

Archdiocese of Vancouver  
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Throughout the world, next Wednesday, February 18 is Ash Wednesday, which begins our 40-day journey of prayer, fasting and good works. But this year Ash Wednesday is also the eve of the Lunar New Year, one of the most joyous days of the year for the Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Malaysian and other Asian communities.

In order to allow Asian Catholics in the Archdiocese of Vancouver to celebrate the Chinese New Year, I am happy to issue a dispensation this year from the laws of abstinence and fasting that pertain to Ash Wednesday. In this way they may joyfully celebrate the Lunar New Year on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

We must remember, however, that Lent is a penitential time of preparation for the celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, all who make use of this dispensation are obliged to observe a day of fast and abstinence on one other day at the beginning of Lent, such as Wednesday, February 25, 2015 or Friday, February 27, 2015.

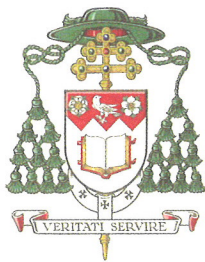
As we mark the start of this Year of the Sheep, I pray that the good Lord will bless you, your families and your loved ones and that the Holy Spirit will guide all of you during the coming year. May you enjoy good health, happiness and the abundant blessings of Jesus Christ.

With cordial best wishes and the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ J. Michael Miller CSB*

✠ J. Michael Miller, CSB  
Archbishop of Vancouver



Archdiocese of Vancouver  
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

基督內親愛的兄弟姐妹：

二月十八日是普世教會的「聖灰瞻禮」，開始本年專務祈禱、齋戒及善功的「四旬期」。剛巧，這一天亦是華人、越南人、韓國人、馬來西亞人，與及多個亞洲社群，闔家歡聚餐宴的農曆年大除夕！

有見及此，本總教區宣佈有關的亞洲教友社群，於「聖灰瞻禮」當日、亦即二月十八日（星期三），寬免當守大小齋的規戒，好讓他們都能欣喜地共進傳統的家宴！

然而，教會「四旬期」是克苦補贖的齋期，為善備紀念和慶祝吾主耶穌基督的苦難、聖死與復活，因此，接受免除於「聖灰瞻禮」當日克守大小齋規戒的有關教友們，仍有必要本份在此日以後，盡速自己選擇一天（譬如再下一個星期三——二月二十五日、或再下一個星期五——二月二十七日）守大小齋，以完普世教會齋戒的規定。

我期待羊年啟泰，祈求萬善的天主降福你們、你們的家庭、你們的所愛，同時亦祈求天主聖神在新的一年，帶領你們。

願耶穌基督賞給你們充盈的祝福、健康和快樂！

溫哥華總教區總主教

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB 謹上