



# Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

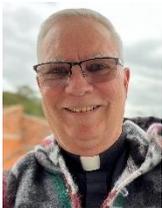
2<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday of Lent-A, March 1, 2026

*In Service to the English-speaking Catholic Community and Visitors of Cuenca*

**WELCOME TO OUR  
ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
CATHOLIC FAMILY IN  
CUENCA!**

## OUR PASTORS:

**Padre Joffre Astudillo,**  
Pastor of San Francisco



**Father Kevin Codd,**  
Presider of the English-  
Speaking Catholics of  
Cuenca. Contact Father  
Kevin at:  
Mobile: 099-726-0770

WhatsApp: +1 509-991-2411  
Email: [KACODD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KACODD@GMAIL.COM)

## REGULAR EVENTS:

### Mass in English:

Sunday: 10:00 am  
*Followed by Coffee & Not Donuts*  
Iglesia San Francisco  
Padre Aguirre y Pde. Cordova  
(Plaza San Francisco)

**Weekday Mass:** Wednesdays, 11:00 am,  
Father Kevin's home: Edificio Alqamari,  
Los Capulíes y Los Molles. Apt. 502.

**Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick:** By appointment. Please contact Father Kevin to schedule.

## We're on Social Media

- ❖ Our WEBSITE:  
[CuencaCatholic.org](http://CuencaCatholic.org)
- ❖ You can find us on FACEBOOK  
at [CUENCA ENGLISH MASS](#)
- ❖ Audio of Father Kevin's recent  
homilies can be found at:  
[kacodd.podbean.com](http://kacodd.podbean.com)

## A Lenten Invitation to our Community: Rice!

During this Lenten season, the members of our community are invited to fulfill the Lenten responsibility to be particularly sacrificial in works of charity. **Please bring to Mass on the Sundays of Lent a bag of rice** (or other non-perishable foods) to support the special ministry of our parish's *Posada San Francisco*, which feeds and houses the homeless and vulnerable in the *Centro Histórico* of Cuenca.



## Lenten Book Study

The Episcopalian community of St Christopher's has extended an invitation to us to join their Lenten book study as they read the Christian classic, *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. They will meet Tuesdays at 10:30, Flora Caffè, beginning February 24 and ending March 31. This Lenten discussion will include conversation about grace, the Sermon on the Mount, and the challenges and joys of living a Christian life. For more information call Carolyn Kennedy, the moderator for the book study: 099 532 4413.



## Little Brown Envelope Collection

Our Little Brown Envelope collection last Sunday to benefit the **Fundación Santa María de la Esperanza** in Chordeleg and Gualaceo, raised a total of **\$465**, including a special donation from a former parishioner now in the United States of \$100! Thank you for your extraordinary generosity month after month!

## Reconciliation and Wednesday Mass

For those who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Lenten season, Father Kevin will be available at any time by appointment or on Wednesday mornings prior to our Wednesday Mass in his apartment from 10:00 am until 11:00 am.



## Prayers for Ned

A number of us will be going to the Santa Ana cemetery to visit the niche of Ned Flottman, pray for him, and place in his niche his favorite Rosary and a photo on *Saturday, March 14, 11:00 am*. If you'd like to join us, please let Father Kevin know.

## A Few Words from Father Kevin...

Dear Friends,

As you may know, the Mass readings for Sundays follow a three-year cycle with Matthew, Mark, and Luke each getting the better part of a year. We are presently in the "A Cycle" with most of the readings coming from Matthew's Gospel. Most...but not all. Starting *next* Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, we switch over to Gospel readings from Saint John. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent in the A Cycle are deeply important because they correspond to the final preparations of those who will be baptized at Easter, with special rites at Mass called *Scrutinies*. The "Elect", (those who are soon to be baptized), receive prayers of healing and strengthening meant to eliminate what is weak or sinful in their lives and to reinforce their virtues. They are deeply moving rites that follow the proclamation of the Gospel and the homily and each of the three Scrutinies follows thematically on the Gospel reading from John. This year, we are blessed to have those readings proclaimed to us. Even without the celebration of the Scrutinies, these three magnificent stories from John's Gospel are deeply meaningful to all of us who seek to follow Jesus more closely and dearly.

The reading for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday is that of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus encounters at the Well of Jacob. It reminds us that, like her, we are sinners, but even so we long for the *living water* that is Jesus himself. Her encounter with Jesus leads to a deep conversion of heart and she becomes a proclaimer of his good news. And so it should be for us, too.

The reading from the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent is that of the healing of the man born blind which reminds us of our many blindnesses in our lives and urges us, too, to let Jesus touch us and thus open our eyes. The blind man, too, goes on to offer powerful testimony to the grace of Jesus that has open his eyes. May we do the same!

And, finally, on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, we are blessed to hear anew the powerful story of Jesus raising his friend, Lazarus, from the grave. It lets us know just how much Jesus not only loved his friend, but also each of us, (so much so that he groans with grief at Lazarus' death), and his power over death and divine authority to overcome death and give life. As we draw close then to the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus to be celebrated in Holy Week, this story, above all, reminds us of the fullness of life that we aspire to beyond even the grave...with Jesus.

Let us cherish the coming Sundays and their Gospels!

## Church Doors to be Closed

The large grilled doors between the church vestibule and the main body of the *Iglesia de San Francisco* are now being closed during the Liturgy of the Word through the end of our Mass to minimize the disruption of the liturgy by our friends coming for the 11:00 am Mass. Please strive to arrive at church on time for Mass!

## An Urgent Appeal for Support AND VISIT

As we announced last Sunday in this Bulletin, the *Hogar Miguel León* is in need of urgent financial support as it needs to update its fire prevention system throughout their patrimonial building in the *Centro Histórico*. We have arranged a visit to the *Hogar Miguel Leon* so that more of us can come to know the sisters and residents better and we invite all of you to consider coming along. We are scheduled to visit on **Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am**. If you would like to meet in front of the *Iglesia de San Francisco* at 10:45 am, we can walk over together...it is close by.

If you can't join us next Monday, but would like to know more about how you might help the orphanage, please contact Barbara at the email below for more information and the banking information for any contributions you might like to make. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Contact for Barbara: [bvaecuador@gmail.com](mailto:bvaecuador@gmail.com)

*Let Us Pray!*

- FOR THE CONTINUED HEALING OF LINDA SORRENTO'S FRIENDS, **CINDY**, AND HER BROTHER, **DON**, BOTH WITH CONGENITAL HEART CONDITIONS.
- FOR FATHER KEVIN'S BROTHER, **PAUL CODD**, WHO HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER AND IS AWAITING SURGERY.
- FOR BILL LAUER'S SISTER, **PEGGY AKERS**, WHO HAS BEEN VERY ILL FOR SOME TIME AND IS NOW RECEIVING PALLIATIVE CARE.
- FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF FATHER KEVIN'S DEAR FRIEND IN SPOKANE, **STEVE ROBERTSON**, WHO PASSED AWAY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING.
- FOR **CHRYSTAL HOLLEY**, WHO IS RECOVERING FROM FOOT SURGERY IN TEXAS.
- FOR SHARON FLOTTMAN'S GOOD FRIEND, **CHRISTY**, WHO IS EXPERIENCING SEVERAL SEVERE MEDICAL ISSUES.
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL SOON BE TRAVELLING, ESPECIALLY **CHRYSTAL HOLLEY** AND **KATHY CASE**.
- FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN UKRAINE AND IN ALL COUNTRIES AFFLICTED BY WAR.
- FOR ALL WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM THE FLOODING IN AYUASÍ AND OTHER NEARBY COMMUNITIES.