



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 14, 2023

BISHOP ISSUES ST. PATRICK'S DAY DISPENSATION

While in Ireland, the very place of Saint Patrick's mission of Evangelization, the populace does not observe the Feast Day as is done with such vigor in the USA, it must be remembered:

- 1) the crushing oppression of the Irish potato famine;
- 2) the suffering of a people that became clearly a movement to subjugate a whole people;
- 3) the subsequent emigration from home, farm and family that became a sorrowful but real option for a family's survival;
- 4) the reality of hostility to possible jobseekers, outsiders, and particularly European Catholics;
- 5) the accommodation, inculturation and, indeed, the dignity to endure indignities;
- 6) the proving of merit, worth, value and, yes, flesh and blood, faith and humanity of every human being

brought clear proof that in the face of unfounded fear and the seduction of this particular evil, human beings are surely God's children whose lives and whose fate, are liable to God's judgment.

Saint Patrick's Day, over generations of skepticism, has been embraced with festive celebration.

Here in the USA, Saint Patrick's Day has heralded this reality into a day peculiarly its own. Rising, as it were, from the ashes of oppression, prejudice, suspicion and an evil animosity, all are invited, and most join a happy celebration of solidarity.

With all of this in mind, I, as Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester, grant to all Catholic men and women, boys and girls of the Diocese of Manchester and all visitors as well, a dispensation from Abstinence from Meat on Friday, March 17, 2023.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.  
Bishop of Manchester