

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF LANCASTER  
TO THE MOST REV DR. MICHEL AUPETIT, ARCH BISHOP OF PARIS



The Most Rev Dr Michel Aupetit  
His Grace, Archbishop of Paris  
10 rue de Cloitre – Notre Dame  
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PARIS  
France

16 April 2019

Your Grace,

Together with people across the entire world, together with people of all faiths and none, the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Lancaster, England, stand with you in your time of National grief following yesterday's fire at Notre Dame de Paris.

For such a tragedy to strike at any time is a heavy burden. For it to happen within Holy Week adds to the pain. The people of Paris and all France will be given a special place within our own Triduum and Easter Liturgies, particularly within my own Cathedral.

Notre Dame carries the heart and soul of the French people. Our love and prayers are with you for the work of re-building and the work of healing that now begins. Many here will make contributions to that work.

Of this I am sure: the stunning beautiful ancient Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris will live again. She still has work to do, to lift us from the ashes of our lives, and restore us to glory. We begin Lent with the ashes placed on our foreheads. The Good Lord does not want us to live our whole life in ashes. He will raise us up.

Courage!

Your servant and brother in the Lord,

*+Paul Swain*

+Paul

Bishop of Lancaster



The Catholic Diocese of Lancaster