

## Explanation of the Logo:

This is a drop of water that represents each person of this diocese that borrows the way traced out by Christ and who then becomes our fellow traveler. This path leads to the summit represented by the Pieter Both, mountain that dominates our island impresses with its majestic look. It is the Church we dream of being.



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## Prayer :

Lord Jesus, you have placed in our hearts this desire to give our diocese a new spirit, a new strength according to the power of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in your love and with humble hearts we ask that you guide us as a companion on this road, as the One who has prepared this road.

May this desire for deep renewal of life be concrete and enable our church to be one which is immersed in the love of Christ, in knowledge of the Word and ready to serve as per the example set by you.

By your Grace, which suffices, make us messengers of the Gospel by the way we live and by the way we proclaim.

May your Father, our Creator, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, together with you, the Saviour of the world, bless us, protect us and keep us. Amen

## Together on the road to Emmaus



Ansam lor sime Emais • Ensemble sur le chemin d'Emmaüs

On this day of Pentecost when we are inaugurating this diocesan project, **“Together on the road to Emmaus”** Jesus invites us to embark on a journey, to walk with him, to engage with him on a pilgrimage. This pilgrimage is to enable our diocese to become:

- **A Welcoming Church**
- **A Teaching & Proclaiming Church**
- **A Loving Church**

Our Church is all of these already, however there is a need to breathe new life, though the Holy Spirit, to countenance the issues which we face in this day and age.

According to the author of the book “Travelling in” Monica Furlong, “The religious person” is “somebody who believes that life consists of travelling on a road” the non-religious person is one who believes there is no road to follow”.

Jesus answered: **« I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. »**

Our walk with God is not limited to knowledge of the Bible, but includes living a proactive life. The first description of the Christian according to the New Testament is of someone who follows the way.

Let us be honest – this project has as objective to follow the way which has been prepared for us by Christ. – But we are often unwilling to take this road because we do not wish to leave our comfort zone. The call to be transformed and to grow may be uncomfortable and scary. However, the life of the resurrection leads us to dare to make our life one which is dynamic and fruitful.

« **We do not have a city in which to dwell, as we are searching the city which is yet to come** ». We are pilgrims who are travelling to a destination – that is, our celestial dwelling.

The story of the disciples of Emmaus is profoundly encouraging. It reminds us that every time we travel with God, we are never alone. The Risen One always comes to meet us. He is the One who walks by our side when we are exhausted. He is with us in the desert and in the furnace. In our moments of loneliness, trial and also great joy, the story of the disciples of Emmaus is encouraging and comforting.

**We are never alone,  
we have a traveling companion.**

**What are you experiencing personally in your journey with Christ?**

**How may we firmly welcome this diocesan project?**

**How should I live in my family, my parish, my diocese, my neighbourhood, my country and in the world?**

### **John Chapter 14 :**

*“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”*

*Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. . . .*

In chapter 14 of the Gospel of John, we are reminded that Christ is the one who prepares the way for us to tread. He has gone ahead of us in this pathway. Though we are not always sure if we are capable to engage in this diocesan project, the word of God in this passage is most encouraging.

John14:3 « **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.** »

These three pillars, the basic foundation of this diocesan project to renew the life of the diocese, come from Christ’s teachings, his life and the example set by him. He invites us, who are part of His body, the Church, to be instruments of His love and His justice. If we are unable to take the “road to Emmaus” prepared by the Lord, it is probable that we have forgotten our Abrahamic roots: setting up tents and removing them to continue the journey.

Christ reminds us urgently to be and become a people on the move. Let us take this road with courage, let us be close to our belonging to the Christian family, within our diocese.

Let us not be fearful, but rather hang on, for Jesus is by our side.

**Since Easter on Sunday 1st of April 2018, to what extent has Christ impacted our life?**

**Do you believe Jesus is calling you, your family, your parish, to continue on the road which will result in a more Welcoming, Teaching, Proclaiming and Loving Church?**

If we take this way, if we join this diocesan project, we know that the journey will be challenging, difficult and full of obstacles, but we must remember that the Risen Lord will be there to lead us to safety.:

**Ephesians 4:1-7** « *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.»*