

REFLECTION ON POPE FRANCIS LENTEN MESSAGE

ASH WEDNESDAY – 17 FEBRUARY 2021



Sharing some of the insights from the Message of Pope Francis to each of us this Lent, 2021.

In his message this Lent, Pope Francis says of [Jesus](#):

JESUS

"Hoping with him and because of him means believing that history does not end with our mistakes, our violence and injustice, or the sin that crucifies Love. It means receiving from his open heart the Father's forgiveness."

He speaks of [HOPE](#):

"In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. [Laudato Si'](#), 32-33; 43-44)."

Pope Francis reminds us of [PRAYER AND LOVE](#):

"Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. Mt 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love."

Pope Francis tells us about this [LOVE IN ACTION](#):

"Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion."

"... love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone" ([Fratelli Tutti](#), 183).

"Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness."

"To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic."

Pope Francis says of the [SEASON OF LENT](#):

"Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving."

The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father."

Wishing each of you a Lenten journey of hope, love and prayer.

Fr Gerry

[Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2021, 12.02.2021](#)

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS – SPRINKLING OF ASHES 2021

