

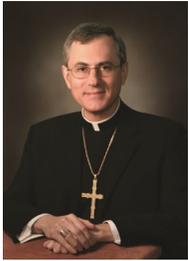


ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

August 2, 2020

*We are a Eucharistic faith community, inspired by the Gospel,
committed to engaging each person in the joy of living in the service of Christ.*



Most Rev.
Ronald Peter Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London

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MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00 P.M.

Sunday 9:00 A.M. & 12:00 P.M.



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Praying with Our Imaginations

Over the time of the pandemic, many of us have sought out various forms of prayer to nurture our spiritual lives. Many graces have been experienced through these new forms that continue to nourish us spiritually. Though we have moved into Phase 3 of re-opening and a sense of normalcy is returning, let us not lose what we have gained in our spiritual lives.

Praying with our Imaginations is a way to reflect on scripture, to "enter the scene", and let it reveal our Lord to us. We can pray it alone or with our families and reflect on and share our experiences. As human beings, our soul is still fired by color and imagination. Our minds are storehouses of images and memories and through them God works in our hearts. Praying with our imaginations can create a deeper and more personal intimacy with Jesus, Mary, the disciples and others written about in scripture. We can take the familiar stories we know and let them flow through our own imagination and see where the Lord guides it.

Using the imagination in prayer has been a treasured tradition in prayer for centuries. It prompted St. Francis of Assisi to encourage people to create nativity scenes at Christmas, to imagine the Holy Family as people like we are. Four hundred years later, St. Ignatius of Loyola used imaginative prayer as a key part of his life-transforming Spiritual Exercises.

How do we start? First we get settled in a comfortable chair and in a quiet place where we won't be distracted. Our first gesture might be to open our hands on our lap, and to ask God to open our hearts and imaginations.

Then pick a story out of scripture (perhaps the Sunday readings). Read through it once slowly and put it down. Now we begin to imagine the scene as if we are standing right there. What is around me? Who else is there? What do I hear in the scene? If I am in a house, what noises are in the house or in the street outside? What are the smells I can pick up?

Now we begin to imagine the scene we read about. Who is in it? What conversation takes place? What is the mood – tense? joyful? confused? angry?

Feel free to paint this picture in any way your imagination takes you. If we worry about historical accuracy, it can be a distraction that takes us away from prayer. This isn't scripture – this is letting God take our imaginations and reveal to us something of the intimate life of Jesus or others. Here is an experience of prayer that lets our imaginations free themselves from anything that limits them. This is God revealing himself to us.

Adapted from Praying with Our Imaginations, Creighton Online Ministries

Mobile Giving at St. Peter's Cathedral

Instructions:

1. Place your device in camera mode or open the QR Code Reader.
2. Hold your device over the full QR Code.
3. Your camera will scan the QR Code.



The Parish Community & the Evangelising Mission of the Church

“In July, the Vatican released a new instruction focusing on the evangelising mission of parish communities. This new instruction entitled “The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelising Mission of the Church” is a reminder of the continued mission of the parish in the service of the wider community.

The document notes that parishes can sometimes become inward looking, self-referential, almost fossilised in the way they think about themselves and their practices. When this happens, they are no longer focused on their most essential aspect, the call to be missionary disciples in the world. Pastoral conversion is the process by which all members of a parish community, and the very structures of the parish itself, are reoriented towards its missionary identity.

The value of this document is that it brings together the tradition of the Church, particularly the teachings of Vatican II, recent papal teachings on the nature of Church and its mission in the world, and sets it within the framework of canon law. The Church is normalising a new way of being Church, a Church that is more focused on the imperative of the gospel than on the survival of its comfort zones.

The Instruction echoes Pope Francis’ vision for pastoral



activity. The instruction, targeted at those with leadership responsibility in local church communities, is a call to both personal conversion and action. It makes normative a new way of being Church, as described in pope Francis’ recent apostolic exhortations *Christus Vivit*, *Gaudete et Exultate* and *Evangelii Gaudium*. The instruction also recognizes that the laity have a unique and indispensable role in the parish community.”

Excerpt from A Reading on the new Instruction by the Congregation for the Clergy, Bruce Botha, SJ

Click [here](#) to read the Instruction.

Update from the Business Manager

The last time that the Finance Committee or myself touched base with you, we were still not able to gather as a community. It is wonderful to see that due to the diligence of all Ontarians we have been allowed to open our doors, although, to a limited number of parishioners in order to maintain physical distancing or parishioners making the prudent decision to not come to Mass due to the risk especially if they are immune compromised.

I have received some inquiries recently regarding the financial state of the Cathedral. As you might have surmised, our offertory during our mandatory closure was quite low. Since we have opened, the offertory amounts have improved but fall well below our regular offertory with attendance back to normal. In addition, our parking revenue has fallen both monthly, nightly and eliminated completely due to the Park Events being cancelled. Therefore, our revenue to cover expenses has been about 40-50% of our budgeted amount and last year’s results. However, I would like to thank and recognize all who have contributed during this time---every dollar counts.

Expenses were very tightly controlled and no expense was made for anything that could be delayed or eliminated entirely. We only paid invoices that were bills for necessary items such as water, heat, hydro and labour (although labour was cut back by 25%). We delayed turning the irrigation system until mid-July, did not plant flowers and did not spray any pesticides. There are many other categories that expenses were low or eliminated completely such as the ones indicated above.

Despite our efforts, our cash flow has been reduced and our bank account continues to go down. However, at a much slower pace than was projected in March, April, May and June. The control of expenses was much better than estimated in March and that has made our financial situation

better than anticipated, however, below our budget and our contributions from parishioners was a little higher.

Fortunately, people have asked how they can help. I have the same answer every time, please consider a donation. Every dollar does count, so any donation is a great help during this time of crisis. If you have it in your heart to donate and have the means (not everyone does and we do understand) please consider a donation to the Cathedral.

God Bless and stay safe,

Brian Galea, Business Manager

Volunteers for Mass—We Can’t Do This Without YOU!

We have now been re-open for weekend masses for 4 weeks. Without our over 50 volunteers that have come forward to assist with safely re-opening our doors, we could never have accomplished this. Ideally we need 15 volunteers for every mass to assist with the various duties needed: welcoming and registering of our parishioners, seating of parishioners, directing of traffic flow in and out of the Cathedral and at communion, and sanitizing of the Cathedral after every mass. We are still in need of more volunteers to assist and be able to continue to re-open our doors safely each weekend. In the weeks and months ahead we will resume celebrations of baptisms (30 baptisms had to be postponed during our closure), weddings, funerals, and daily mass. All safety protocols must be in place every time we open our doors. Training sessions will continue to take place in order to carry out all tasks safely and effectively. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute to this. Please contact [Cathryn Hall](#).



From the Desk of the Rector

Weekend Masses. It has been very good to return to the celebration of Sunday Eucharist and I am pleased to see all of you who have attended. As well, I remain appreciative of our volunteers who make that possible by supporting the health care protocols of the Province of Ontario. Many parishioners are choosing not to attend and I strongly support that as you care for your own health or the health of those close to you. The current schedule will remain in place until the beginning of September when it will be reviewed. Elsewhere in this bulletin you will see a further request for weekend volunteers. As we determine matters surrounding reinstating weekday Mass we will need volunteers for that to occur as well.

Still Learning. As we live through this pandemic I'm learning and witnessing a lot of things – about myself and others. It has been a time of introspection and prayer. We have been more conscious of others as we appreciate the frontline and essential workers continuing to serve us. We see people going out of their way to assist neighbours. The majority of people are taking seriously the necessity of caring for each other as we wear our masks, wash our hands and keep our distance. We are making sure we connect or reconnect with those who are close to us.

I'm also experiencing in different ways how we have allowed ourselves to become anxious and fearful. At times we have become angry, opinionated and critical without the benefit of dialogue inflicting these sentiments and moods on family, friends, neighbours and coworkers. This is a common experience when stress levels rise in the midst of living through something we've never experienced before.

However common this may be it is not healthy and all we need to do is find ways to cope with whatever may be troubling us.

We all have many responsibilities that we are carrying out well and, at times, courageously, but often self care doesn't make it to our list. I can sometimes argue that I don't have time for it, that I'm too tired or I'll get to it once I'm caught with getting other matters under control.

We need to engage in self-care in order to be re-energized. It is not something that takes energy away. Even machines need to be shut off in order to give the motor a rest. I thought about ways that I could recharge and asked some colleagues and friends the same. Here are some of their suggestions.

- Distractions help a lot. From time to time deliberately do something different. Distractions always change our focus – rearrange photos, clean a closet, write emails or letters to people you haven't connected with in a long

time. Eat a meal, slowly...

- We could activate our brain by reading, watching informational, learning videos, taking an online course.
- Consider the times I share my gratitude. Write down all the things we're grateful for that give purpose to life.
- Nourishing our faith practice makes us aware that we are part of something larger than ourselves. Read the Scriptures. Learn more about the meaning of the Mass. What is your vision for the Church and our parish? Do we allow God in our prayer to guide us in the midst of uncertainty as well as when we know where we are going?
- Reach out and stay connected to those to whom we are close and who nurture us as we do them.
- Exercise every day and learn how to breathe properly.
- While understanding others be compassionate to ourselves, recognizing that feeling anxious, lonely or sad is completely understandable given the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Are you hungry? Do you know anyone who is? In today's Gospel Jesus fed the hungry crowd. He always did that and continues to that even now. Do I attend Mass or read the Scriptures as if I were hungry, looking for nourishment? As well, there are others who are hungry waiting to be fed by Jesus but he wants to do it through you and me. Who are these people and where do we find them every day?

Helpful information for current and future reflection. As we move into the years ahead becoming the parish/community God intends us to be the ancient Rule of Benedict, over 1500 years old, might help to guide us. Here is what the Rule inspired.

- "In an authoritarian world, it brought listening.
- In a divided world, it brought community.
- In a classist society, it brought equality.
- In an imperial world, it relied on the example of the leader rather than the whims of royalty.
- In a world that rested on brute force, it brought education, understanding and personal growth. In a world of slaves, it brought personal care and responsibility." (Sr. Joan Chittister)

We're here for you. I hope you continue to keep well. The parish offices of the diocese continue to remain closed to the public but parish staff members are working and always available. If you need anything please contact us by phone at 519-432-3475 or by email at basilica@dol.ca

Fr. Jim Mockler

We remember in prayer all those who are sick in our community. We also pray for those who have died including Shari Houghton, wife of Dave; Elizabeth Paino, wife of Tony; Sr. Thecla Martens, of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph; Joshua Rodriguez, brother of Ana Rodriguez; and comfort those who mourn.

Come Pray With Us

Since the last weekend of June, we have been providing a Sunday Prayer Service online. The service invites us into the Sunday scriptures and celebrates a time of prayer, music, and reflection led by members of our Pastoral Team. The service will be available at the following [link](#) each Sunday morning.

Summer Camp Opportunity for Families

The Family and Youth Ministry Outreach office is excited to be able to offer an abundance of activities, programs, and resources for kids, teens, young adults and families this year. The best place to start is with our new [website](#).

Financial Support of St. Peter's Cathedral

Looking to make a donation? Click [here](#) for the various options to financially support the parish.



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