

Dear Friends,

I hope your Lenten Fast is going better than mine. Usually I take something up for Lent, rather than giving something up – I should have stuck with that. However, I will continue to try, as we are now more than half way through Lent. Half way through our journey through the wilderness to the cross with Christ.



I wonder how your journey through the wilderness is going? I know those attending Pilgrim, who are exploring The Lord's Prayer, are having interesting and challenging conversations. I am sure those who have been *walking together with Jesus* on the Lenten retreat are experiencing a wonderful, prayerful time.

The St. Cuthbert's Lecture, with Canon Stephen Robbins, retired Chaplain General, opened our minds to the lives of Army Chaplains from WW1 to today and how their love for the men (and women) in the trenches or in the barrack room is what matters and not denomination or tradition. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13.13).

This weekend we celebrate Mothering Sunday; a day when Christians use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers, or those who have been like a mother to us. I also give thanks to Bishop Bob for leading worship in my absence.

So, as we continue our journey to Jerusalem, please take note of additional services during Holy Week, to which you are all invited. As we know the story, we can all look forward to the joy and celebration of Easter and The Resurrection but we should not forget The Passion; the loneliness, the betrayal, the suffering.

I hope your Lent continues to be holy and blessed and you are truly considering what it means to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him.

With love.

*Nicki*