



St. Joseph the Worker Parish
Gros Islet, Monchy, Grande Riviere

EASTER MESSAGE 2026

The contrast between life and death, light and darkness, good and bad, truth and untruth, hope and hopelessness, can best be expressed/described as the movement or process of the dust from the ashes of Ash Wednesday to the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

On the first day of Lent, the Ashes distributed symbolized/represented our awareness of sin, our nothingness before God and the need through our Lenten journey to amend our lives through prayer, fasting/abstinence and works of charity.

During our Lenten Retreat, our facilitator encouraged us in our reflection on the theme *Walking Together As A People of Faith, Through Conversion, Communion and Peace in the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi* of the following: That the eucharist calls us to a familiar space and celebration of a new sense/reality of listening and relating to each other, renewal, self-denial, celebrating each other's giftedness and endurance.

The Synodal journey takes time and must be done together. We are at different stages of the journey, and we must be patient, take time to get to know each other, listen to each other, pray in communion and must develop a spirit of inclusivity. When we walk together, we share common experiences – testimonies, strengthen, encourage and support each other along the way.

During the Easter Triduum, we concluded our journey with Christ through the celebration of the Pascal Mystery of His suffering, death and resurrection. As a *suffering servant* Christ showed us the ideal example of sacrifice and suffering. **Christ learnt obedience through suffering** (Heb 5: 8). **He humbled Himself by being obedient to death** (Phil. 2: 8).

I take this opportunity to thank Msgr. Michel Francis, my direct collaborator, for his ongoing help and support. Thanks to Bro. Collins Ogbuehi as he continues his ministry in the Sacred Heart Parish, Marchand. A special welcome to Bro. Emelue Moses Chibueze as he continues the process of discernment. Thanks to deacons Girard Glace, Anthony Louis and David Popo for your continued support. My appreciation is extended to the **Liturgy Committee**, who ensured the plans for the Lenten Season were well executed. My gratitude is also extended to all of you who took part in the Lenten Season Liturgies and Retreat leading to the Easter Season. Thanks to those who cleaned and decorated the Church, I am very grateful for this. My gratitude is also extended to the Altar Servers, Lectors, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers/Collectors, the Choirs and Musicians, Animators, Live -streamers and all who attended the various liturgical celebrations. You have proven through your involvement and commitment we can achieve great things for God and the growth of our Parish Community.

May the spirit of Synodality (Participation, Communion, Mission and Conversion) continue to bear fruit throughout 2026 as we walk and work together for the growth and development of our Parish Community.

May the **Peace, Love and Joy** of the **RISEN CHRIST** remain with you!

Fr. Athanase Joseph
Parish Priest