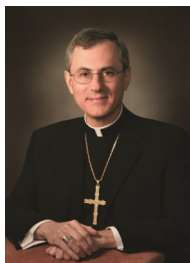


# ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

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committed to engaging each person in the joy of living in the service of Christ.*

**SECOND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
JANUARY 17, 2021**



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

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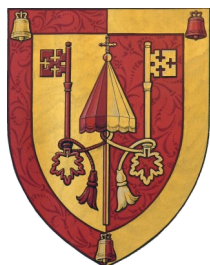
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*All Masses are suspended for the  
next 28 days during our  
provincial lockdown.*



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## The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**January 18-25, 2021**

***"Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" John 15:5-9***

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an annual ecumenical celebration. Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first proposed in 1908 as an observance within the Roman Catholic Church by Fr Paul Wattson, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Graymoor, New York. Since the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1948, many other Christian denominations around the world have come to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and since 1968, the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity have collaborated to produce materials for use over this eight-day period.

In the Gospel of John, Christ prays for his disciples before going to the cross. He asks that his followers "may all be one," as he and the Father are one, "so that the world may believe" and have life in his name (John 17). Christian unity is here made central to the very being of the church and to its mission and witness.

Today, we live with divisions even as we yearn for the unity promised and commissioned by Christ. The long and often painful history of Christianity has sundered our churches for theological, liturgical, and political reasons. Many Christians now strive to heal these divisions, yet honour our diversity, through ecumenical dialogue, common action, and relationship-building. They also come together to pray for unity, joining Christ in his prayer to the Father.

The international resources for 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, a group of religious sisters from different church traditions brought together by a common vocation of prayer, community life and hospitality and by their commitment to Christian unity.

The 2021 theme – Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9) – calls us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family, and with all of creation. Drawing on the Gospel image of vine and branches, it invites us to nourish unity with God and with one another through contemplative silence, prayer, and common action. Grafted into Christ the vine as many diverse branches, may we bear rich fruit and create new ways of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation.

*Excerpt from Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021, Canadian Council of Churches.  
<https://www.weekofprayer.ca/week-prayer-christian-unity>*

## 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.



## Praying the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In past years, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we have joined with other Christian faith communities in our city to celebrate this week. Last year, Bishop Fabbro invited us to join in a service of



Photo source: LoyolaPress.com

prayer and song with other faith communities hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Huron at St. Paul's Cathedral. With our current situation, though we cannot gather in person, we still can be united in prayer. One of the resources that the Canadian Council of Churches has provided for the week is an 8 Day Scripture Study exploring the theme "*Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit*". Each day offers scripture passages, a meditation, reflection questions, and

prayer. Consider using this resource individually, with your family, or engage others by phone or virtually. Click [here](#) to begin.

Make known in us, O Lord, the abundance of your mercy  
and, in the power of your Spirit, remove the division  
between Christians,  
that your Church may appear more clearly as a sign raised  
high among the nations  
and that the world, enlightened by your Spirit, may believe  
in the Christ whom you have sent.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

*Opening Collect, Mass For the  
Unity of Christians, Roman Missal*

### Come and See

"Today's readings are about vocation, about God's call. Vocation is not just for a few chosen people. Everyone is called by God to be something, to do something for others with their life and with their unique gifts. Like Samuel in the First Reading, God is calling me now, today. What is he saying to me? Am I really listening?"

The gospel is also about calling, in fact, about a second calling. It is about two men who are already disciples of John the Baptist. John points Jesus out to them, "Look! there is the Lamb of God!" John knows that his role of leadership is temporary, that he is to yield to the leadership of Jesus.

In response to the disciples question, Jesus answers : "Come and see." Knowing Jesus and where he stays is not primarily a matter of intellectual knowledge, information or a question of knowing all theology, dogmatic and moral, nor is it a question of being an expert in all the teaching and the rules of the Church.

Knowing Jesus is a matter of experience. One could know the new Catechism of the Catholic Church, all 700 pages of it, by heart and still not know Jesus. To know him in the Gospel sense is to seek, find and respond to his loving presence in the fabric of our daily lives.

### The Pope Francis Fund – Application Process is Open

The Pope Francis Fund, established by Bishop Fabbro in 2019 with proceeds given annually to agencies that directly serve the needs of people who are underprivileged, has opened the application process for grants to be distributed in 2021. Last year nine organizations received funding and this year a total of \$42,500 is available. The application process and criteria can be found [here](#). The application process closes on February 28.

It comes from taking a plunge, trying out the teaching of Jesus even when it seems to go against what most people think: to love unconditionally, to forgive, to turn the other cheek, to carry one's cross after Jesus, to suffer abuse and persecution for being follower...

Come and see that that is the Way to follow, that there is no other way."

*Excerpt from Living Space, Commentaries on  
the Sunday Readings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time.*

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

### Exploring Christian Unity

The Diocesan Ecumenical Commission in partnership with King's University College is hosting two webinars in the following weeks:

The first speaker will be the **Right Reverend Todd Townshend**, Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, who will speak about the gifts and challenges of ecumenical collaboration. The lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer session. This event is on Wed. **Jan 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** is free and registration is required by clicking [here](#). Once registered, you will receive an e-mail message with information on how to access the webinar.

The second speaker is **Father Darren Dias, OP**, Associate Professor and Graduate Director in the Faculty of Theology, University of St Michael's College, whose lecture is entitled, "Interreligious Dialogue Today: A Christian Perspective." This will take place on **Thurs. Feb. 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

To register for this lecture click [here](#).



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

In news affecting the parishes of London it was announced two weeks ago that two new London Families of Parishes will be activated in July, 2021. One Family will be comprised of St. Patrick, St. Mary, Our Lady of Czestochowa and St. Stephen of Hungary Hungarian Catholic Community. The other Family involves St. George and St. John the Divine. This announcement makes it clear the Family of St. Michael and St. Peter will be activated in July, 2022. We now know the date and it is not too early for us to set in motion planning that will make the transition smooth and engaging. You will hear more of what needs to be done in the weeks to come.

Here we go again... the provincial government's stay-at-home order affects all of us. While there may be confusion about the intricacies of its detail one thing is certain. We have to stay home as much as possible in order to save lives, prevent our hospitals from being overcrowded and to protect each other. The fact of increased vaccine production gives us hope but we need to remain not only vigilant but also responsible. We did it before and we can do it again. There are many ways to manage our time. There are many strategies to help us cope with self-isolation as we do our part to bring an end to the pandemic. Be informed but pay attention to the facts. Look for clear data and don't get lost in the commentary and speculation. Social media at this time can be a gift but don't get overexposed. Stay connected with family and friends even though we are unable to see them in person. Plan to make a list of who might appreciate a call. Pay more attention to your emails and phone calls. Don't be afraid to reach out. Maintain a structure and regular routine. Get moving with some exercise. Make time for prayer and reflection. Be gentle with yourself. As in past months some days will be good. Some days will be challenging. Try to view the bigger picture. Keep things in perspective. There's a reason why we're going through this and God is present with us in all of it.

There's really no choice but respond to the pandemic. We are learning many things and among them is the invitation to look at doing things differently. I'm convinced there isn't a person who has not thought about this as an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of her/his life. Cardinal Blaise Cupich of Chicago invited the people of his diocese to "...notice the difference in the

ways the Magi and the others in the Gospel react to the birth of the newborn king. The sages from the east focus on what God is doing, as they follow the rising star in the heavens. Their unwavering trust that God is leading them not only gives them the courage to leave the familiar surroundings of their homeland, but also fills them with a joyful sense of wonder as they travel. God is literally moving the heavens to show them the way. Herod and the chief priests, on the other hand, fix their minds on the thought of maintaining their positions of authority. They panic at the idea that someone could challenge their power, an obsession that blinds them to reality, for what is taking place in the skies above is available to them, if only they would look up."

Our call is to ask where is God in all this and what are we being called to do. I have had many parishioners tell me of their experiences and they all seem to have a common theme. The pandemic has been a time for them to pray and reflect while seeing God move us beyond our own self-interests to recognize what we should be seeing. Where do I find God in my personal situation? Am I being called to pray or serve in a different way? Is there any movement beyond myself to include others in my concern? Am I sensing more that I belong to a community rather than settling for going it alone? Some have experienced a unity during this time. Others have said we are more disconnected than ever before. What is our experience and what am I contributing to – unity or disconnection?

Whenever there is fear, there is always plenty of hope. Keeping an eye on the long-term goal helps assist in meeting any short-term crisis. When there is a regular and intentional balance between prayer and work, we will react appropriately. The first reading at Mass this weekend presents us with the beautiful story of Samuel recognizing God's voice but it doesn't come as might be expected or in any grand way. Samuel was sleeping when he experienced God's invitation to listen to him. There was no dramatic scene in which Samuel heard this call to be his messenger. He was awakened from a comfortable sleep and his life changed. Do you ever think about God calling us in the middle of what I routinely do in order to begin a new task? During the pandemic has God's Word stretched us a bit inviting a new response? There are many things to think about and time to do so.

Be safe... Be well... Be kind.

*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 Nyland; Deacon Reginald Quesnel; Deacon Mark Castanier; Rev. Jose Montepeque; Rev. John Comiskey; Rev. Paul Kim; Rev. Paul Nicholson

### **READINGS: JANUARY 24, 2021 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading - Jonah 3.1-5, 10

Responsorial - Ps 25.4-5a, 6+7b, 8-9 (R.4)























Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 7.29-31

Gospel - Mark 1.14-20

### **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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