



March 13, 2017

## DISPENSATION FOR THE MEMORIAL OF SAINT PATRICK

The Season of Lent is a sacred time set aside for prayer and penance as we look forward to the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Among our penitential practices as Catholics, the Church prescribes as normative abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.

Since the celebration of the Memorial of Saint Patrick the Apostle of Ireland this year occurs on March 17, 2017, a Lenten Friday, I have received several requests from the faithful for a dispensation from the Lenten requirement of abstinence from meat.

Therefore, given the deep Irish roots in the Diocese of Corpus Christi, according to the norm of canon 87 §1 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby dispense any of the faithful of the Diocese of Corpus Christi and those present within the territory of the Diocese from the required observance of abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17, 2017 for the celebration of the Memorial of Saint Patrick.

As an act of charity, I ask that all who will make use of this dispensation pray for peace and for all Christians in this country and abroad who are persecuted for our faith in Jesus Christ.

I also encourage all who are celebrating this memorial to attend Mass in honor of Saint Patrick if possible or at least to participate in some other pious action such as the praying of the Rosary, whether individually, in groups, or as a family.

With continued best wishes for the Holy Season of Lent, I remain

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD  
*Bishop of Corpus Christi*

Benedict Nguyen  
Chancellor