



# DIOCESE OF LONDON

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To The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This coming Sunday's Gospel passage from the Gospel of John brings us the dramatic and moving account of Jesus raising his friend, Lazarus, from the dead. It is an episode filled with heartache, grief, consolation and ultimately elation.

Toward the end of the account, Jesus, standing at the tomb of the dead man, cries out: "Lazarus, come out!" The evangelist narrates: "The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them: 'Untie him and let him go.'" (John 11:43-44)

"Lazarus, come out!.. Untie him and let him go." These words carry meaning for us, too. We may be living in the dark, dark, dreary tombs of our bad habits and wrong choices, bound by prejudices, desire, attachments and addictions. In short, we too are held not by burial bands but by our sinfulness and, like Lazarus, need to be set free.

Jesus has come to call each of us to the fullness of life, to set us free from all that binds us, to release us from the darkness of sin. He is looking to touch us with his compassion and mercy and to have us rise in the grace of his forgiveness.

On **Wednesday, April 5** across the Diocese of London every church will be open throughout the entire day with priests available in each to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. This is a unique opportunity to encounter the Lord through his ministers and to experience his unconditional acceptance and limitless mercy — to know directly the healing power of his love. Perhaps it has been some time since you shared in this sacrament. Nevertheless the door is always open, the Lord is always waiting to receive and to forgive. And as Jesus said so often: "Do not be afraid."

For all of us the sacrament of reconciliation is the opportunity to be set free from all that encumbers us in mind, heart and spirit. Therefore, I urge you to share in the upcoming Day of Confessions and to answer the Lord's invitation to come out of the darkness of sin and to be unbound to live the gift of new life he offers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London