

Have Confidence! Jesus is leading us!

Lent 2026 - Message from Bishop Alain Faubert

Dear brothers and sisters of our Diocese of Valleyfield,

The theme proposed for Lent this year, 2026, is highly topical! Faced with the situation of our earth, 'ravaged by silent violence, hungry for unity, in need of deliverance,' faced with the great fragility of our Church communities and the poverty of our resources, faced with illness and so many other misfortunes that surround us, some will ask themselves: 'If it is true that Jesus is leading us, will you tell me where he is leading us?'

In response to this question, I share with you my deep conviction: Jesus is with us, as He promised. And He is very simply leading us towards His Passover, towards that place where, **against all odds**, we can see God who has conquered Evil and Death once and for all. Jesus is leading us to that place where God shows us all His genius by transforming the Cross of His only Son, an instrument of curse, torture and death, into the Tree of Life in abundance.

Brothers and sisters, in this Lent 2026, Jesus leads us 'through' the anguish and despair that threatens us, just as the Lord God once led his people 'through' the waters of the Red Sea and 'through' the desert to the Promised Land.



So, our first watchword is: **Let us follow Jesus!** Beyond the desert, he invites us to walk with him, in fasting, prayer and sharing, towards the mountain where he will be transfigured, to the well of the Samaritan woman, to the pool of Siloam, to the tomb of Lazarus, to the streets of Jerusalem, to the Garden of Olives, to the courtyard on Good Friday, to Calvary. Yes, let us follow him! To the empty tomb on the morning of the first

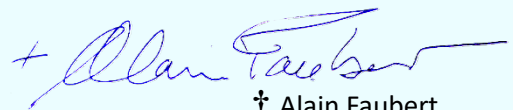
day, to the dawn of Easter and beyond, until we enter with him into the new world that he inaugurates through his Resurrection.

Second watchword: **To follow him well, let us listen to him!** "Today, let us not close our hearts, but listen to the voice of the Lord." Let us not allow fear to lock us in the tomb, let us not allow our faults to wall us up in sadness. Let us listen to the voice and the life given by Christ to tell us again how much God loves us. Let this love free us, open us to others, lead us to others, to all those who need hope.

Brothers and sisters, it is Lent! It is the time to journey with Christ from death to Life! It is Lent! Forty days to discover him present, walking beside us, sowing his Peace everywhere. Forty days to sow it with him. **Have confidence! Jesus is leading us!**

On behalf of the entire diocesan team, I wish you a fruitful Lent and a good journey towards Easter, and I invite you to join me in celebrating the Chrism Mass together on Tuesday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m., in our beautiful Cathedral of Saint Cecilia. See you there!

Fraternally,


† Alain Faubert
Bishop of Valleyfield