

**DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2025**  
**FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**LUMEN CHRISTI, CHURCHHILL**

**INTRODUCTION**

We come together at the end of our first day to celebrate in Word and Sacrament the presence of the God who has invited us into this moment.

We have entered together into our reflection In our stories, in discussion on our church, and pondering of our mission.

We are mindful of all that bring to this Eucharist, Our joys, dreams, hopes, anxieties, and sorrow.

Our world yearns for the fullness of the Reign of God - for justice and peace.

In faith we know 'in the wilderness justice has come to live, and integrity will bring peace' (Is 32).

So, we prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries...

## HOMILY

**I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
A voice that speaks of peace!**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace!

As we think over our time in assembly today, we have listened to the whispers of the Lord God in the voices of one another. I hope, as it was on my table, you heard a voice of peace!

The Spirit has been poured over us from above, and as we commenced our work together, we have perhaps reflected upon the signs of hope and joy across our diocese, and at times begun to look at the wilderness of parched land, which awaits the refreshing rain from above. Our spiritual life and our ecclesial life are lived so often between the two: wilderness and valleys green; barrenness and fertility. We take reassurance that the God of Promise is to be found in both. As often is the case, we need to enter the wilderness in order to discover the presence of the One who never abandons us.

Jesus says to his disciples, as he does to us this night, “If anyone loves me they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to them and make our home with them” (Jn 14:23-24). God is at home in our living. God in his Son has pitched his tent among us and invited us “home.” If God is at home with us, then we too have a home in the life of God. Surely then we have the mission

to “make a home” within our Diocese – our parishes – schools – colleges – hospitals – aged care – services to the poor – a place where others encounter the Holy One who is our home. In the words of Pope Francis, the Church belongs to Christ, and Christ belongs to everyone.

So as the sun begins to set on this day in which we have been at “home” with one another, let us allow the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to teach us everything and to allow us to encounter that gift of peace – the peace of Jesus – a peace which the world cannot give, but peace himself, Jesus.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid!

**+Greg Bennet**

**14 February 2025**

**Given at Lumen Christi**