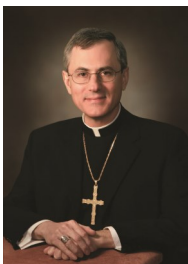


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**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
May 3, 2020**



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

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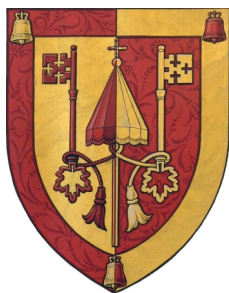
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*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)*

Catholic Education Week 2020 begins on Sunday, May 3, 2020. Publicly funded Catholic education has existed in Ontario since 1841 and its graduates have served Ontario and Canada very well. The current generation of students in our publicly funded Catholic schools will serve with the same spirit and generosity as their previous generations.

The theme for CEW 2020 "Igniting Hope" was inspired by three sources:

The recent Papal Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, by Pope Francis following the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment (2019)  
The recent Ontario Bishops' pastoral letter, *Renewing the Promise* (2018)  
The *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations by the Institute for Catholic Education* (2011)

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope.

All aspects of Jesus' life can prove inspiring for all those young people who are developing and preparing to take up their mission in life. This involves growing in a relationship with the Father, in awareness of being part of a family and a people, and in openness to being filled with the Holy Spirit and led to carry out the mission God gives them, their personal vocation. Jesus does not teach you, young people, from afar or from without, but from within your very youth, a youth he shares with you. It is very important for you to contemplate the young Jesus as presented in the Gospels, for he was truly one of you, and shares many of the features of your young hearts. We see this for example in the following: 'Jesus had unconditional trust in the Father; he maintained friendship with his disciples, and even in moments of crisis he remained faithful to them. He showed profound compassion for the weakest, especially the poor, the sick, sinners and the excluded. He had the courage to confront the religious and political authorities of his time; he knew what it was to feel misunderstood and rejected; he experienced the fear of suffering and he knew the frailty of the Passion. He turned his gaze to the future, entrusting himself into the Father's safe hands in the strength of the Spirit. In Jesus, all the young can see themselves.'"

*Excerpt from Christus Vivit, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation to Young People, Pope Francis, March 25, 2019*

## 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 Life of a Good Shepherd

“Today is Good Shepherd Sunday where we are invited to look at Jesus as that honorable shepherd who watches over and cares for his sheep. The job of being a shepherd is an extremely difficult one to say the least. I imagine that a job description would put most of us off and we would look elsewhere for employment. A shepherd literally laid down his life for his sheep by caring for them 24-7 as they say.

I can only imagine the difficulties of being shepherd. He travelled with the sheep as he sought



fertile fields for their food; he led them to those pastures and watched over them as they were nourished. At night, a new demand was put on the shepherd and his flock. They were to find a place safe for sleeping.

And, thus, the images of today's gospel: the gate of an enclosure prepared for rest / relaxation. But even here the shepherd couldn't just sleep and forget the world. He needed to be attentive to the sheep even (and maybe especially) at this vulnerable time of rest." [Click here to continue.](#)



### St. Vincent de Paul Restart Home Visits

This past month, the St. Peter's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul were able to restart their home visits to those most in need. After the March 15th weekend when our parishes were suddenly closed due to Covid-19, we realized that our model for providing help was unsustainable and would put both our members and clients at risk.

Right away, our SSVP members began to brainstorm as to how we could continue servicing the poor (whose needs didn't suddenly go away) while keeping not only our volunteers safe, but also, those we visit while delivering assistance. After a lot of back and forth creative thinking, a solution, though somewhat awkward, was devised where we could continue our work while maintaining safe distancing.

Since we restarted our visits in April, our parish visited 55 homes (two members in two cars for every visit, remaining outside with the client coming to us to maintain maximum safety for all) and distributed to them \$2,980 in grocery cards, allowing them to purchase according to their needs while maintaining their personal dignity. This was, of course, only possible because of the generosity of our parishioners both through their prayers and financially.

Reluctantly, and with the full awareness that many of you may be suffering some financial hardship as a result of Covid-19, I want to remind the parish that SSVP relies primarily on two collections a year and one of these would have taken place on the 17th of May. If you can help please do, or remember those we serve when your situation allows. Again, thank you for your prayers, keep praying and stay safe.

*Deacon Rudy Pflanzner*

### Catholic Education Week-Ways to Celebrate

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association has created a variety of resources for both Elementary and Secondary students for use at home to celebrate Catholic Education Week. These resources can be accessed [here](#).

Bishop Fabbro will be recording a message to students in English and French and a special Catholic Education Week Mass by Bishop Dabrowski will be posted online on Wednesday, May 6 at 10am. We invite all staff, students, and parishioners to join in the celebration. All the videos will be available on the diocesan YouTube [channel](#).



## *From the Desk of the Rector*

**Catholic Education Week.** The state of emergency has caused many changes for our students at all levels. Complete distance learning in every subject is a new venture and our board has made a remarkable transition in such a brief time. Our students, teachers and families are responding well even though there are difficulties. This is all new and had to be implemented in a very short time. Not all families have access to equipment, devices, and reliable internet service. Many of us take so much for granted. In the midst of all this through prayer, awareness of others in need and responding to needs at this time, many of our students still remain models for us of what it means to practically live the message of the Gospel.

**Congratulations.** On May 4<sup>th</sup> we had planned to celebrate Bishop Fabbro's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. Our inability to gather means we won't be able to do that as a community until a later date. Until then we continue to thank him for his ministry and service to all of us in the Diocese of London and here at St. Peter's.

**A Time to Grow.** When we meet others for the first time one of our regular questions is, "And what do you do?" A few weeks into living through this pandemic and isolation I was reminded clearly that we are learning we are more than our work. This is changing. For many the reset button is being pressed. We are slowing down and connecting more with family and friends. Unable to travel we are learning how to enjoy our own company, live more comfortably with silence and craft creative ways to stay in touch with others through social media. We are also being given the chance to pray and reflect more because when we are busy those precious and necessary gifts somehow get left aside with the hope 'I'll eventually get to it.' Pope Francis reminded us at Easter to not be indifferent, self-centred or forgetful of what we have.

Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher indicated early on we have a chance to be changed by the power of the Spirit of God. "Let us choose to live this crisis as an opportunity for individual and collective transformation." I am certain we have all commented that we will not be the same after this experience. That will be a gift. It will mean we will have experienced some sort of conversion. We will be more aware of who is most important to us. We will determine how our priorities need to be adjusted and lived. We will have reflected on our own worth. We will be more loving, patient, courageous and generous. We will grow in our awareness of just how much we are loved by God.

**Help Always Available.** CBC News pointed out 50% of Canadians reporting a worsening of their mental health while 10% say it has worsened a lot. There is always help and support available. The Canadian Mental Health Association can be reached 24 hours a day at 519-433-2023. Are you continuing to check in on people? It's not always easy. I don't get to all I should but in times of uncertainty and increased stress people need to know others are there with compassion and presence. In reaching out to others and encouraging them to be creative it's been said, "We need to realize there is no longer a box to think outside of because, the truth is, we are all outside the box."

**Something to Think About.** What Thomas Merton wrote in his 1966 book, "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander" could easily have been written today, "You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope."

*Fr. James Mockler*

*We remember in prayer* all those who are sick, including Shari Houghton. We also pray for those who have died, including Dr. Robert Mackenzie, husband of Roswitha, father of Anita, Connie, Helene, Katherine, and Tara; members of the Canadian Armed Forces who died in the helicopter crash in Greece; and comfort for those who mourn.

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

Rev. Matthew Bedard; Rev. Daniel Bombardier;  
Rev. Richard (Dick) Bester; Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood; Rev. Gary Ducharme;  
Rev. James Mockler; Rev. Gerry Campeau

## **READINGS - SUNDAY MAY 10, 2020**

### **First Reading - Acts 6.1-7**

*They chose seven men who were full of the Holy Spirit.*

### **Psalms - Ps 33.1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (R. 22)**

*R. Let your love be upon us, Lord, even as we hope in you.*

### **Second Reading - 1 Peter 2.4-9**

*You are called to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

### **Gospel - John 14.1-12**

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*

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