

This last year has been a difficult one for us all, as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic. Our lives have been touched in different ways: sickness and the deep sadness of bereavement, isolation and uncertainty, financial challenges, additional demands on our school communities, closure of churches and different demands for priests and deacons, the immense responsibilities that have come to healthcare professionals and others 'in the front line' of care for the sick. 'Invited' is, therefore, timely - for it is for every person. It can nourish us as individuals, as parish and deanery communities and as a Diocese.

'Invited' is a mission experience prepared and given by our Diocesan Formation team. Thanks go to them for all the preparation that is going on for the benefit of us all.

Information has already been circulated to parishes. Further information will be available through newsletters, Diocesan e-news and the website. Each Monday of Lent, there will be a gathering that can be accessed 'virtually'. This will continue to be accessible afterwards. At the end of this gathering, some questions will be offered for reflection, in preparation for a second meeting each Thursday that will help us to prepare for the coming Sunday.

In the coming years, we shall have opportunities for similar mission experiences, with a focus on a different liturgical season each year. These will lead us to the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese in 2025.

Let us all be open to be 'Invited' afresh by the Lord this Lent. He invites us to be His each and every day of our lives. With the sick man in today's Gospel, let us rely on the gift of His mercy that we may accept His love for us and grow ever closer to Him who suffered and died for us. In this way, our celebration of Easter will be an experience of His new life, enabling us to proclaim his Resurrection to the world.

With every Blessing,

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