



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

### *“Cultivating Hope in the Jubilee Year”*

The Sundays of Scrutiny for our catechumens start this Sunday. Considering our understanding, the Readings at this Mass especially at the 8:00 AM Mass is taken from the Gospel of Matthew, Cycle A. This is to accompany our candidate to hear and be nurtured by the Word of God as she starts to learn and reflect how one can embrace the faith in Jesus Christ. For many of us, we will be reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, Cycle C. We may wonder why this takes place. Catechumens are opening their faith in Jesus and the Gospels at the Scrutiny Sundays are all about His teaching to those who are new to know and accept Him. For us who had already been baptized and accepted Jesus, we continue to deepen our understanding that we may become more faithful as His disciples.

As we spend these days in the sacred season of Lent, Jesus offers us the parable of the fig tree—a story rich in meaning and invitation. The fig tree, planted with care, is expected to bear fruit, yet its barrenness leads the owner to consider cutting it down. It is the gardener who steps in, pleading for one more year, promising to tend to the tree with renewed effort and hope. If, after this time, it still bears no fruit, then it shall be removed.

This parable speaks deeply to us, especially as we embrace the grace-filled themes of the Jubilee Year of Hope. It reminds us of God's infinite patience and mercy, granting us time to nurture our spiritual lives and bear the fruit of holiness. Yet, it also calls us to a sense of urgency that cannot wait for tomorrow but must begin here and now.

Lent is a time to pause and reflect on our discipleship. As followers of Christ, we are called to share in His mission. At the heart of this mission lies our witness—our daily living out of His teachings. It is through this witness that we bear the fruits of faith, hope, and love in a world longing for meaning and purpose.

The Jubilee Year of Hope invites us to recommit to this mission with joy and determination. Like the gardener, we are called to cultivate our faith with care, trusting in the Lord's guidance. Let us not delay in answering this call. Instead, let us embrace this sacred opportunity to renew our lives, to reconcile with God and one another, and to be steadfast witnesses of hope to the world.

May this Lent and the Jubilee Year of Hope be a time of profound renewal for each of us, a time to bear abundant fruit for the Kingdom of God. Together, let us walk forward in faith, confident that the One who tends to us is ever patient, ever merciful, and ever loving.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual