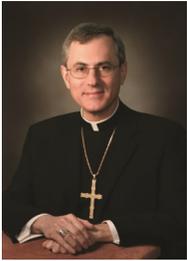




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**FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
May 10, 2020**



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

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## The Task of the Church: Proclaim Jesus as "the way, the truth, the life"

"The Gospel of this Sunday, the Fifth of Easter, proposes a twofold commandment of faith: to believe in God and to believe in Jesus. In fact, the Lord said to his disciples: "Believe in God, believe also in me" (Jn 14:1). They are not two separate acts but one single act of faith, full adherence to salvation wrought by God the Father through his Only-begotten Son.

The New Testament puts an end to the Father's invisibility. God has shown his face, as Jesus' answer to the Apostle Philip confirms: "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). With his Incarnation, death and Resurrection, the Son of God has freed us from the slavery of sin to give us the freedom of the children of God and he has shown us the face of God, which is love: God can be seen, he is visible in Christ.

St Teresa of Avila wrote: "the last thing we should do is to withdraw from our greatest good and blessing, which is the most sacred humanity of Our Lord Jesus Christ". Therefore, only by believing in Christ, by remaining united to him, may the disciples, among whom we too are, continue their permanent action in history: "Truly, truly, I say to you," says the Lord, "he who believes in me will also do the works that I do" (Jn 14:12).

Faith in Jesus entails following him daily, in the simple actions that make up our day. "It is part of the mystery of God that he acts so gently, that he only gradually builds up his history within the great history of mankind; that he becomes man and so can be overlooked by his contemporaries and by the decisive forces within history; that he suffers and dies and that, having risen again, he chooses to come to mankind only through the faith of the disciples to whom he reveals himself; that he continues to knock gently at the doors of our hearts and slowly opens our eyes if we open our doors to him" (Jesus of Nazareth II, 2011, p. 276).

St Augustine says that "it was necessary for Jesus to say: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn 14:6) because once the way was known, the end remained to be known", and the end is the Father. For Christians, for each one of us, hence, the way to the Father is to allow ourselves to be guided by Jesus, by his word of truth, and to receive the gift of his life. Let us make St Bonaventure's invitation our own: "Open, therefore, your eyes, lend your spiritual ear, open your lips and dispose your heart, so that you will be able to see, hear, praise, love, venerate, glorify, honour your God in all creatures."

Dear friends, the commitment to proclaim Jesus Christ, "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6), is the main task of the Church. Let us invoke the Virgin Mary that she may always assist the Pastors and those in the different ministries to proclaim the Good News of salvation, that the Word of God may be spread and the number of disciples multiplied (cf. Acts 6:7)."

*Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, 5th Sunday of Easter, 2010*

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



## NATIONAL WEEK FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY

### Children: The Crowning Glory of Marriage

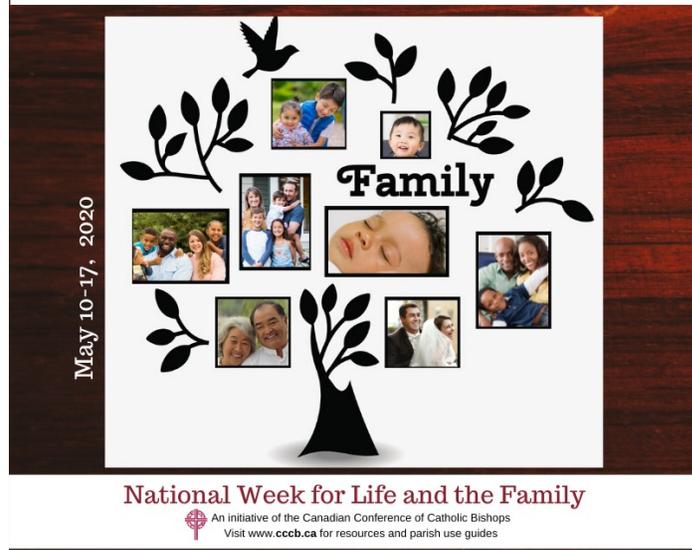
May 10-17, 2020

“Each one of us comes from a family. We are all sons and daughters; children of our earthly parents and children of our heavenly Father. Sacred Scripture tells us that “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8). Pope Francis reminds us that “love always gives life” (Amoris Laetitia, 165). The Church teaches that married love is ordered to the generation of new life and grounds family love.

Children are both a gift and a responsibility. As a blessing from God, children are to be cherished and loved. Children first learn to love God and others through the love of their parents. The family is called to be a school of love. Perhaps the greatest love we can show our children is by passing on the Catholic faith to them. This is indeed a most important responsibility. In this way, we show our children that our lives are ultimately destined for God who is our origin and end. So great is the fruit of married love that children are called the “crowning glory” of marriage (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1652). We could say that each one of us, as children of our parents, represents a jewel in the crown of marriage and family life. As children, we are signs of the generous love of our parents. This love—between a father and mother—is also a reflection of God’s abundant saving love in Christ Jesus.

During this year’s Week for Life and the Family, as we give particular honour to the gift of children, let

## Children: The Crowning Glory of Marriage



us all strive as sons and daughters of God to live joyfully our life in Christ. May the Holy Spirit lead us to become more and more what we are called to be: a living manifestation of the loving presence of God in the world.”

*Catholic Organization for Life and Family, National Week for Life and Family, 2020*

Resources for the National Week for Life and Family can be found [here](#).

### Praying the Liturgy of the Hours

The Liturgy of the Hours, or Divine Office is the public prayer of the entire Christian people. “The hymns and litanies of the Liturgy of the Hours integrate the prayer of the psalms into the age of the Church, expressing the symbolism of the time of day, the liturgical season, or the feast being celebrated.” (CCC 1177). Praying the Liturgy of the Hours, invites us into deeper reflection of the psalms and a way of marking and consecrating time.

Looking to explore this form of prayer, click [here](#).

### Canada Health Day May 12, 2020

This day reminds us that health and healing are essential aspects of our baptismal vocation. We are called to take responsibility for our personal health and to seek a healthy lifestyle—physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. We do so out of respect for ourselves, our communities, and all of God’s creatures and nurturing the whole earth. Never before have we been reminded of this, then during our current pandemic. As we listen to our local, provincial, and national health authorities, we continue to care for ourselves and others. We pray for all those affected by COVID-19 and for all those in healthcare who diligently risk their lives for the sake of ours.



## From the Desk of the Rector

**Happy Mother's Day!** All of us have been carried by the love of a mother. Our Moms may be part of our life every day. They may live in another part of the world. Some relationships maybe strained. For some our Moms have gone home to God. There are young mothers struggling to navigate the chaos of life with a newborn child. Other mothers may be ill. We are grateful for all our mothers and we offer our prayers for them today. They are a gift and allow us to experience God's unconditional love.

**Our Inner Life.** In his Globe and Mail article, "Missing the outside world? Take comfort in your inner life," Howard Axelrod speaks of letting his mind go quiet and while reflecting shares how "one picture would lead to another, like the frames of a film strip, and my own personal movie would start to run...But to feel connected to the increasingly distant and fragmented parts of my life, and all the people in them, I've been tapping into my social provisions. I've even started going through actual old photos, organizing them, while feeling my inner life becoming more organized, too. The truth coming from the inside helps with the truth coming from the outside." I frequently hear much comment that this time of pandemic has given them more time to reflect, meditate and pray. The passages from Scripture are coming alive because we are able to spend more time with them, not having to rush off to something else that would normally fill our day. As well, those who feel anxious at this time are experiencing a call to reflect like never before. When we do this, we immediately become grateful for what we have been given because we are never left alone.

**Wisdom Shared.** I remember asking Fr. Jack Devine, now deceased and who retired to live in our Cathedral parish on Wellington Street what he enjoyed most about retirement. Of course, he listed what you would expect from someone who served many years in parish life. What struck me most was "I believe I now have the time to pray like I've always wanted to pray – with more time to do it, quiet and no rushing around. I have the time to think." This time of isolation is giving all of us a chance to think about the priorities we have in life with the option of perhaps reassessing them. That, of course, can lead us into placing our thoughts, questions, fears and anxieties, before God in our prayer. Journaling or writing out our thoughts can help us process them as we look to what is most important in our lives.

**Questions during the Pandemic.** I was sent these questions others have found useful. I invite you to think about them. Don't answer them all at once. Write out your answers. Find God in each of them.

- ◇ What's one insight that this change of routine has revealed to me?
- ◇ What simple thing has become exciting?
- ◇ What new (or lost) interest or action have I found time for?
- ◇ Who and what am I missing the most that I previously took for granted?
- ◇ Who and what am I not missing, that I previously gave significant attention to?
- ◇ What emotion has been coming up for me the most? What do I attribute the source of that emotion to be?
- ◇ What three things have always brought me the most emotional wellbeing during this time?
- ◇ Where in my day can I create space for something that inspires me? What would I be making space for...?
- ◇ When have I felt the most proud of myself during this time? What was I doing?
- ◇ Jesus told me 'Do not be afraid.' Do I believe that? Do I trust him?
- ◇ Have I found time for quiet prayer?
- ◇ What has surprised me the most about myself, my loved ones, the world, and/or society at this time?
- ◇ Which three people in my life are those that "everyone always goes to" when they need advice, support, inspiration or help? What message can I send today to check in on those people?
- ◇ What do I not want to put back into my life when this is over? List them all.
- ◇ What will I bring back that makes me more fulfilled and proud? List them all.
- ◇ Right now, in this moment, what am I grateful for?

**Reach Out Today.** Connect with someone today who may need to know they are not alone in this journey.

*Fr. Jim Mockler*

**We remember in prayer** all those who are sick, including Shari Houghton. We also pray for those who have died, including Sr. Frances Ryan, of the Urusline Community and sister of Fr. Michael Ryan; and comfort for those who mourn.

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

Rev. Terrence McNamara; Brothers of St. Louis;  
Rev. Richard Janisse; Deacon Richard Walter;  
Deacon Jerome (Jerry) Lozon; Sr. Elzbieta Mruczek,  
A.H.J., Pastoral Minister; Rev. Raymond Lawhead

## READINGS - SUNDAY MAY 17, 2020

**First Reading - Acts 8.5-8, 14-17**

*Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

**Psalm - Ps 66.1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a, 16+20 (R.1)**

**R. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!**

**Second Reading - 1 Peter 3.15-18**

*Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.*

**Gospel - John 14.15-21**

*I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate.*

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