

CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

I was reminded of a rather old and corny joke the other day when storm Ciara caused a series of short power cuts to the area. It goes something like this:

One day Jesus and the devil had a competition to decide who was the best in using modern technology. They sat down at their keyboards and started to type away. They type. They email. They email with attachments. They download. They do spreadsheets. They write reports. They create labels and cards. They create charts and graphs. They do some genealogy reports. They do every job known to man. Jesus works with heavenly efficiency and Satan is faster than hell. Then, ten minutes before their time is up, lightning suddenly flashes, and the power goes off. Satan stares at his blank screen and screams. Jesus just sighs.

Finally, the electricity comes back on, and they restart their computers. Satan searches frantically, screaming: "Gone! It's all GONE!! I lost everything when the power went out!" Meanwhile, Jesus quietly starts printing out all his files from the past two hours of work. Satan sees this and becomes irate. "Wait!" he screams, "that's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?" God shrugs and says: "Well, Jesus saves."



I warned you it was a corny one!

Having said that, I think there is a strong message for all of us here, and it might not be the one you think. In this so called joke we are reminded of the importance of stopping at regular intervals in order to check what we are doing, to look

at it carefully and "save it" before moving on to the next task.

In the account of the creation as written in the book of Genesis we see God doing exactly that, stopping at the end of each "day", "saving" what he has created, resting for the night before moving on to the next task the following morning.

As you read this letter, we will have moved into the season of Lent – one of the most important seasons in the Church calendar. It's a time when, among other things, we think about the weeks that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Weeks when, away from the general distractions of life, he would have been able to think about and remember all the things from his past – the things that had formed the foundations of his life and would give him the confidence and courage to move on to the next phase. Especially, I sure, those times that involved the intervention of his heavenly father. This was a time for not just "saving" the past,

but “savouring” it as well.

Lent is also a season when we are encouraged to take time out, to take stock of our lives, to “save” and “savour” our memories of the past, and in particular those which have involved the workings of God. It is a time when we are encouraged to identify and give thanks for them and to take the opportunity to “re-connect” with them and Him. Then, having done that, to use those memories as a foundation on which to build a full and fulfilling life with Him and with each other.

Wishing you all a very Blessed Lent

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by the word 'one'.