



Vox Episcopi
16 February 2023

The Season of Lent is a most important time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It is an annual pilgrimage of grace whereby we are drawn more deeply into the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council taught that the Lenten liturgy has a twofold means of preparation. By remembering their own Baptism and undertaking penance, the liturgy assists in the renewal and ongoing formation of the *faithful* (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 109). The formation of catechumens via the various stages of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is equally an important part of Lent (cf. GIRM 27).

For both the local community of the faithful and the elect, Lent is a time of grace and mercy whereby the Holy Spirit greets and renews those who seek to live as disciples of the Lord Jesus, who is our light and our salvation (cf. Psalm 27).

The Season of Lent commences on **Ash Wednesday**. Given the continued challenges of the past few years, Lent 2023 will once again be a particularly useful time to reconnect with our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ; to reflect upon our spiritual pilgrimage both as individuals and as one community of disciples.

In our Catholic tradition, Lent is commemorated as a time for conversion, repentance, and renewal. Marking our foreheads with ashes in the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday is an outward sign of internal conversion. It is also an invitation to "*Turn away from sin and believe the good news*". In this annual invitation, we acknowledge our human vulnerability, and we pray to be strengthened by God's grace, mercy, and love. In imitation of Jesus our teacher and master, we also fast (cf. Matthew 4: 1-11). Like Our Lord, we will journey

into the desert places of our life. Where the Lord has gone, we hope to follow, and so we must expect some challenges and temptations because the Gospel reminds us that this too was the plight of Jesus. Christians are people of hope, so during these moments of vulnerability, let us take shelter in God's mercy and compassion.

On Days of Penance to be observed and the common practices of penance as well as Paschal Precept, please see your parish bulletin or visit

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/about/bishop>

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, I pray in these weeks ahead that our community of the Church of Broken Bay will be open to encounter new life in Christ. This Lent, may we humbly confess our sins, prayerfully perform our penance, and joyfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through words and deeds of charity, mercy, and compassion.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE – HORNSBY CATHEDRAL PARISH

OLOR Cathedral:

7am

9:30am

12noon (OLOR Primary School students attending)

8pm

QOP Church:

8:45am

12noon

6pm

10am (in Korean)

7:30pm (in Korean)

All welcome!