



THE BISHOP OF LEEDS
The Right Reverend Marcus Stock

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4th February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year, in the holy season of Lent, we join our Lord in the desert for his fast of forty days. The desert is a dry place where we feel vulnerable and in need of God's care. The Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving help to renew our thirst for the Lord and open our hearts to his grace as he comes to quench our thirst. They prepare us for the oasis of Easter, when we celebrate and renew the grace of our new birth in the waters of Baptism.

For many people in our world, thirst is not just a spiritual reality, but bodily too. The Lenten disciplines fulfil their purpose when they make us instruments through which the Lord can show his care to those who are in need. With this in mind, I warmly commend to you CAFOD'S initiative *Big Walk for Water* on Saturday 20th February as an act of solidarity with those in Ethiopia and other places who have to walk miles for the precious gift of water and as a united, yet safe, act to make a real difference to some of the most needy people on earth.

With every blessing for the holy season of Lent,

+ Marcus Stock

✠ Marcus Stock
Bishop of Leeds