



EDITORIAL

LENT – A TIME OF GRACE



Dear Friends, Lent is a time of grace given to us to pray, reflect and return to God. It is a journey with Jesus that invites us to renew our lives and relationships with one another and God. Through prayer, fasting and works of charity, we are called to change our behaviour and have our hearts transformed.

This season also reminds us that God is merciful and that His love surpasses all our weaknesses and sinfulness. It is a time to forgive and receive forgiveness from God. It is a time which reminds us to move our life in humility, service and love towards our neighbour.

God has given us this special grace-filled time to give up our pride, anger, jealousy, and indifference and grow in compassion and understanding.

Lent also invites us to look around at the reality of suffering around us. People who are hungry—we pray and share our resources, responding in generosity to them. We are also aware that many young people are suffering from loneliness, joblessness, searching for dignity, respect and love.

As Christians, we have also faced the harsh reality of persecution and authorities against us to live and profess our faith.

Let us walk with Jesus through the desert towards the Cross and grow in faith in Christ. He is our hope and resurrection.

Let us trust Him with hope and renew our commitment to live and share Jesus.

Fr. Norbert Herman SVD
President, ACEC-I

From Ashes to Renewal



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a solemn forty-day period of prayer, fasting, and repentance in preparation for Easter. On this day, Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in the form of a cross, symbolizing human mortality and the call to conversion.

The words spoken—"Remember that you are dust" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel"—invite the faithful to sincere self-examination and a humble return to God. The ashes, made from the blessed palm branches of the previous year, signify repentance and renewal. Ash Wednesday encourages spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and a renewed commitment to faith.

May this sacred season lead us to deeper faith and closer communion with Christ.

Varun Sharma

HIGHLIGHTS

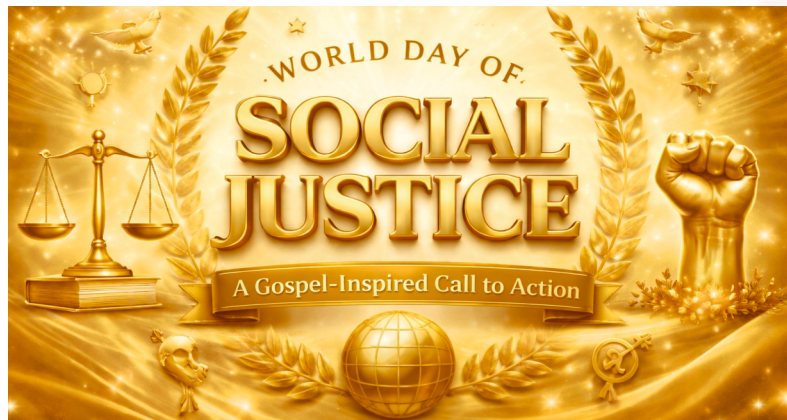
- **Divya Deep**
Hindi YouTube Channel '@divyadeep01' airing "Bible ki Kahaniyaan" with kids of different churches in Delhi.
- **Divine Scroll**
English YouTube Channel '@divine-scroll' airing "Daily Dose of Faith" and "Sunday Reading's Reflections."

NEW INITIATIVES

- **Live Holy Mass**
Every Friday at 4:00 pm on our YouTube channel @divyadeep01.
- **Digital Books**
Digitalization of "Meet Jesus" book's first part 'Come and See', which will be available on our website.

Repent, & Believe in the Gospel

Mark 1:15



The World Day of Social Justice (20 February) invites the global community to reflect on human dignity, equality, and the pursuit of a just society. For the Catholic Church, this invitation is illuminated by the teachings of Pope Francis in 'Laudato Si' (Praise be to You) and Pope Leo XIV in 'Dilexi te' ("I have Loved You"). These teachings remind us that authentic social justice is grounded in compassion for the vulnerable and is expressed through our sense of responsibility! As the Gospel proclaims, "...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40).

In 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis teaches that social injustice and ecological destruction are inseparable. The exploitation of the earth and the marginalisation of the poor stem from the same mindset—one that places profit above people and creation. The encyclical calls for an 'integral ecology', where care for the poor, protection of the environment, and concern for future generations are united in the pursuit of the common good.

Pope Leo XIV's 'Dilexi te' leads us deeper, to the source of justice itself, the Love of God. By reminding us that we are first loved by Christ, the encyclical invites a conversion of heart. This love is not passive or sentimental; it is a love that compels action, breaks indifference, and moves believers to stand with the suffering and excluded.

On the World Day of Social Justice, these teachings converge on a single message: 'Justice without Love becomes harsh, and love without justice remains incomplete.' As disciples of Christ, we are called to allow God's love to shape our conscience, our lifestyles, and our social engagement, so that care for the poor and care for

our common home (Earth) become visible signs of faith in action.

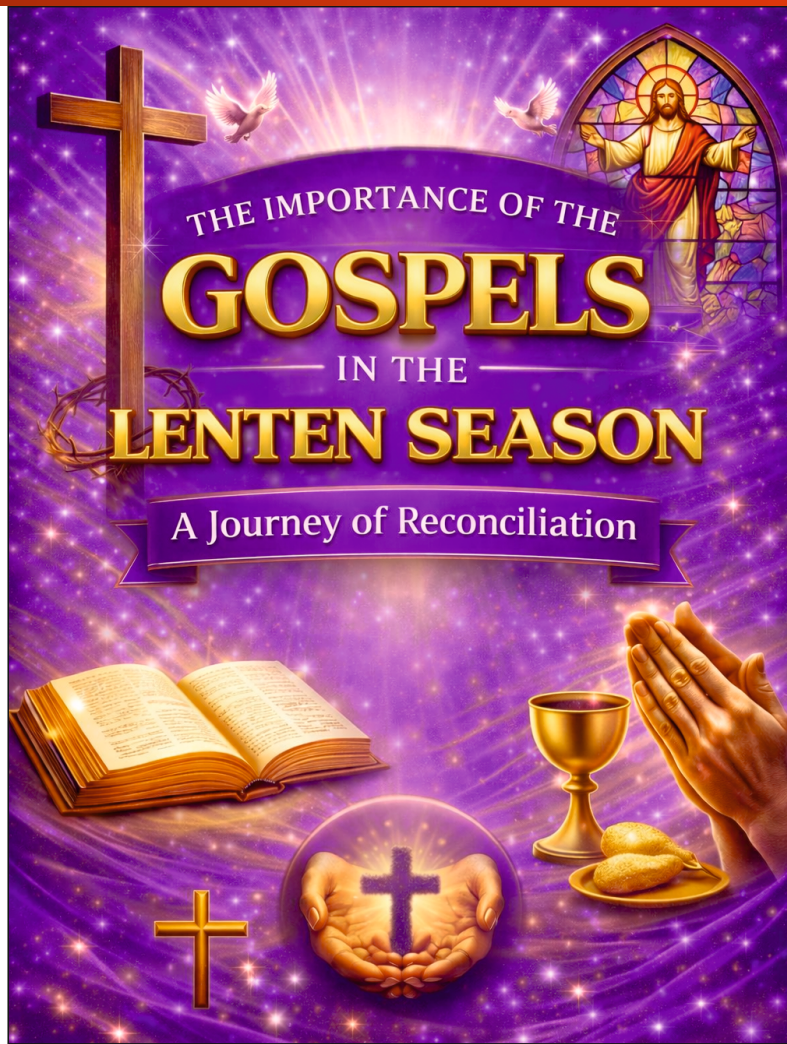
In the Catholic Church, saints like Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Vincent de Paul, and Saint Teresa of Calcutta consistently worked for the upliftment of the poor, thereby promoting social justice. Saint Francis of Assisi gave up his wealth and lived among the poor. He served lepers and outcasts and also taught us to be humble and express solidarity with those who were marginalised. Saint Vincent de Paul, the patron saint of charitable works, worked zealously for the poor, the sick, the prisoners and abandoned children. Saint Teresa of Calcutta was famous for serving the poorest of the poor. So, our saints have shown us, by example, that we should work to achieve Social Justice.

The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, also propounded the concept of Antyodaya, according to which the system of the nation should be such that the benefits of the state should reach the 'last person standing in the line'. Mahatma said, "Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we should take a moment to reflect on whether we have truly walked upon the path of Social Justice shown to us by our Communion of Saints. Have we adhered to the compassionate ideas of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi? Have we paid attention to the teachings of our former Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV? Have we taken a pause and reflected on how our actions have impacted the poor? At the end of reflection upon these facets, what we decide to do will determine the direction in which we are taking our world!

May our pursuit of Social Justice always flow from the love we have received from the Almighty Father, and may that love bear fruit in the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

--Rohan Anirudh Singh



Lent is a sacred time when the Church invites believers to slow down, examine their lives, and turn again toward God with renewed hearts. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving shape these forty days, but at the center of this spiritual journey stand the Gospels. Through them, we encounter Jesus Christ not as a distant figure of history, but as the living face of God who comes to reconcile humanity to Himself.

The Gospels are uniquely suited for Lent because they narrate God's decisive movement toward wounded and sinful humanity. From Jesus' baptism in the Jordan to His temptations in the desert, from His compassion for sinners to His final self-gift on the cross, the story is always one of God taking the first step.

Lent reminds us that reconciliation is not something we manufacture by our own moral strength; it begins with God's mercy. In Jesus, God draws near, shares our fragile condition, and opens a path back to communion.

This reconciling love is visible in Jesus' encounters with individuals. He eats with tax collectors, forgives the woman caught in adultery, restores dignity to the

outcast, and heals the broken. Each episode proclaimed during Lent quietly asks the listener: Will you allow yourself to be reconciled? The Gospels do not merely recount what Jesus once did; they call today's believer into the same transforming relationship. When we listen attentively during these weeks, we discover that repentance is less about fear of punishment and more about returning to a God who longs for our friendship.

Saint Augustine expressed this beautifully when he reflected on Christ's humility: God became human so that humans might be brought back to God. For Augustine, the cross was the supreme sign of reconciliation where pride is undone by humility and hatred is overcome by love. Lent, illuminated by the Gospel narratives, leads us to that same cross, not as spectators, but as people invited to surrender our divisions, resentments, and self-sufficiency.

Saint John Henry Newman, recently proclaimed a Doctor of the Church, likewise emphasized the personal and interior dimension of faith. He insisted that Christianity is not merely adherence to ideas, but a living encounter with Christ that reshapes the conscience and heart.

In the Gospels, Newman saw Christ gently yet firmly educating His disciples, correcting them, forgiving them, and drawing them into deeper trust. During Lent, this Gospel-centered formation becomes especially urgent. Reconciliation is not only about being forgiven once; it is about allowing Christ to steadily remake us from within.

For lay theologians and ordinary faithful alike, the Lenten proclamation of the Gospels serves as both mirror and invitation. We see our own struggles reflected in the disciples' slowness to understand, in Peter's denial, and in the crowds' wavering loyalty. Yet we also see the persistence of divine mercy: the risen Lord seeking out those who fled and offering peace instead of reproach. That is the heart of reconciliation.

Thus, the Gospels in Lent are not optional devotional readings; they are the Church's primary school of conversion. They teach us who God truly is merciful, patient, and self-giving and who we are called to become: reconciled sons and daughters, ready to extend to others the same grace we have received in Christ.

--Ansshu J Anthony.

SAINT OF THE MONTH



Saint Scholastica (480–543 CE) was the twin sister of Saint Benedict of Nursia, Italy (480–547 CE). She was a woman deeply devoted to God through prayer and contemplative life. As the foundress of Benedictine women's monasticism, she lived a life rooted in humility, silence, and love for God. Her famous prayer, which brought forth a sudden storm, teaches us that sincere prayer, born of love, has great power before God. A practical lesson from Saint Scholastica's life is that true holiness flows not merely from rules, but from a heart fully surrendered to God.

She is the patron saint of Nuns, Benedictine Sisters, and convulsed children. Her intercession is also invoked against storms and rain. In the iconography associated with her, she is often depicted in a Benedictine Habit, holding either a book (the Rule of St. Benedict), a crucifix, or a dove. Her Feast Day is on February 10th. A key virtue of Saint Scholastica was her 'pure and ardent love of God'.

May the life of Saint Scholastica inspire to live our faith with humility and love.



PRAYER CORNER

Lord Jesus, guide our minds, in truth, strengthen our hearts in faith, and help us serve with love. Bless all those who support this mission and those seeking answers in their journey of faith. Amen

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Your support helps us form faith-filled individuals, strengthen Catholic enquiry centres, empower youth leadership, and bring the light of the Gospel to seekers across India through education, media, and outreach initiatives.

With Gratitude

We sincerely thank all our benefactors, partners, and well-wishers whose prayers and generosity make this mission possible. Your support is not just a contribution—it is a shared commitment to building God's Kingdom. Your generous support enables us to continue faith formation, outreach, and evangelization across India.

Ways You Can Support

- Sponsor faith formation and enquiry programs
- Support youth leadership and evangelization initiatives
- Contribute towards media, publications, and digital outreach
- Help train volunteers and catechists for mission

A Prayer for Our Benefactors

Loving God, bless all those who support this mission with their prayers, resources, and goodwill. Grant them peace, joy, and abundance, and reward them for their generosity. Amen (Optional – if space allows) All donations are used solely for ministry, outreach, and faith formation purposes.

How to Support

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