

The Right Reverend Michael W. Hawkins Bishop of Saskatchewan

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To be read in every Church in the Diocese of Saskatchewan on February 19th or 26th 2017

**Read Mark Lent**

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I spent the summer of 1981 in British Columbia working with the Naval Reserves. I took a copy of the New Testament with me and read the Gospel according to St. Mark. I recall reading about what Jesus taught and did, while I was sitting on a rock overlooking the harbour, and being amazed, confused, challenged and excited by him.

I am inviting you and everyone in the Diocese of Saskatchewan to read through the Gospel according to Saint Mark with me this Lent. For some of you this may be a new experience. You may find it particularly helpful to read through the Gospel in one sitting, to listen to it on one of the several audio recordings available, or to watch a video portrayal but our common focus this Lent will be reading a portion of the Gospel together every day for forty days. Bookmarks and booklets are available to assist you in following the easy reading plan and these will be handed out today. Lent begins on March 1st, Ash Wednesday, and ends of Easter Eve, April 15th.

We have several copies available of a very accessible commentary on the Gospel according to St. Mark by Bishop N.T. Wright. You can order or purchase these through the Synod Office for only ten dollars. We will also be holding a Diocesan Prayer Conference on March 31st and April 1st and there are Registration brochures available.

The call to “Read Mark Lent” is an invitation to hear and see Jesus this Lent but also to find yourself in the story, to see and hear your own story within the story of Jesus Christ.

Our theme recalls the words of the Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent where we pray that we might “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” the Scriptures so that we may have hope. I am asking you to Read Mark Lent so that together we might abound in hope and be renewed in the love of Jesus.

I invite you to the observance of a holy Lent by reading and meditation upon God’s holy Word.

In Christ



Bishop of Saskatchewan