



"Rejoice in the Lord always" Philippians 4:4

18th February 2026

Pastoral Letter for Lent

"Now is the favourable time... now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Each year, the Church gives us these forty days not as a burden, but as a gift, a holy invitation to renewal. Through the words of St Paul, we hear again the urgent and loving call of God:

"Now is the favourable time; now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Not tomorrow. Not when life becomes less busy. Not when we feel more prepared. Now.

Lent brings us back to what is essential. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed upon our foreheads, a humble sign that we are fragile, that we are dependent on God, and that we are loved beyond measure.

Through the prophet Joel, God speaks tenderly to His people:

"Return to me with all your heart." (Joel 2:12)

Notice that God does not demand explanations. He simply invites us to return. From the beginning of salvation history, the Lord has always been calling His people home; calling Adam in the garden, guiding Israel through the desert, and welcoming the prodigal son with open arms. **Lent is our time to return.**

My dear friends, we often live distracted lives, pulled between regrets about the past and anxieties about the future. Lent brings us back to the present moment. God is always present tense. He meets us here and now.

“Now is the day of salvation.”

This season is an opportunity for each of us, in our families, our parishes, our schools and our communities to take concrete steps:

- To set aside time each day for quiet prayer.
- To return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- To practise generosity toward those in need.
- To seek forgiveness and offer forgiveness.

These are not merely religious practices; they are pathways to love. They shape us into a people who are attentive to God and compassionate toward others.

Small and faithful steps open the door to great grace.

Let us not be afraid to begin again. God is never tired of our beginnings. He does not grow weary of forgiving. He does not withdraw His mercy. His love remains constant.

As your bishop, I invite every member of our diocesan family to walk this Lenten journey together. Let our parishes become places of welcome and reconciliation. Let our homes become schools of prayer. Let our communities reflect the compassion of Christ.

May this Lent be a season not of heaviness, but of hope, a journey that leads us more deeply into the mystery of Christ’s Cross and the joy of Easter.

Entrusting you and your families to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I assure you of my prayers throughout these forty days.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.



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