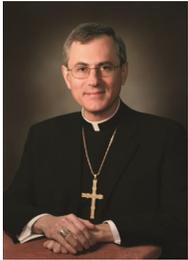




ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

*We are a Eucharistic faith community, inspired by the Gospel,
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**CHRISTMAS EVE / DAY;
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY;
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD**



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

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Do You Hear What I Hear?

a note from Fr. Jim Mockler



We are going to be able to celebrate Mass in the Cathedral at Christmas. However, the next day we will be closed once again as we do our part following the lockdown directives that will hopefully bring some relief from the spread of the virus and keep us safe and healthy until we receive the vaccine. The parish office will be closed while we work from home but our office voicemail will be checked daily. The church will not be open for private prayer, sacraments will be limited – all, so we can be safe. However, this has not in any way prevented our parishioners from growing in faith, prayer and discernment as we learn what this time of pandemic can teach us. We will be closed at least until January 23rd when the situation will be reassessed. You will be informed of any developments as soon as possible. Until that time let's wear our masks, keep our distance, stay home and wash our hands. We are following all these directives not only for ourselves but for each other. It's an act of love and selflessness.

This week our Advent preparation moves to the joy and hope that Christmas always brings. We reflect on a year that has been extremely challenging. We have comforted people who lost loved ones and we have wrestled with anxiety, fear, uncertainty and loneliness. It has also been a time to be grateful. Vaccines have been produced and although it seems distant, light in the midst of darkness can be seen. Pope Francis reminded us "we are all in the same boat" and calls us to re-commit ourselves to one another in our various communities and in the Church. Much will depend on how enthusiastically we take up the challenge to do better and to make new efforts as we grow. He spoke of a crisis revealing what is in our hearts with the challenge that coming out of this pandemic better than we went in, we must let ourselves be touched by others' pain.

I am grateful to all of you for the support you showed in countless ways and in many areas of parish life during these difficult past months. We have been told that things could get worse before they get better but our discipline and resolve will get us through this second wave as it did the first.

As Christmas brings us a sense of wonder, joy and hope, let's be more attentive to the most important aspects of our life – our family and our community of faith, those in need and our friends. Let's keep attentive to the truths Jesus sets before us. He just wants us to give him the time of day. Let him reside within us so that our love for one another will increase because loving hearts will always diminish darkness.

At this time of year we greet our friends of other faiths and all people we encounter, wishing them happiness, safety and good health in the New Year. As well, for us as Christians, we long for the celebration of the coming of Jesus among us praying it will bring us direction and the surprises God has in store for us.

Merry Christmas!

*All Masses are suspended for the
next 28 days during our
provincial lockdown.*



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Bishop Fabbro's 2020 Christmas Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas will be different this year. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we will not be able to enjoy all the usual festivities: gatherings with family members who are far from us, concerts and pageants, and parties with friends and coworkers.

As we experience the government restrictions during this pandemic, we find inspiration in the example of Mary and Joseph. They respected the Emperor's decree and made the difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. Mary was expecting a child. There was no place for them in the inn. They were away from home and family, isolated from everything that was familiar, but the promise of a child was fulfilled – a child who was Emmanuel, God-with-us. So much was taken away, yet so much more was given.

By his coming among us in such humble circumstances, Jesus blesses every home and family. Confident that he is with us in all things, we can celebrate his birth simply and genuinely in our homes – putting up the crib, telling the Nativity story, exchanging gifts, eating and praying together. Practices such as these build strong families of faith.

Yes, Christmas will be different this year, but it can be an especially graced time – an opportunity to enter into the mystery at the heart of this holy season. Christmas without the usual extravagance and busyness. Christmas as it is meant to be.



On December 8, Pope Francis proclaimed a *Year of St. Joseph*, which extends until December 8, 2021. “Joseph’s attitude,” the pope writes, “encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (1 Cor 1:27). He is the ‘Father of orphans and protector of widows’ (Ps 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst.”

Christmas has always been a special time for us, and for our parishes, to help the poor on our streets, the working poor struggling to make ends meet, single mothers, refugees, and those who are isolated, marginalized and vulnerable. When we love “the stranger in our midst”, we encounter Jesus and discover the true gift of Christmas.

I thank you for your continued support of our parishes this past year, and I extend my special thanks to our parish teams and volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure the faithful can safely access our churches and celebrate the sacraments.

During this holy season, I want to assure you that you will be in my thoughts and prayers. May it be a blessed time for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Ronald Fabbro, *CSB*

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



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS - *Thank you!*

Thank you to all who made donations for the purchase of our Christmas Flowers. Your generosity is very much appreciated. We pray for all of these intentions at our Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses. May our prayer continue at home throughout the Christmas Season.

We remember and pray for those who have died:

All the deceased who now share in the resurrection of our Lord; Bienvenida Albano; Vicente & Rosa Albano; Ric Baker; Jacob Barandowski; Johnny Boado & Elizabeth Matchett; Deceased members of the Briglia & Forbes Families; Simeon Caces; Deceased members of the Cox, Walczak & Atkinson Families; Gildo & Giovanna Di Cola; Evelyn Ford & Eleanor Prosenyak; Charles & Beatrice Glaab; Deceased members of the Gnatkowski & Bouchard Families; Deceased members of the Gray & McLeod Families; Howard & Zula Hall; Deceased members of the Hannigan & Hehir Families; Deceased members of the Hogan & Coleman Families; Shari Houghton; Deceased members of the Kmet & Rogelj Families; Tatjana Krasna; Vincent Krasna; Anthony Le; Father O.C. Lim; Mr. & Mrs. John Macht & Son John; Pauline Martinelli, & Deceased members of the Privitelli & Martinelli Families; Patrick O'Reilly; Pepe, Sarah Jane & Macario; Wendel & Dorothea Pflanzner; Gabriel & Emma Raba; Deceased members of the Reidy Family; Bernardo Rovinelli; Isabel Rovinelli-Jackson; Rudolf & Gertrude Schoenborn; Rafael & Leonora Sopoco; Teresita P. Sopoco; Souls in Purgatory; Deceased members of the Tacak & Poluchowicz Families; Joseph Vu; Winifred Wojtak



We remember and pray for the intentions of those living:

Shelley Baker & Family; Dora Dannecker; Healing of Remy Hobbins; Patt Stewart; Living members of the Tacak & Poluchowicz Families; Ken Takken; In Thanksgiving

Praying the Christmas Season at Home

“This second week of the Christmas Season can be a great help for our daily connections with our Lord. We begin the week with the celebration of The Holy Family. In these days we can ask for the graces each of our families need and turn to Mary, Joseph and Jesus for inspiration and help.

The slaughter of the innocents reminds us of the fact that the innocent are so often the victims of political intrigue. We are reminded that the Holy Family becomes a family of refugees, fleeing a tyrant.

We have the full and wonderful Solemnity in honour of Mary, in her role as “Mother of God.” We can ask her to be our guide all week as we desire to grow closer to her Son. We can read the Holy Father’s words for the World Day of Prayer for Peace and chew them from time to time this week.

As we go through our daily and often very busy lives, in this time after Christmas, we can continue a sense of this brief season by continuing to ask that our Lord come to us in the ways we still need light and healing and peace. For some of us, this will be an easy prayer this week. Waiting faithfully can continue throughout the Christmas Season.

A special grace to ask for this week would be the gift of celebrating our Lord’s presence with us. We can ask for it every morning, as we get going and we can enter into brief conversations with our Lord, in the background, as we encounter some of the places in our life in which we can see more hope, more of an opportunity for peace. This week, we might hold up each member of our family, close friends and neighbours, and those we might work with, seeing and celebrating how our Lord is manifest in them. For some of us, there may be real epiphany moments, when we see what we haven't been seeing, feel what we haven't been feeling or experience a call we haven't felt before. Being watchful for and open to these special post-Christmas moments of grace is very important.

The Baptism of the Lord ends this Christmas Season and reminds us of the rest of our lives. As Jesus fully enters our world, by becoming one with us in the waters of baptism, we can ask for a renewed sense of our union with him in baptism—for our salvation and for our mission in this world.”

Daily Prayer, Second Week of Christmas, <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/B2-C-02.html>

Click [here](#) for Daily Reflections for each day of the Christmas Season from Creighton University’s Online Ministries.

We remember in prayer all those who are sick. We also pray for those who have died including Curtis Ficociello, grandson of Rose Marie Forbes; and comfort those who mourn.

We pray for those serving in pastoral ministry throughout our diocese:

Click [here](#)

Come Pray With Us

Join us each Sunday for our 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.



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