



# Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time-C, March 2, 2025

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.



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Website: [KACODD.COM](http://KACODD.COM)

### REGULAR EVENTS:

#### Mass in English:

Sunday: 10:00 am

Followed by Coffee & Not Donuts

Iglesia San Francisco  
Padre Aguirre y Pdte. 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](https://www.facebook.com/CuencaEnglishMass)

Audio of Father Kevin's recent homilies  
and his blog are found at:

[KACODD.COM/homilies](http://KACODD.COM/homilies)



## Ash Wednesday

We will begin the Lenten season with our solemn  
celebration of Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup>. **Mass in  
English with distribution of ashes will be at 10:00  
am in the Iglesia de San Francisco.** Remember that

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence and Fridays in  
Lent are days of abstinence from meat, (but only if we can do so  
without harming our health).

### Begin Lent with a Generous Spirit...

One of the ways we live the Lenten season is by making a  
sacrificial offering to those in need. On Ash Wednesday, or any  
Lenten Sunday, we invite you to bring to Mass with you sacks of  
**rice, sugar, or other stable foods** to donate to the food program  
of our own **Posada San Francisco**, which cares for the hungry,  
homeless, and vulnerable in the *Centro de Cuenca*. With the  
unexpected loss of substantial funding from USAID by the  
American government, our help is more important than ever.

### Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent

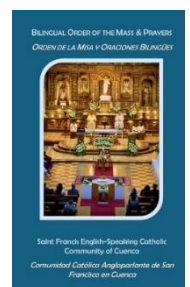
We will be praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent  
at **2:00 pm** in the *Iglesia de San Francisco*. Please plan on joining  
us as we prayerfully move from Station to Station, remembering  
Jesus' Passion, Death, and Burial. We will begin on the Friday  
after Ash Wednesday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>**.

If anyone would like to gather for **fish and chips** for lunch before  
the Stations of the Cross, how about meeting at Sunrise Café at  
12:30 pm? We can then walk over to church for the Stations. Let  
Father Kevin know if you are interested.

### Our New Bilingual Missal is Here!

Finally, after months of work, our new bilingual  
missal is ready! The entire Mass, various prayers  
and devotions, and a bit of local history are  
inside, English and Spanish on facing pages. We  
have about 70 copies that will be placed in the  
hymnbook cabinet for use each weekend. **Please  
return them to the cabinet after Mass.**

For those who would like to own their own copy, please use the  
special envelope to purchase your copy(ies) and return it to  
either Father Kevin or Gary Pollice: **\$10 each**. The funds will be  
used to print more copies as we need them.



## A Few Words from Father Kevin

"Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine,  
There's always laughter and good red wine.  
At least I've always found it so.  
*Benedicamus Domino!*"

— Hilaire Belloc

Dear Friends,

The little verse above by the French-English poet, Hilaire Belloc has always delighted me because there is a lovely truth in its few words: there is something about the Catholic spirit as lived in the real life of so many Catholic cultures that is all in for fun, food, laughter, and, yes, good red wine! We are not a puritan tribe; though we take our moral codes seriously, that doesn't keep us from enjoying life and its blessings.

We see the truth of Belloc's words in these days of Carnival here in Cuenca and throughout Latin America; before the fasting and penitence of Lent, let's have ourselves a really good party! Parades, buckets of water, eggs cracked on heads, foam shot from aerosol cans, music, laughter, and probably plenty of wine, beer, and a bit of good old-fashioned *miski* are all part of the celebrating today...for tomorrow we hunker down to fast and abstain!

We had our own bit of Catholic Carnival fun on Sunday evening. What a joy to welcome to my place so many of you and what a table-load of delights that were spread before us as we enjoyed one another's company with plenty of laughter, story-telling, oohing and aahing over more desserts than I could have imagined! I stepped out for a few moments to run a garbage bag downstairs and when I came back up, I was struck by the most lovely hum of chatter, laughter, and happiness drifting into the hallway! It all was a bit of heaven right here on earth. Thank you all for an evening so touched by grace!

Now we take some weeks off from frivolity and jollification to prepare ourselves for Holy Week. Penance, charity, and prayer will be the hallmarks of the coming Lenten season, but Easter will be upon us soon enough and we will again do our joyful thing under this Catholic sun...*benedicamus Domino*.

Father Kevin



## Little Brown Envelope Sunday: THIS WEEKEND!

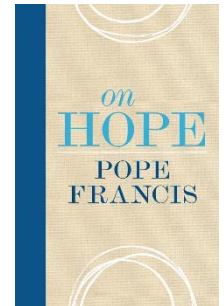
We are a week behind but we will be distributing our Little Brown Envelopes next Sunday to support the great work of the *Fundación de Santa Maria* in Chordeleg and Gualaceo. Please be as generous as you are able.

## Lenten Reflection Group: ON HOPE!

All are welcome to participate in our Lenten Reflection through the weeks of Lent. We will be reading together the small book based on Pope Francis' writings on the theme of HOPE. We will be meeting on Sunday morning for the hour before Mass, 9:00 am. The book can be ordered from several places. See the Loyola Press page:

<https://store.loyolapress.com/on-hope>.

If you are interested in joining the group, you can sign up on our website <https://www.cuencacatholic.org/> or contact Gary Pollice, [gfp1947@gmail.com](mailto:gfp1947@gmail.com).



Let us continue to keep Pope Francis in our prayers as he recovers from pneumonia.

