



Witness to Hope

Seasonal Offerings for Journeys in Faith



Pausing to See and Listen, Moving Forward in Transformation

Lent is a Season of fasting, prayer and sharing. Our support and contributions build a bridge of solidarity between the mobilization of Development and Peace in the Global North and their partners' transformative work in the Global South. This Lent, we are invited to join On Track for Justice, walking hand in hand with communities in the Global South that are mobilizing to ensure their rights and the environment are respected.

We are also focusing on Synodality that calls us to be a Church that listens to one another and to the voice of the Spirit guiding us forward. Collaboration and the ongoing process of Synodality are essential as we move forward together to meet the needs of our time. Together, may we create pathways of hope that lead to a more just and equitable world.

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

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CONTACT US:
Jennifer Hatt, Communications
Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca



The Synodal journey launched in 2021 continues with a new phase of engagement, discernment, and planning for the future.

Introducing and opening to the Synodal journey is the theme for Lent in our diocese this year.



“Every new step in the life of the Church is a return to the source. It is a renewed experience of the disciples’ encounter with the Risen One in the Upper Room on Easter evening... the presence of He, who, in bestowing the Holy Spirit, continues to build among His people a unity that establishes harmony amidst differences.”

(Final Document, Section 1)

Following the engagement process of 2021-2023 and 2024 Synod of Bishops, we are now in the Implementation Phase of the Synodal Church.

What is a Synodal Church?

A Synodal Church works to meet people where they are at, invite shared experiences in mutual safety and respect, and offer paths of deeper connection with God, the Church, and each other. Pope Leo XIV has described a Synodal Church as “a church that walks together, a church that always seeks peace, always seeks charity, always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer ... We are a missionary church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming.”

As a diocese we have two responsibilities:

1. Hold Synodal conversations through the end of 2026 generating a diocesan report for submission to regional/national bodies in early 2027
2. Develop and implement ongoing structures and programming to ensure a continued Synodal Church moving forward.

How Do We Do That?

Through an ongoing process of Listening, Encountering, Dialoguing, Discerning

Synodality: Continuing the Journey



Synodality in our diocese:

The Implementation Phase invites us to continue our conversations with each other, to deepen those conversations and expand the invitations to those who are too often excluded, and to those we have yet to meet. These authentic encounters in the presence of the Holy Spirit also invite us to learn more of ourselves: the hurts we bear, the biases we hold, the joys and desires we long for, and our capacity to create communities living and evolving in God's love.



In our diocese, we are embracing Lent as a time of discernment, to deepen our discoveries within the Final Document and plant seeds for the coming year.

A draft timeline to date:

Lent: introduction and discernment
 Spring: official launch of Synod 2028
 Spring through Autumn: conversations and plans for immediate and long-term actions
 Advent: closing conversations
 Jan/Feb 2027: diocesan, regional reports
 June-Dec 2027: national/international reports
 Jan-March 2028: continental assemblies
 October 2028: Ecclesiastical Assembly 2028 and beyond: Continued Synodality

Meanwhile, you are invited now to begin and continue your Synodal journey, engaging with your parish, committees, and community.

Resources will be shared with clergy and parishes, and will be available for download from our website.

Also online are the Final Report, Pathways for the Implementation of the Synod, and reports from the previous phases.



To learn more about the Synod and resources:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/listening-church/>

<https://www.synod.va/>



This Lent, we are invited to join in ***On Track for Justice***, walking hand in hand with communities in the Global South that are mobilizing so that their rights and the environment may be respected.

Lent is a time of **fasting, prayer and sharing**. Our **support and contributions** create a bridge of solidarity between the mobilization of Development and Peace in the Global North and their partners' transformative work in the Global South.

Campaign launch webinar is February 21, 2:30 pm (AT)

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_opxTOb6-TWIMS9JKSSQWCA#/registration

This year's Share Lent campaign partners with Justiça nos Trilhos (Justice on Rails, JnT) in supporting communities affected by the Carajás railway, which connects one of world's largest iron ore mines in the state of Pará to the port of São Luis in the state of Maranhão. These massive trains pass through communities every day. The ore from the open-pit mine is in uncovered cars, creating noise, dust, and contamination along its route. The sheer size of the train creates vibrations strong enough to damage houses. The toll on the communities and its people is relentless.

The region also struggles with environmental damage caused by industrial agriculture pollution and eucalyptus monoculture.

Solidarity Sunday is March 22, the Fifth Sunday of Lent

On this Sunday a special collection will be taken at Mass to support the work of Development and Peace and its global partners.

Contributions can also be made at anytime, including year-round monthly donations. To donate:

<https://devp.org/en/make-a-donation/>

For posters, calendars, prayer cards and more:

<https://devp.org/en/campaign/on-track-for-justice/resources-lent-2026/>

Dates of Note

February 18:

Ash Wednesday

Season of Lent begins

March 8:

Daylight Savings Time begins

Clocks go ahead one hour

March 20:

First Day of Spring

March 22:

Solidarity Sunday

Collection: Development and Peace

April 3:

Passion of our Lord

Collection:

Needs of the Church in the Holy Land

April 5:

Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Octave begins

April 12:

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 26:

World Day of Prayer for Vocations