



Diocese of Limerick
Our Catholic Community

Letter to be read at the Sunday Masses 14/15 February 2026

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. It marks the beginning of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I would remind you that on Friday, our diocese, along with dioceses throughout Ireland will observe its annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse. I would invite you to join spiritually in this prayer.

I acknowledge with deep sorrow the suffering endured by those who have experienced abuse, particularly when that harm occurred within the context of the Church, a place that should always reflect the safety, dignity, and love of Christ. To all survivors and victims, let me repeat that we recognise your pain, we honour your courage, and we assure you of our desire to help. Let us also pray for those who accompany survivors – family members, friends, counsellors, and pastoral workers. May God sustain them in patience, wisdom, and hope.

Lent is a season of conversion. It calls each of us, and the Church as a whole, to turn away from sin and toward the Gospel. This conversion demands more than words. It requires ongoing vigilance, transparency, accountability, and an unwavering commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. It also requires that we continue to listen to survivors with respect and humility, and to walk with them on the path toward healing.

As a diocesan community, we are committed to fostering a culture of safeguarding and care. I am grateful to Mr. Ger Crowley who has recently retired as our Director of Safeguarding after many years of valuable work in ensuring the highest of standards in safeguarding in the Diocese. He has been replaced by Mr. John

O'Reilly to whom we are grateful for taking on this very important role. Contact details are available on our website and on posters displayed in your parish church.

As we enter into Lent, I would also invite you to read and reflect on the pastoral letter I have written. In the past two years, I have invited people to look during more closely at the Lenten pillars of prayer and almsgiving. This year I propose we reflect on the topic of fasting. As well as outlining the background around fasting and the options for fasting, in the pastoral letter I write about how children are the most vulnerable to social media that has certainly positive aspects but also very harmful ones. I have suggested that we might take this Lent to give good example and down the social media tools, while at the same time raising our voice for a ban on social media for children under 17. You will find copies of the pastoral letter in the church and on the Diocesan website.

May Lent be for each of us a season of knowing God's closeness. Let us pray for one another during this sacred season,

With kind regards,



✠ Brendan Leahy,
Bishop of Limerick.