

The Irish Bishops Should Restore the Sacraments to the Faithful

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Please can I ask you to pause for just a moment to offer up a ‘Hail Mary’ for our Irish Bishops in these extraordinary times in which we are living. In Ireland most of our Churches are closed, and most of the faithful cannot receive Holy Communion. In many places, the sacrament of confession has also been suspended and priests are being denied entry to hospitals and nursing homes and cannot administer the ‘last rites’ to dying parishioners. There are a few faithful priests who are still prepared to make sure that Catholics can receive Holy Communion and the sacrament of Confession, but they do this without the practical support of their bishops.

Bishop Athanasius Schneider, in a recent interview with Life Site journalist Diane Montagna, said that he believes that, “the prevailing majority of bishops reacted precipitously and out of panic in prohibiting all public Masses and — what is even more incomprehensible — in closing churches.

The reaction of Catholics varies from those who are angry, to those who are baffled, to those who are not really bothered by the temporary absence of the sacraments. What Catholics need to realise is that God is always in control of what happens in this world of ours. Nothing happens by chance and nothing happens without God permitting it. This is not to say that the coronavirus was leashed upon the world by God, but that God permits this plague for His own good purposes.



As St Claude de la Columbiere reminds us in his treatise on Divine Providence.

“It is one of the most firmly established and most consoling of the truths that have been revealed to us that (apart from sin) nothing happens to us in life unless God wills it so. Wealth and poverty alike come from Him.

If we fall ill, God is the cause of our illness; if we get well, our recovery is due to God. We owe our lives entirely to Him, and when death comes to put an end to life, His will be the hand that deals the blow.

But should we attribute it to God when we are unjustly persecuted?

Yes, He is the only person you can charge with the wrong you suffer. He is not the cause of the sin the person commits by ill-treating you, but He is the cause of the suffering

that person inflicts on you while sinning. God did not inspire your enemy with the will to harm you, but He gave him the power to do so.

If you receive a wound, do not doubt but that it is God Himself who has wounded you. If all living creatures were to league themselves against you, unless the Creator wished it and joined with them and gave them the strength and means to carry out their purpose, they would never succeed.

You would have no power over me if it had not been given you from above, the Saviour of the world said to Pilate.

We can say the same to demons and men, to the brute beasts and to whatever exists. You would not be able to disturb me or harm me as you do unless God had ordered it so. You are sent by Him, you are given the power by Him to tempt

me and to make me suffer. You would have no power over me if it had not been given you from above.

If from time to time we meditated seriously on this truth of our faith it would be enough to stifle all complaint in whatever loss or misfortune we suffer.

What I have the Lord gave me, it has been taken away by Him. It is not a lawsuit or a thief that has ruined you or a certain person that has slandered you; if your child dies it is not by accident or wrong treatment, but because God, to whom all belongs, has not wished you to keep it longer.”

He tells us “It is then a truth of our faith that God is responsible for all the happenings we complain of in the world and, furthermore, we cannot doubt that all the misfortunes God sends us have a very useful purpose. We cannot doubt it without imputing to God a lack of judgment in deciding what is advantageous for us.” St Claude reminds us to thank God for everything that His providence permits.

I would say that not many Catholics have thought to thank God for permitting the coronavirus because so many are not properly catechised and have lost the supernatural outlook on life. The coronavirus pandemic will end as soon as God see that His purpose in permitting it has been fulfilled.

In pondering on these things I imagined in my mind a conversation between Jesus and the Irish bishops which goes something like this

Jesus: Bishop, Bishop, thou art careful, and art troubled about many things: But one thing is necessary, My Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Those Catholics who desire to receive Me in Holy Communion at Holy Mass are seeking the better part.

Jesus: Bishop, lovest thou me more than these?

Bishop: Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee.

Jesus: Feed my lambs.

Jesus: Bishop lovest thou me?

Bishop: Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee.

Jesus: Feed my lambs.

Jesus: Bishop, lovest thou me?

Bishop (grieved): Lord, thou knowest all things: thou knowest that I love thee.

Jesus: Feed my sheep.

Jesus: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give, is my flesh, for the life of the world.” (John 6:51-52)

Jesus: “Amen, amen I say unto you: Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath everlasting life: and I will raise him up in the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed: and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, abideth in me, and I in him.

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that

eateth me, the same also shall live by me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead. He that eateth this bread, shall live for ever.” (John 6:54-59)

In Ireland we can go out to get bread & milk, we can go out to get beer and wine, we can go out to get petrol, a young pregnant woman may also go for an abortion, we can go to the pharmacy to get medicine for our bodies, but thanks to the actions of our Bishops, the faithful cannot go to get medicine for their souls, we have been prevented from receiving Jesus Christ truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist, we have been prevented from receiving absolution for our sins in the sacrament of confession?

If people can get these other material needs despite government restrictions, then there is no practical reason why the sacraments cannot be administered to the faithful. Are supermarkets somehow more hygienic and virus resistant than a Catholic Church? Catholics should not allow a secular ruler to decide what is essential for us. For Catholic families, receiving the sacraments is more important than receiving ordinary food, or clothing, or drink.



Heavenly Father,
Pless bless President
Donald John Trump and
the American Nation.

O Mary conceived
without sin, pray for us
who have recourse
to thee. EC



Jesus: Bishop, lovest thou me more than these?

The question that needs to be asked of the Irish Bishops is “why are the faithful Catholics of Ireland being deprived of the bread of life at a time when it is most important that Jesus’ lambs, who have been entrusted to the bishops to feed, receive this supernatural food?”

Faithful Catholics should ask their respective bishops to make provision for the Catholics of their diocese to be able to receive the essential sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion.

This can be done whilst complying with the rational restrictions necessary to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Holy Communion does not have to be received at Holy Mass if this would cause a problem with numbers. I am sure

that many faithful Catholics would be more than willing to help to make sure that the necessary health measures are carried out.

If supermarkets, post-offices, petrol stations, and other retail outlets are able to ensure the safety of their customers, then I am sure that we Catholics can manage similar measures for Catholic Churches.

Recall what the pre-amble to the Irish Constitution says.

“In the Name of the Most Holy Trinity, from Whom is all authority and to Whom, as our final end, all actions both of men and States must be referred,”

Is the closure of Churches and the preventing of the faithful from receiving the Most Holy Trinity in the Eucharist really an action that refers to our final end?

Please contact your bishop and respectfully ask them to begin making plans for the restoration of the sacraments to faithful Catholics. Make sure that you offer your services to help bring about this great consolation.

“Then Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert, to be tempted by the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterwards he was hungry. And the tempter coming said to him: If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Who answered and said: It is written, Not in bread alone doth man live, but in every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:1-4)

May God bless you

