's a little strategy there that we have to be careful of. Here's the reason why. Let me just say some of the things that are involved in what makes this bill so dangerous. Biological men would be allowed into women only safe spaces, like locker rooms and bathrooms, even their sports. Parents would be considered abusive for denying their child's transgenderism and not supporting sex change procedures.

Billy Atwell ([17:25](#)):

Wow.

Bishop Burbidge ([17:25](#)):

Religious liberty, Billy, would be denied for organizations and charities that uphold biology and accepting the anatomy that God gave us. Gender identity, which is rooted in perception rather than reality is prioritized over biology. And even pro-life doctors would be forced to perform abortions, no conscious protection for those that disagree. This is just I'm riling a list of things that are included in this bill. Cardinal Dolan wrote, because he's the chairman of the Bishop's Committee on Pro-Life. He wrote a very, very clear, concise article that would, I assure our readers, if they read this article, they will know why we have to aggressively be against the so called Equality Act.

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

Yeah. If you just Google Cardinal Dolan Equality Act, you'll find the article, it's on a website called the publicdiscourse.com, but you're right, it's very thorough and very clear. For those listening, just to be aware where it stands. It's passed through the house, it's now going into the Senate and it's being deliberated there. It's really critical that you contact your Senator and let them know how you feel about this and that you do not support the Equality Act. To take action there's a couple of options for how you could do this. You could go to [humanlifeaction.org/take-action](http://humanlifeaction.org/take-action), okay? That's one of the ways that you

can go and you can fill out the information to write or call your Senator. They've got the information there.

You can also go to [vacatholic.org](http://vacatholic.org) and use the action alerts system there to find out who your senators are and their contact information. But also write about this on social media. Bishop, you've talked about this before. We have to be willing to accept that we are counter-cultural and while some might be pushing this, we have to be willing to stand up for our faith. And this one is a direct contradiction, not just of natural realities and truth, but it's also offensive because it's denying us religious rights to disagree.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:15](#)):

And that, of course, that's a fear. And we see this is becoming a very slippery slope here, and it's a very, very dangerous path.

Billy Atwell ([19:24](#)):

Yeah, absolutely. Bishop, every April the church celebrates in the United States recognizes Child Abuse Protection Month. It's an opportunity to remind people of our duty to protect our children, ensure the faithful of all that we do to keep our parishes and our schools safe, to ensure there's accountability in reporting allegations of sexual abuse of minors to the authorities. We know that the church has a rough past with this, and there's been a lot of work that's been done over the last 20 years. Why is this month so important to you?

Bishop Burbidge ([19:56](#)):

Well, again, it highlights the ongoing vigilance and action that's necessary to protect God's children. Our work is never done as a church or as a society because of the sad reality, both in history and in the present. We know that within the church, so sadly and tragically this has occurred, but in all aspects of society. So we, as a society, as a church, we can never tire of doing everything. And it's one of my highest responsibilities to make sure that we're doing everything we can to ensure that children coming to our parishes and schools and ministries are protected from any abuse. So for example, what does that mean? Well, it means that we involve putting staff and volunteers through a screening process. That includes a background check, a training course.

How do you see signs of abuse? Fingerprinting, et cetera. But it also means ensuring our staff and volunteers to be on alert because through that training, they can see patterns or they can see signs that, wow, this is a yellow flag, or this is a red flag. And so, we have to continue to do that. In 2019 we mentioned that Pope Francis issued a document that created universal standards for handling the child sexual abuse allegations. In the United States when this came out in 2019, we were grateful to see that almost all of those standards were already well established in the United States from 2002.

Billy Atwell ([21:34](#)):

That's true, I remember that.

Bishop Burbidge ([21:35](#)):

Right, yeah. So from 2002 on is that unlike prior to 2002, when there is an allegation of an abuse of a child, the first thing we have to do, and the first thing we do is we report it to the police.

Billy Atwell ([21:54](#)):



Exactly.

Bishop Burbidge ([21:55](#)):

It's not our judgment, whether this could have happened or may have happened, it's not our judgment. We hand it over immediately to law enforcement.

Billy Atwell ([22:04](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([22:04](#)):

And then, of course, then we act to our protocols without in any way, interfering with any investigation that the law enforcement would do. And as you know, there is zero tolerance within the church of any priest who is found to have abused the child. Every Bishop must be able to say, "There is not a priest [inaudible 00:22:25] who is in active ministry now." And again, whenever we mention this issue, Billy, I do take the opportunity, it's sad, it's embarrassing, it's difficult, but to acknowledge this has happened within our church. And I do, as a spokesperson for the church, just extend deepest apologies and heartfelt sympathy. One thing that did come out of that document in 2019, that was not in place, Billy, which we did have to implement, Pope Francis instructed to make sure that there was also a third party reporting system for an instance in which a Bishop was being accused of abuse, or even neglecting to follow up on reports.

Billy Atwell ([23:21](#)):

That's right.

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

And so, the problem before was, well, if it was a priest or a deacon, we know we go to the Bishop. Well, what if, God forbid, what about if it's a Bishop or a Bishop failing to protect children? Well, now there is this third party system that was put into full effect in 2019 with the establishment of a hotline, so that was something that we needed to implement. And I need to say, that again, we keep talking about when we look at these tragic realities in our society, we can't be naive or numb. And so, it's also important to remember, and I think this statistic comes from the national center for missing and exploited children through a tips line reports that it received 21.7 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation, 97.5% increase in years past. The highest number reports ever received in one year.

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

That's really remarkable.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:25](#)):

And so, the church, sadly, every aspect of society must acknowledge that this is a reality that continues. And so, it is important for us as a society to uphold, to put on the spotlight Child Abuse Prevention Month as a call to duty, as a call to action. No one is freed from that because of these very, very sad statistics. So we have a lot of work to do, and I hope that some of the lessons learned by the church can be of service to other institutions, but we're always learning and we're always working.

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

If you want to learn more about the exact protocols at the dioceses, its policies, you want to see more information about that hotline and all that, you can just go to [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org) and click on the Child Protection link at the very top. We want to make it very easy to find so that there's no confusion. You can go there and you can learn a lot more about it. Bishop, a happier topic here. We've had some rough ones there. I'm going to take an easy on you for a minute. So we're entering Holy week like we mentioned at the top of this podcast. It's going to look a little different than in years past but as a blessing, it looks like it's going to be a little improved from last year where we couldn't go to mass at all. Take us through a little bit of what people can expect for Holy week this year.

Bishop Burbidge ([25:42](#)):

Yeah. I mean, we are in a different position. Last year, who would ever forget? Palm Sunday, Holy chrisms mass where we gather with all our priests. No, we couldn't have it. I mean, we celebrated the liturgies, but not certainly, with the community and it was so sad. So thank the good Lord. I think we are moving in the right direction. And we see that as the statistics show us and the vaccines are helping, they're becoming more common. So most of the masses and liturgies of Holy week will be held the same way we've held mass for the past months where masses are being celebrated, the congregation is there. And the social distancing protocols and masks are being strongly encouraged and hopefully respected. The only mass that will not be open to the public sadly, will be the chrisms mass.

Billy Atwell ([26:36](#)):

I know that breaks your heart.

Bishop Burbidge ([26:37](#)):

It does.

Billy Atwell ([26:37](#)):

That's like Christmas for you, you love that mass.

Bishop Burbidge ([26:40](#)):

It is one of my favorite masses of the year, because what happens at that mass. So at that mass, the sacred chrisms is consecrated in sacred oils, the Holy oils are blessed. And that chrisms that oils that are used for the sacraments, baptism, confirmation and Holy water, the ordination, anointing of the sick, that chrisms and the oils are carried home to each parish. So the priest comes home with them. They're all blessed, everything. So all the sacraments that will be celebrated from that Holy Thursday on are blessed at that one mass and carrying home for its use in our parish.

Billy Atwell ([27:24](#)):

It's a beautiful symbol for the church.

Bishop Burbidge ([27:25](#)):

It's a powerful, powerful symbol. And also, at that mass, since we are Holy Thursday, celebrating the institution, the Eucharist and the priesthood, a very powerful moment for me is that our priests are asked to stand and to renew their priestly promises made at ordination.

Billy Atwell ([27:41](#)):

That's wonderful.

Bishop Burbidge ([27:41](#)):

And asking the people of God to pray for them. It's very beautiful. So I do encourage our friends, if you've never seen a chrim mass, I really hope you can live stream or watch it. And also, even if you can't do that, if everyone on Holy Thursday morning at the time of the chrim mass on Holy Thursday morning, if you could be praying for me and the priests of the diocese, I'd be really grateful for that.

Billy Atwell ([28:06](#)):

That's wonderful. To view that live stream just real quick. The best way is probably to go to [youtube.com/arlintondiocese](https://youtube.com/arlintondiocese). That's certainly a fast way for you. Subscribe to YouTube, it gives you an alert when a live stream begins. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter, we send a reminder email out that morning, so just go to [arlintondiocese.org](https://arlintondiocese.org) to sign up for that. Or you can also check it out through Facebook. We've got an event set up for that, so you can check out the live stream that way. We try to make it very easy, but those are three ways to do it. Bishop, I was just thinking, so one of the oils is for Holy orders and not long after that, you're going to be doing a transitional deacon ordination with those very oils. That's pretty wild.

Bishop Burbidge ([28:45](#)):

Yeah, I know. We have an ordination of seven men to be ordained to transitional deacons and God willing priests next year. It's so great. And Billy, just to go back a little bit, in Holy week, I did send a notice to the priests. I mean, there are some things that we're going to be able to do this Holy week. For example, the washing of the feet would be permissible. It's an option within the church that we're allowed. There'll be a veneration of the cross is encouraged this year. Not that this year, we'd be kissing the cross, but the cross will be upheld on Good Friday for us to genuflect or venerate.

Billy Atwell ([29:17](#)):

Oh, wonderful.

Bishop Burbidge ([29:17](#)):

And I think that's very, very important for us to see. There'll be the celebration of baptisms and confirmations, perhaps at the Easter visuals, Psalms will be distributed on Psalm Sunday. So we're definitely getting back. We're allowing up to eight persons in a [inaudible 00:29:32]. Remember, we've been ...

Billy Atwell ([29:33](#)):

That's right, yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([29:34](#)):

... [crosstalk 00:29:34] bit more singing, singing the mass parts, hymnals, that's returning. So we're not going to do it overnight friends but we're gradually lifting some of these restrictions and protocols and we're getting there.

Billy Atwell ([29:47](#)):

These are warmly welcomed. I don't think anyone's disappointed with that.

Bishop Burbidge ([29:49](#)):

And let's keep respecting each other as an act of charity and love following the protocols. But it's great just as the States and our Commonwealth are lifting some protocols, so are we here in the Diocese of Arlington. It's a great sign. It's a sign of hope.

Billy Atwell ([30:07](#)):

Yeah, it's like Spring time's coming, right.

Bishop Burbidge ([30:09](#)):

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Billy Atwell ([30:09](#)):

A couple of quick events to plug before we close out Bishop. So March 27th is the mass for the sick and for their caregivers. This is a really important mass, especially this year. There's so many who are sick and then caregivers are working overtime often. That's going to be again, March 27th at 11:00 AM. It's at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, which is irrelevant because we can't have attendees there, but it is going to be live streamed by the parish. A big thank you to Father Fisher for hosting that it's going to be [stambroseva.org/mass](http://stambroseva.org/mass). So that's S-T [stambroseva.org/mass](http://stambroseva.org/mass). Again, thank you to St. Ambrose.

Bishop Burbidge ([30:43](#)):

And in encouragement, thank you for mentioning that, Billy, for usually at that mass, the sick, [inaudible 00:30:49], the dying are present to receive the anointing, the sacrament of anointing. As you mentioned, they won't be there this year, but any of my friends who are suffering, who are sick and home bound, please know that the reason we're having this mass is to pray specifically for you at this mass. We are praying for you that God will give you strength to carry the cross you're caring, to know that when you unite your sufferings to his you're the holiest you can be when you unite them to the Lord. And he assures you he is with you, and that suffering will lead to glory. And friends at home, if you offer that suffering for our church, for peace in our world, for special intentions or individuals, God receives that as a great act of prayer. So know that we'll be with you, we'll be praying for you, very, very fervently at that mass.

Billy Atwell ([31:42](#)):

Wonderful. And then one other event, a big one. April 10th is our ordination to the transitional diaconate. So we have young men studying in the seminary and they're going to become deacons. God willing, not long after that, they'll become priests for our diocese. So that's going to be at the cathedral St. Thomas Moore, it's live streamed. Again, that's another event where we can't have the public present, but it's going to be live streamed. So again, [youtube.com/arlingtondiocese](https://youtube.com/arlingtondiocese), or check it out on Facebook. Again, it's April 10th at 11:00 AM. Bishop, seven men. You've got to be the proudest Bishop in this country.

Bishop Burbidge ([32:15](#)):

Seven wonderful men who will be great deacons and God willing, the following year great priests.

Billy Atwell ([32:21](#)):

Wonderful. Bishop, any final thoughts then? If you would just send us off with your blessing.

Bishop Burbidge ([32:25](#)):

Yeah, I know this has been a little extended podcast. So we can't maybe get to the questions today, but I would not want to end this podcast, this is our last one before Holy week, the [inaudible 00:32:34] and Easter, I would not want to end without, first of all, encouraging all of listeners to do your part to the best that you can to make it a Holy week. It's not going to be a Holy week unless you allow time and maybe shift some things around so that you can enter into the sacred days as we reflect what the son of God did for us as he made his way to Jerusalem, as he gave us the gift of himself, the Holy Eucharist, and suffered and died on the cross and was raised from the dead, so we may have new life to enter into these mysteries. And if all possible, certainly devote more time to prayer during these sacred days.

If you are able, if you are able to attend the sacred liturgies at church and be at mass on Easter Sunday, if your conditions allow you to do that, I really encourage that. But if not, please be united with the Lord in prayer. I wish all of you, dear friends and your families, the new life, the peace that only our risen Lord can give. I pray that these gifts will be yours at Easter and throughout the Easter season, and always. So many blessings to all of you. And let's keep praying for one another, that throughout these sacred days, we will continue to walk humbly with our God. 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 at 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).