



The Rt. Reverend Rachael Parker

Diocese of Brandon

Anglican Church of Canada

403 - 13th Street, Brandon, MB, R7A 4P9

Phone: 204-727-2380 Fax: 1-844-725-7533

Ash Wednesday 2026

There is an old adage that says if March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb. Well, this Lent is coming in like a lion but we already know it will go out as a Lamb – the Lamb of God.

The weather throughout our Diocese today is a great reminder of what this Lenten Season may indeed be like for many of us as we make the journey from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week and Good Friday. We have to be prepared for what we might encounter when we open the doors of our hearts. Will we find fair skies and following winds? Maybe, sometimes. However, the Lenten seasons of our lives are often disrupted by emotional and spiritual snowstorms, calling us to do the hard work of digging ourselves out before we can continue on the path we wanted to follow.

The most difficult part of our spiritual journeys can be the recognition and acknowledgment that the whole purpose of the journey is experienced *with* those hold-ups when we have to shovel the snow from our thoughts, scrape the ice off our prayers, sit quietly for a while as the engines of the depths of our relationships with Christ warm up and get ready for the beautiful, amazing, wonderful adventure that a road-trip in life with Christ at our side can be.

In this letter I am not going to tell you what you already know: the wonder and glory that will be all of ours - which already is all of ours - come Easter Day. Rather, I would like to offer you words of encouragement for the six weeks which are unrolling out ahead of you. Just as we need the deep snows of winter to prepare the fields for the seeds to be sown in the spring, so too do we need to take time to go to the darker places of our own spiritual psyches and do the deep dives into places which need attention, tending, enrichment, patience, and preparing in this very wintry Lenten season.

Lent is not a season intended to make us feel warm and cozy and all “taken care of.” In reality it is a season in which the Gospel itself invites us to walk that most difficult walk Jesus had to make as he heads to Jerusalem, and as he heads to Golgotha. We too are invited to walk this walk to Jerusalem with Jesus. We are not invited to skip the work and just arrive at the Easter Day party. We have a role to play in fulfilling the work Jesus is doing in the world, preparing all for the coming of the Kingdom of God. And that role is one we choose. It is one we follow whether it is clear sailing one day or deep snow shovelling the next, just to get one step closer to our destination.

You and I, and every Christian in the world, are beginning our own road-trip to Jerusalem today. We might have to pull out the shovel, scrape off the ice, sit quietly as the engine warms up but each and every step is still a step in the right direction. Each step is a step away from the lion of this life into the arms of the Lamb of God.

Join me as we journey together through this holy, unruly, difficult, sometimes slick journey to Jerusalem as we do so knowing beyond a doubt that our destination will be warm, welcoming, and eternal.

God bless you all on this Lenten road-trip!

Bishop Rachael Parker
The Diocese of Brandon

The Right Reverend Rachael Parker, 8th Bishop of Brandon
Email: Bishop.Rachael@brandon.anglican.ca