

Lent Theme 2024



‘Church Celebrating Human Fraternity’



The theme for Lent 2024 in the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur is ‘Church Celebrating Human Fraternity’ (Mt. 7:12), it comes from the PMPT Themes for February 2024 and the Synodal Journey (*Church* being from Aug 2023 – July 2024) which underscores the significance of unity, solidarity, and mutual respect among all people, regardless of their cultural, religious, or ethnic differences. It is the ‘Golden Rule’ of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

This theme reflects the ideals of **harmony, peace and collaboration** among individuals from diverse backgrounds. It's deeply rooted in the concept of recognizing and appreciating the **shared humanity** among all individuals.



Significance of Solidarity: This inclusive theme underscores the significance of unity, solidarity and mutual respect among all peoples, regardless of their socio-economic, cultural, religious or ethnic differences.

Common Humanity: In essence, this vital theme to focus attention on human fraternity embodies the idea that regardless of our differences, we share a common humanity and must strive to foster a world where mutual respect, empathy, and cooperation prevail.

Shared Humanity: Acknowledging that we all belong to one big family, this theme reflects the ideals of harmony, peace and collaboration among individuals from diverse backgrounds. It's deeply rooted in the concept of recognizing and appreciating the shared humanity among all individuals.



Common Good: The renewal and strengthening of our human fraternity bonds, within and beyond the Church, draws inspiration from the teachings of love, compassion and understanding found in various religious and ethical traditions. It emphasizes the importance of dialogue, cooperation and working together for the common good, fostering a sense of belonging and interconnectedness.

Integral Human Development: The Church, through this Lenten theme, aims to support and promote values that uphold the dignity of each person, and seeks to bridge gaps, promote understanding and encourage a culture of acceptance and empathy. This holistic theme is aligned with the belief that diverse cultures and traditions can coexist harmoniously, and contribute positively to the betterment of the community and society.



Outreach Engagements: Essentially, the Church endorses and enables the recognition and promotion of human fraternity through outreach engagements that encourage interfaith dialogue, community outreach and social initiatives. Such engagements support those in need, and are intended to build bridges and enrich understanding among people of varied backgrounds. These outreach activities principally support initiatives that promote peace building, conflict resolution, and the pursuit of justice and equality for all.

Pope's Call: Pope Francis is a vocal advocate for human fraternity, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity, solidarity, and peace among people of various faiths. His letters and public addresses stress the need for respect, understanding and collaboration between individuals and communities. In his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship), Pope Francis highlights the parable of the Good Samaritan, and challenges us to become good neighbours, and renew and promote the human fraternity.





“Jesus asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all.”

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti (80)