



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 12th February 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

National Marriage Week was first celebrated in February 2012 with the goal of promoting commitment to a culture of life and family love – not only in the Church, but also within the civic community. The initiative seeks to strengthen marriages, support and encourage married couples, reduce the instances of marital separation, and make the lay faithful more aware of the grace of the nuptial sacrament.

In a complex world where the reality is that not all marriages last, on-going support is essential. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, asks for greater effort on the part of the whole Christian community in welcoming and preparing those who ask to be married in Church. By saying 'I do' the couple begin a journey that calls for great courage, generosity and commitment. They need the welcome, and practical, relational and spiritual support of the community not only at the start, but throughout the seasons of married life, to help them live out their calling to a life-long, loving and fruitful commitment.

With this aim in mind the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life has prepared a document - **Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life** - that offers priests, spouses and all those working in family pastoral work, a renewed vision and methodology of preparation for the sacrament of marriage and all married life, at all stages of the sacramental journey: the time of preparation for marriage, its celebration and the years following, especially when spouses may be going through crises and moments of discouragement.

You can download the document with this link:

http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/dam/laityfamilylife/amoris-laetitia/OrientamentiCatecumenatomatrimoniale/Catechumenal%20Pathways_ENG.pdf

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- **First Holy Communion:** The preparation is over two years. Parents & children are expected to come to Sunday Mass at 9:45am, followed by class.
- **Marriage Course** starts next month. Fridays (February 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24) and Saturday 25 March afternoon.
- **Baptism Course.** It is essential for parents to come to Sunday Mass regularly. All those who wish to have their child baptise should approach Fr. Ivano in person.

No weekday Mass this week



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"for better and for worse"



Born into an aristocratic Roman family in 1774, Elisabetta Canori spent much of her childhood in the care of Augustinian nuns in the countryside of Cascia, Umbria. Many thought that she might have a religious vocation (like her sister Benedetta). However, in her teen years, she developed tuberculosis and returned to her parents' home to recuperate.

Away from the convent, she discerned that God was calling her to marriage. She married a young wealthy law student, Cristoforo Mora in 1796.

The first months of their married life were sweet and joyful. Cristoforo delighted in showing off his young beautiful bride. However, his affections started to become overshadowed by jealousy and he began to restrict Elisabetta's correspondences, wanting to have his wife "all to himself." Jealousy eventually degenerated into disinterest, disinterest into rejection, and so yet within a few short years, Cristoforo grew cold towards his wife and began what would be a long chain of infidelities.

A young mother, now with two daughters, Elisabetta bore the cruelty and the rejection of her husband, offering all her sufferings for his repentance and conversion. As Cristoforo moved from mistress to mistress squandering the family patrimony, Elisabetta patiently struggled. She sold her jewellery and even her wedding dress to feed her two daughters.

As friends urged her to leave her unfaithful husband, she clung to the vows she had made and to the grace of God. Drawing strength from prayer, the Mass and her devotion to the Holy Trinity, Elisabetta never ceased loving Cristoforo and praying for him. She encouraged her daughters to do the same, never permitting rancour or anger to be directed at her husband and their father.

On the night she died, Cristoforo was out with his mistress. Returning home to find his wife dead, he was overcome by grief. After witnessing his wife's holy death, he experienced profound remorse. For years he kept crying unrestrainedly. He was often seen in church, face down in his hat, crying and praying (a portrait of his wife was later discovered inside his hat). Repenting of his sins, he amended his life and lived the remaining years of his life as a Franciscan priest. Amidst penances, he exercised his ministry for 11 years until he died in odour for sanctity.

At the beatification of Elisabetta, April 24th 1994 (Year of the Family), Saint John Paul II said: "Amidst great difficulties, Elisabetta Canori Mora showed total fidelity to the vows she had made in the **Sacrament of Marriage** and to the **responsibility** stemming from it. Constant in prayer and in heroic dedication to her family, she was able to bring up her children as Christians and succeeded in converting her husband".

Last Sunday, 5th February, was the *die natalis* of **Bl. Elisabetta Canori Mora**. We entrust to her intercession our Marriage Course beginning on Friday 24th. May many mystic and holy marriages come forth from this parish...

In manus.

Father Ivano