



Archbishop's Office  
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## **LENTEN-EASTER MESSAGE 2026**

### **ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE**

Let us begin this Lenten-Easter period in a Synodal way. Let us walk together led by the Lord to His Death and Resurrection.

It is a time of repentance and a time of rejoicing. It is a time of Prayer, Fasting and Alms giving. It is a time to give generously to CARITAS.

A wonderful way of walking together at Lent–Easter is by pondering very deeply the wonderful Scripture texts of this Liturgical Season.

So many of the Gospels of Lent–Easter indicate what “walking together” truly means. It doesn't mean it is an easy walk. At times, it is a real bumpy ride!

For instance, the Last Super on Holy Thursday night, and then the time of EASTER, especially the walking together of St Peter, St John and St Mary Magdalene. Then we have the Emmaus disciples. Of course, there is the incredible experience of Pentecost at the end of the Easter Season with the outflowing of the Holy Spirit.

All of these are good examples of the early Christian embryonic community, however bumpy the walk, coming together and becoming witnesses of the Resurrection as one.

It is a time for them, in the light of this year's themes, to “Get Up.” This is a time of allowing God to do something completely different in them. It is a time of getting out of old routines and patterns of thinking and starting afresh a new walk with the Lord.

So let us “Get Up” and with the early disciples, move into the new life of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

We also find it is a time, in the Scripture texts of the early Church not walking together. We see this, in a most particular way, in the Gethsemane experience and the way of the Cross on Good Friday. The early followers of Jesus seemed to be absent and scattered.

Then we hear of the terrible plight of the “lone ranger”: Judas. He elected to walk alone in isolation from the early Apostles and come to a truly lamentable end. Even for Jesus on the Calvary Cross: He seemed so alone and deserted by so many. Although Mary, St John and a few of the early disciples are with Jesus, the majority are absent. They are not walking together.

Good Friday is a time to recall the “Forsaken Jesus.”



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This time of not walking together is a time of not listening to each other. The attentive listening and awareness of all that had been told previously, seems to have evaporated like a fog. Let us, in the Lenten-Easter period, move to a deep synodal listening and develop an attentive listening to each other and to the Word of God as it pierces us deeply in a fresh way.

It is after Easter and at the time of Pentecost that we hear the People of God, totally transformed in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, eagerly accepting the great Missionary Commandment of Jesus: "Go!" The Missionary disciples of the Resurrection are to go out of all comfort zones and to the ends of the earth, courageously and fearlessly being Christ to the world.

We too, in the Lenten-Easter period, are called to receive that final commission in a fresh way.

So, dear friends, let us now enter into this major Liturgical Season of Lenten-Easter. Let us, "Get Up, Listen and Go!" as we also are transformed once again into the Life and Death of Jesus Christ, who leads us on the journey of our Baptismal faith.

**Archbishop Christopher Prowse**  
**Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn**