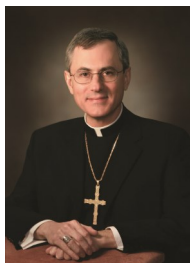


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**FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
FEBRUARY 7, 2021**



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

## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jim Mockler, *Rector*  
ext. 228 • jmockler@dol.ca

Fr. Peter Amszej, *Parochial Vicar*  
ext. 224 • pamszej@dol.ca

Deacon Len Hughes  
ext. 223 • lhughes@dol.ca

Deacon Rudy Pflanzner  
ext. 227 • rpflanzner@dol.ca

Cathryn Hall, *Pastoral Minister*  
ext. 225 • chall@dol.ca

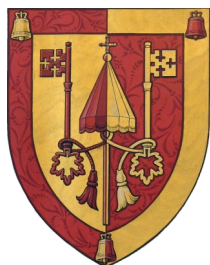
Brian Galea, *Business Manager*  
ext. 226 • bgalea@dol.ca

RoseMary Cleary, *Financial Secretary*  
ext. 222 • rcleary@dol.ca

Vianca Kmet, *Receptionist/Secretary*  
ext. 221 • vkmet@dol.ca



***All Masses are suspended  
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## A Sign of the Kingdom of God

“Today we continue to read from Mark’s Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon’s mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark’s Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.

On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark’s Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus’ disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today’s Gospel completes a picture of Jesus’ ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark’s Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus’ compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ’s healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness. In today’s Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus’ daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.”

*Sunday Connection, 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Loyola Press.  
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>*

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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.



## 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.



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.

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

To register your child for the sacraments please contact Cathryn Hall at [chall@dol.ca](mailto: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.*

### Living Lent

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner, Wednesday February 17, 2021. As this is written, it is unknown whether we will be able to gather in person to mark any of our Lenten journey as a community. That should not stop us from fully entering in to the season as we pray at home, explore spiritual practices, and reflect on our lives at a deeper level. Each week we will provide resources to assist you in your personal prayer. We hope this season of Lent will be a time of enrichment in your Christian Journey.

### Fratelli Tutti: Share Love, Share Lent! Development and Peace

Come and virtually explore with us Pope Francis's latest encyclical on fraternal love and how we can put it into concrete action in our lives. Workshop will be interactive and include space for dialogue with Catholics from all over Southwestern Ontario already practising this important work. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Seasons of Hope

St. George Parish Bereavement Ministry is offering a 6-week online faith sharing bereavement group. Click [here](#) for more information.

### 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.

### Retrouvaille Weekend April 9-11, 2021

Are you experiencing difficulty in your marriage? Do you feel alone or frustrated? Do you argue frequently with your spouse or have you stopped talking to one another? Do you think separation or divorce is your only option? Don't lose hope. Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples through difficult times in their marriages.

The London/St Thomas Retrouvaille will be hosting a weekend April 9-11, 2021, in person if government restrictions allow gatherings, otherwise the weekend will be offered virtually. For more information click [here](#). Registration information can be found [here](#). Space is limited and confidentiality is assured.

### 2021 CWL Memberships- Faith, Service and Social Justice

St. Peter's CWL memberships are available, please contact Jo G. at 519-672-7479 for further information. Final reminder for those members renewing that the renewal form was inserted in your October newsletter, please complete and submit to the Parish Office.

### Discover Christian Meditation

Lent is a great time to explore new spiritual paths. In Christian Meditation we pray with God. In the stillness, He gradually opens us up to His peace, love and energy.

Virtual meetings are weekly Monday 7-8PM. Email [behall2@gmail.com](mailto:behall2@gmail.com) for a link. All are welcome.



## ***From the Desk of the Rector***

Sometimes on the social media platform known as Twitter people will post two photographs side by side. One will have the title "How it started." and the other "How it's going." It may have someone's photo when they first were hired beside a current one to show where their job has taken them through the years. Some will speak of family or their own growth in thought, reflection, life or prayer. In order to facilitate his mission Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs. I'm sure he did that as a model for all of us in the church to follow down through the centuries. We could ask "How's it going?". Do you think he foresaw the arguments that rage in the church, the disagreements in parishes, the competition, and jealousy along with growing individualism? What we find today do you think Jesus would consider it as a scandal, a frustration or embarrassment? Many offer the wish to be left alone. It would be easier to work in peace if I were just left alone to do my work and not have others with whom to collaborate. However, that's not the goal of ministry in the church or parish. We are called to work together not only because it's helpful but because it's central to what we do. Hospitality, touching personal lives, making possible contact with others is at the root of our "preaching". We tell the truth to each other. We choose to be dependent on each other. We bring healing. None of that can be done in isolation. It requires ongoing encounters with other people. Without an encounter our faith remains private and runs the risk of being sterile. How we get along sends a message that we are all about humility, reconciliation, simplicity and love in our service of making the Gospel part of our everyday living. Our prayer should regularly include a desire to be led to get along with others. We are no less mission-minded today than were those sent out in pairs.

On Wednesday Pope Francis reminds us during the World Day of the Sick to pray for those who are ill. Of course, we all do this everyday – remembering those at home and in hospitals. We also pray in gratitude for family caregivers and front line medical workers who have been examples of Jesus' healing in our midst. Unfortunately, many have died during the pandemic but many have recovered due to the tireless efforts of family members and medical personnel. We honour them.

February 8th is the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. In a previous year

Bishop Paul Andre Durocher of Gatineau wrote: "...human trafficking takes many forms. It occurs whenever someone gains a profit from the exploitation of another person through means of coercion, deception or fraud. This exploitation can take many different forms such as sexual exploitation (in the sex trade, one partner exploiting another), labour exploitation in the service industry (restaurants, hotels), agriculture (fields, greenhouses), domestic work (babysitters, nannies, personal care workers, housekeepers) and manufacturing. Forced marriage often leads to both sexual and labour exploitation and, at times, reaches the level of human trafficking." Anti-trafficking advocates have warned that the pandemic is increasing human trafficking. Sr. Jane Wakahiu reflects: "...Those being lured into trafficking work — be it slave labor or sexual trafficking — are those "already struggling" and at risk due to poverty ... COVID 19 has exacerbated dramatic increase in unemployment, reduced or loss of income for individuals working in informal or low wage sectors which leads to vulnerability, and at-risk individuals find themselves in precarious circumstances."

Last week while entering an elevator at LHSC I spotted this "Going Home Checklist" posted for staff.

- Take a moment to think about today
- Acknowledge ONE thing that was difficult on your shift: let it go
- Be proud of the care/service you gave today
- Consider THREE things that went well
- Check on your colleagues before you leave: are they ok?
- Are you OK? Your senior team is here to listen and support you
- Now switch your attention to home: REST and RECHARGE

In this week's Gospel we experience Jesus bringing healing to Peter's mother-in-law. He always extends his hand to us, to lift us up from what is a burden. How do you and I experience his healing power? Who is the comforting hand of Jesus for us? Who sees in us the desire to be supportive and healing of them?

*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...*** Click [here](#).

### **READINGS: FEB 14, 2021-6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading - Leviticus 13. 1-2, 45-46

Responsorial - Ps 32.1-2, 5, 11 (R.7)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10.31-11.1

Gospel - Mark 1.40-45





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