

NOTES FOR SPEAKING

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(NB: These are intended only as a guide. Feel free to adapt to your own purposes and style.)

Thank you Father X for the opportunity to speak for a few minutes today.

[Introduce yourself]

Lent 2017: During Lent we are called again to turn back to God, to re-examine the practice of our faith and to consider what we want to change in our lives. This year our focus in Lent is the theme of *Your face, LORD, do I seek*, which is taken from Psalm 27:8. This Lent is about encountering the presence of Christ when we encounter our brothers and sisters. Christ can reveal himself through the interactions with other people, sometimes through people we would least expect. During Lent, New Zealand's Catholic Bishops invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world. You can donate to the Bishops' Lent Appeal each week:

- Using this pack of six envelopes {hold up envelopes}.
- Or as a single donation, using the 'single Lent donation' envelope {hold up envelope}. These can be returned through your parish's weekly collection or posted freepost directly to Caritas. Please do include your contact details, such as address and email details, so that we can send you a receipt after Lent.
- Alternatively, you can donate online by visiting www.caritas.org.nz to pay by credit card, or get Caritas' bank account details to make a direct transfer from your own account.

Lent Reflection Programme: In order to pray with the gospels as a group or as an individual, many parishes are also using the Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme (hold up a copy of the LRP booklet which is in the pack you received) which can be downloaded free from the Caritas website or purchased as a hardcopy booklet from Caritas for \$2 each. Translations are also available to order in Māori, Samoan, and Tongan.

If you haven't already collected a set of Lent envelopes for your family, please make sure you do so before leaving Church today. Each weekly envelope features a Caritas project which you have made possible with your donations and a prayer for that week.

If you have any questions or comments, please come and see me after Mass and I'll be happy to help you. Thank you for being part of the work of Caritas and for helping us to encounter and show the face of the Father's mercy.