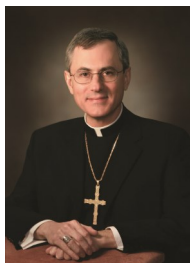


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**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 31, 2021**



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

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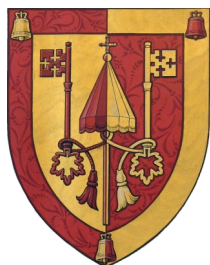
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Prayer with Sacred Scripture

“Today I would like to focus on the prayer we can do beginning with a Bible passage. The words of the Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart. The Word of God goes to the heart. The Catechism affirms that: “prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture” – the Bible should not be read like a novel, it must be accompanied by prayer – “so that a dialogue takes place between God and man”. That Bible verse was written for me too. It was written for every one of us. This experience happens to all believers: a passage from the Scripture, heard many times already, unexpectedly speaks to me one day, and enlightens a situation that I am living. But it is necessary that I, that day, be present for that appointment with that Word. That I may be there, listening to the Word. Every day God passes and sows a seed in the soil of our lives. We do not know whether today he will find dry ground, brambles, or good soil that will make that seed grow. That they become for us the living Word of God depends on us, on our prayer, on the open heart with which we approach the Scriptures.

We must approach the Bible without ulterior motives, without exploiting it. The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore in that same Spirit they must be welcomed and understood, so that the encounter can occur.

It irritates me a little when I hear Christians who recite verses from the Bible like parrots. “Oh, yes... Oh, the Lord says... He wants this...”. But did you encounter the Lord, with that verse? It is not a question only of memory: it is a question of the memory of the heart, that which opens you to the encounter with the Lord.

Therefore, we read the Scriptures because they “read us”. And it is a grace to be able to recognize oneself in this passage or that character, in this or that situation. The Bible was not written for a generic humanity, but for us, for me, for you, for men and women in flesh and blood. And the Word of God, infused with the Holy Spirit, when it is received with an open heart, does not leave things as they were before: never. Something changes. And this is the grace and the strength of the Word of God.

The Word inspires good intentions and sustains action; it gives us strength and serenity, and even when it challenges us, it gives us peace. On “bad” and confusing days, it guarantees to the heart a core of confidence and of love that protects it from the attacks of the evil one. In this way the Word of God is made flesh – allow me to use this expression – it is made flesh in those who receive it in prayer.

Christian life is at the same time a work of obedience and creativity. A good Christian must be obedient, but he or she must be creative. Obedient, because they listen to the Word of God; creative, because they have the Holy Spirit within who drives them to be so, to lead them on. The Holy Scriptures are an inexhaustible treasure. May the Lord grant to all of us to draw ever more from them, though prayer.”

Excerpt from Pope Francis' General Audience, Jan. 27, 2021

Click [here](#) to read the full text.

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2. Hold your device over the full QR Code.
3. Your camera will scan the QR Code.



I KNOW Who YOU Are

“Mark’s gospel marks the inauguration of Jesus’ public ministry with a scene in which he demonstrates his teaching and his power over an “unclean” spirit. Trying to grasp what they have observed, the gathered crowd describes the particular quality of his teaching: he teaches as “one having authority.” This teaching authority is matched by his authority over evil. Yet, for all that, the crowd does not seem to be able to identify the source of this authority and power. The source is identified by an unlikely voice—that of the possessed man, who shouts out: “I know who you are — the Holy One of God!”



Photo source: www.understandchristianity.com

Throughout the gospel of Mark, amidst the continual teaching and miracle-working of Jesus, the question lingers: Who is this man? This continues until, at the moment of his death on the cross, another unlikely voice reveals Jesus’ identity: the Roman soldier who sees Jesus die calls out: “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

We can admire the teachings of Jesus. And why not? They have had a major influence on the western world and much beyond. We

can marvel at the miracles described in the gospels. But do we really grasp and abide in the truth of WHO HE IS? Jesus, not merely a “good man” or the “best of men,” but the Holy One of God, the Son of God.

And what difference would that make? If we could grasp in a consistent way the truth of who he is, would that change anything in our lives?

How have we encountered Jesus: as someone alive and who is in relationship with us or do we still relate to him as someone from “back then” and “out there”? Pope Francis, in quoting words of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, reminds us: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.””

*Excerpt from Daily Reflection, Rev. Richard Gabuzda SJ,
Creighton University’s Online Ministries*

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/013121.html>

Celebrating the Sacraments



Each year we welcome families of our parish who present their children to celebrate the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, and Confirmation. As first teachers of the faith for their children, parents play an invaluable role in supporting their children as they prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments.

Preparation for 1st Reconciliation for children age 7 and up will begin in February. 1st Eucharist preparation will follow. Both preparation programs are done at home, at a pace appropriate for the child with resources provided by the parish. Celebrations of both sacraments will take place when our current government restrictions allow for gathering.

Preparation for Confirmation for children age 13 and up will take place after Easter. Government restrictions will determine if the preparation will be in person or online. Celebration of the sacrament will be announced at a later date based on our government restrictions..

The preparation of your children for the Sacraments is a very important time for both the children and parents. It can be a great experience for the entire family as these children come to understand and better recognize God’s love for them through the sacraments. It can also be a time of renewal and recommitment for the parents in the practice and understanding of their own faith life.

May this time of preparation be a blessing to you, your child and family and may your own example of prayer, faith, and Christian living continue to inspire and enlighten your child in their own journey of faith.

To register your child for the sacraments please contact Cathryn Hall at chall@dol.ca or 519-432-3475, ext 225.

A Prayer for Parents

*God of all Creation,
your breath gave life to all humanity.
Breathe into us your love and guidance,
so that we may parent with wisdom and compassion.
Gift us with your strength and courage
so we may proclaim your presence through words and actions.
Enlighten us with words of truth and comfort as they are needed,
and bring us patience and humility as we lead our family along
this journey.
Help us pass onto our children a faith that matters,
with you as the center and foundation of our family.
Amen.*

St. Mary Catholic School Choir and Orchestra Program Application Information

St. Mary School has begun the application process for entrance to Grade 5 for 2021/2022. Application to the program is open to all Grade 4 Students of the London District Catholic School Board. All applicants must meet the admission requirements. Brochures with application forms are available in all LDCSB Catholic elementary schools. Please contact your Principal for further details of the application and audition process or call St. Mary School at 519-675-4423. Application Brochures are also available on the St. Mary School [Website](#). Applications are due to back to St. Mary School by February 19, 2021.

King’s University College still Accepting Applications for Fall 2021

If you want to continue your journey in Catholic education, King’s is still accepting applications for fall 2021. For more information click [here](#).



From the Desk of the Rector

Would any change occur if we let the first words of our day be addressed to God expressing joy for a new day, for life, for health, for work, for retirement, for family, friends, and colleagues? Recognizing God is with me in all the actions I take each day causes enthusiasm for my life and work.

Last Thursday was Bell Let's Talk Day. It is an annual event to bring attention to the need for good mental health and to do what we can to support our own and that of others. Of course, we don't just limit this concern to one day. It must be a daily occurrence, not only by reaching out to others but letting them reach out to us in our need. We need to be less critical of others, do what we can to eliminate any stigma and fill our day with positive change and climb out of the rut of judgement and cynical criticism. Far too much of that exists – and it exists without any dialogue. What are our coping mechanisms? Do we support others in theirs? We can help remove the stigma by actively supporting the process of recovery and treating each person we meet with dignity so they feel safe, respected, valued and cared for. It's always good to talk but it is also necessary to listen. We need to listen in the light, and we need to support others in the darkness. We are never alone.

Adjusting to the pandemic continues for all of us but for some it is more brutal. We know we will come out of this situation. People have before. We probably won't go back totally to the way things were because maybe we're not supposed to. But - We are going to rise. We will uncover a future ahead of us. Are we preparing for that or are we just waiting things out with no chance for change or growth? We may need to stay in place a little longer but that too is an act of service of others as well. And all these acts of service - yours and mine - today are the very actions, mindset, faith in God and humanity that are creating our future. I believe this because of stories I have witnessed from those who shared their experiences. While there is a growing list of those who feel entitled, I also see people becoming aware of the possibility that we have within ourselves to move away from chronic entitlement to being more grateful and learning how to express it. As one writer said, "Feeling gratitude during a time of crisis is the beginning of resetting your compass." As well, many are becoming reflective and reassessing their faith and growing in it through a questioning which is leading them to prayer and reflection - a welcome movement to see faith as a response not to structures but to a person. In the midst of all that is happening God is unchanging and always accompanying us.

Fr. Jim Mockler

We remember in prayer all those who are sick. We also pray for those who have died; and comfort those who mourn.

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

Rev. Martin Tschibumku Kabanga; Rev. Christopher Bourdeau; Rev. Sekar Raj; Mrs. Maija Wilson, Campus Minister; Rev. Gilbert Simard; Mrs. Rachelle Leslie, Pastoral Minister; Deacon Henry Tomaszewski

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.

READINGS—FEBRUARY 7, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading - Job 7.1-4, 6-7

Sorrow fills all my days.

Responsorial - Ps 147.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R. 1a, 3)

Sing praises to the Lord who heals the brokenhearted.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23

Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!

Gospel - Mark 1.29-39

Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases.

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