

Preparing For Lent: February Reflection

On Ash Wednesday, Joel calls us to prepare ourselves in answering the call of God, *"Blow the trumpet, proclaim a fast, call an assembly, gather the people!"* The Lord calls on all of us to turn to the truth with our whole hearts; this is an invitation for each of us this coming Lent.

This is a time to reflect on my life, to take time out to look at the past year, what did I decide to change last Lent in moving forward this year? Did I do it? Did I make a note of it, so that I could keep reminding myself, reflect upon it? Be honest with myself and where necessary, begin again?

Fasting is not only from food, but from things I like to do, thus giving me more time to reflect on my relationship with God and others. What needs to change to give God room to speak, to guide me, to give me new sightedness in my life, Faith and relationships?

I am called to new life, to love God and my neighbour. In today's world, as we read every day in newspapers or hear in the news, there are many neighbours, fellow human beings, not necessarily living next door. Lent gives me more time to reflect on where I am supporting them, giving alms, food etc. keeping them in my mind, heart and prayers. God asks me to choose life, not just for myself, not for those just living around me, but for those fellow men, women and children who share in this world and need support, and protection.

Jesus receives His call and the confirmation of who He is, as He is baptised by John and named by God and the Holy Spirit; the beloved Son and he enters the desert to reflect. He spent 40 days, fasting, praying and subjected to temptation. We too are baptised as beloved children of God and sent to serve and to witness by our Faith and lives, to our individual calling which God has gifted and named us to be. We too, as with Adam and Eve, will be tempted as Jesus was also, to want to live our own lives, in our own way, rather than listening to God's hopes and dreams for each one of us. Individually we come together, sharing our gifts, as one Community, called to change this world in whatever way we are graced to be. Karl Rahner tells us that Grace enables me to become more than I ever dreamed possible! This is God's gift to each of us, and our call is to respond to it.

Lent provides us with the space to accept our call to be beloved children of the Father and thus walking with Him is living out our Mission. Let each of us pray for the Grace to be light for those in darkness in this world and to walk more closely in the Trinity, taking time to reflect and to begin again and again, to recommit to the promise of our Baptism and new life in my Confirmation.

- Where were you before?
- Where are you now?
- Where do you long to be?
- How will you get there?
- Who will support you to achieve it?

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