

**There is
a time...
and it is now!**

Welcoming new possibilities into our life

*It's the
right time to...*

**Welcome new possibilities
into our life**

1st Sunday - 22 February
I set my bow in the clouds...
a sign of the covenant
between me and the earth.
(Gn. 9:13)

**Discover God
as our partner in life**

2nd Sunday- 1 March
If God is for us, who can be
against us? (Rm. 8:31b)

**Stop thinking about faith
as a collection of rules**

3rd Sunday - 8 March
Take these things out
of here, and stop making
my Father's house
a marketplace! (Jn. 2:16)

Illuminate our lives

4th Sunday- 15 March
Whoever lives the truth,
comes to the light... (Jn. 3:21)

Think of life as a gift of self

5th Sunday- 22 March
Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a single grain.
(Jn. 12:24)

**Cast off fear and face
our problems**

Palm Sunday -29 March
Jesus gave a loud cry and
breathed his last. The veil of
the sanctuary was torn in two.
(Mk. 15:37-38)

**Realize that the tomb
is empty: the Lord is alive
and goes before of us...**

Easter Sunday - 5 April
Who will roll back the stone
for us from the entrance
to the tomb? (Mk. 16:3)

Lent 2015 - 1st Sunday

Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mk. 1:12-15

Nothing can be changed.... At times we might feel trapped in a blind alley: it seems as if we can't change anything, much less expect the people around us to change. Our interior burdens get heavier and heavier, and at times the people around us add even more weight to them. But Lent is precisely the right time to try once again to welcome new possibilities into our life. The Lord tells us that when we see a rainbow above the clouds, we should remember that we are not alone, that he is with us, that he is offering each of us new possibilities on our personal journey. So let us lift our gaze above the clouds, to heaven.

We lift our gaze so as to shift it from ourselves, from the human story. We look to heaven so as to cry out to God, telling him about the labors and sufferings of each human being. There are people who cross the desert, seeking salvation, threatened by oppressors lying in wait, ready to pounce from every side. There are people who are gentle, poor, hungry and thirsty for justice, who are killed to satisfy the interests of a few while many others look on indifferently. So let us lift our gaze—but not because we are indifferent.

Lent is a time to get to our feet—a time to conquer the desperate feeling that nothing will ever change and to set out along the streets of the world. "After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God..." (Mk. 1:14). In what direction do we want to head this Lent?

Fr. Luca Pandolfi

Prayer

Heavenly Father, give us the strength to lift our gaze
so as to discover the signs of hope and peace
illuminating our path.

Father beyond the clouds, give us the hope
that conquers desperation, the patience
that conquers sorrow, the constancy
that conquers weariness.

Give us a tender hug to help us
conquer the fear that we are lost.

Lord of multi-colored rainbows,
save us from the desire for a world
cut to our measure.

Save us from the solitude of arrogance,
from an indifference mixed with selfishness.

Set us on new paths
and help us to trust in your Gospel.