



17 MARCH 2019

Additional notices (Part 1)

Archbishop Philip Freier's Lenten message

Dear Friends

My greetings in Christ during this season of Lent.

There are many metaphors for life that help illuminate our thinking about ourselves and our circumstances. We are on "a path", our lives are "a journey". It can seem trite and obvious, but philosophers say we can't make sense of our lives without seeing it as some sort of narrative.

Christians live within the narrative of God's love to us in Christ. In this narrative, it can be helpful to see our lives as a pilgrimage, divinely shaped and guided, knowing that our lives are meaningful when we understand God's purpose.

For most of humanity over most of history, life has been a vale of tears. We may be more comfortable materially than any previous generation, but the world is still a place of anxiety and uncertainty. As Jesus said, "do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.

Each day has enough trouble of its own." None of us is master of our destiny, however much we try to persuade ourselves otherwise. Lent, the 40 days from

Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, is a useful reminder of this truth. Indeed, it is a daily reminder. Lent helps us to focus on our lifelong task of seeking to become more holy and more Christ-like.



Liturgically, Lent begins with marking our foreheads with ashes in the shape of the cross. This reflects the ancient biblical tradition in times of grief and repentance of putting ashes on one's head and wearing sackcloth and fasting. The cross-shaped ashes are a symbol of penitence, mortality and cleansing. Lent culminates in the great celebration of Easter, when we reflect with awe and amazement on the humility of Christ's death for us and his rising to life.

Lent is a time of penitence and prayer and of fasting, though the last is less common now. The fast need not mean giving up food. It might be giving up social media or television or chocolate or meat, but the absence of the desired object should serve as a daily

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

reminder of our pilgrimage through the time of Lent.

What does this abstinence remind us of? It reminds us of what is essential, of those things that make for life. It reminds us in essence of who we are and what we are created to be. We are created by God and for God's purposes in the world. In the words of Scripture and adopted as our diocesan motto, we are here 'to make the Word of God fully known'.

Lent is the occasion for us to review how we are going: how we are travelling? Is our pilgrimage taking us toward God and God's purposes for us and for others? How might our pilgrimage be enhanced, deepened further into Christ and Christ's ways? Are our commitments, family life, employment, studies and recreational pursuits, following in the steps of Christ?

I pray that God will bless you richly through this important season.



Lent in Jumbunna

*A Better Covenant,
Priest and Sacrifice*
(Hebrews 8-10)

Bishop Paul Barker's Lenten Talks 2019

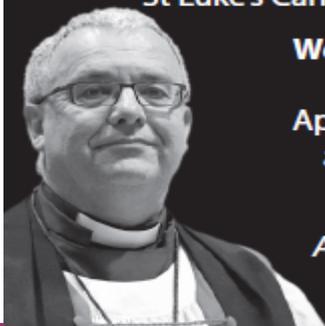
Sundays at 6pm

March 31; April 7, 14 at
St Luke's Carrum Downs

Wednesdays
at 8pm

April 3, 10, 17
at St Mark's
Forest Hill

All welcome.



Our next **sausage sizzle** fundraiser is @ Bunnings, Dandenong South on **FRIDAY 3 MAY** from 8AM.

See the noticeboard for details on how to assist and, participate in this event. Everyone's assistance is needed to ensure the success of this fundraiser. Please speak to Prasantha and/or Russell for further information.

Sausage
Sizzle

