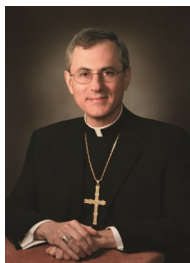


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**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
December 6, 2020**



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

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MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00 P.M.

**Sunday 8:30 A.M., 10:30 A.M.
& 12:30 P.M.**

By reservation via phone or online

Daily Mass: Wednesday at noon

*Seating will be by first come first served
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CONFESSIONS

following Wednesday daily Mass
until 1:30 P.M.



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*"The Christian knows that Christ has been working
in humanity for twenty centuries
and that the person that is converted to Christ
is the new human being that society needs
to organize a world according to God's heart."*

- St. Oscar Romero

"Today's readings seem made to order for the tumultuous times we are living through. From the opening line of the Prophet Isaiah: Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." to the Psalm: "Kindness and truth shall meet..." and finally, to the Gospel with John proclaiming: "One mightier than I is coming after me."

All the readings seem to be specifically crafted to address the reality of our world today. These readings can assist us as we are preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus into our world. If the events in our world are causing you grief and anxiety, read and reread the opening lines from Isaiah about comfort. So many of us need comfort right now with the pandemic worsening and the fear of what lies ahead.

These are chaotic, uncertain times and I know the only true north in my life is the peace that comes from God. What do I need to do to stay grounded in God so that I can give comfort to others and not add to their unease and worries?

In the gospel, Mark describes how people from "the whole of Judean countryside and.... Jerusalem" were traveling to have John baptize them "as they acknowledged their sins." What are my sins that I need to acknowledge during this Advent season? What barriers do I need to dismantle so I can prepare my heart for Jesus? What is preventing me from becoming someone who can "organize a world according to God's heart"?

Lastly, and this is for all of us who are over-achievers and overly responsible, think back to what John the Baptist said in today's Gospel. John was very clear about what his role was: "I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." John was preparing the world for Jesus, our Redeemer. Instead of capitalizing on his newfound 'fame', John humbly continued to fulfil the mission given to him. John helps me realize that I don't have to do everything, I just need to do my part. Spending time with God will clarify my 'role' in these troubled times.

I hope you can take comfort from today's readings. Sit with them and let them speak to you. Maybe you'll find that during this Advent season, we can all move towards becoming "...the new human being society needs."

*Julie Kalkowski Daily Reflection Of Creighton University's Online Ministries, Dec. 6, 2020
<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/120620.html>*

Mobile Giving at St. Peter's Cathedral

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



General Absolution

In March, Pope Francis granted permission for Bishops around the world to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the form of General Absolution. This form of the sacrament is only used at extraordinary times, when access to the sacrament is limited. Bishop Fabbro granted this permission to the priests of our Diocese when our churches reopened in the summer. At the Cathedral we took the opportunity to celebrate in this form during the month of October. As we move through our Advent Season we will once again offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the form of General Absolution at all weekend Masses and our Wednesday Daily Mass for the remainder of the season.

In 2006, the Episcopal Commission for Theology Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops released the document, [*The Sacrament of Reconciliation: A Theological and Pastoral Reflection for the Ministers of the Sacrament*](#). The document helps us to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in whatever form it is celebrated.

As we continue our journey in Advent, Pope Francis reminds us: "Celebrating the Mercy of God within the context of Sacramental Reconciliation helps us to place ourselves with honesty before our own conscience, to recognise our need to be reconciled with the Father, who with patience knows how to wait for the sinner in order to give an embrace that restores our dignity."

The Journey's Gift Podcast

The Journey's Gift podcast was developed with Brescia student leaders to explore current issues and our place in the world, finding light along the way. Season 1, Episode 4 is dedicated to the memory of Ursuline Dorothy Kazel, Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, and lay missionary Jean Donovan who, 40 years ago December 2nd, were killed in El Salvador for nothing other than their humanitarian efforts and solidarity with those in poverty. Celebrate with us the gift of Dr. Peggy O'Neil and her community and advocacy efforts at Brescia and throughout the world. We celebrate the voice of women and community together making a difference through collaborative work in the fight for women's land rights and through a commitment to solidarity with the poor. "Journey to the UN" with Dr. Peggy O'Neil is available at this [link](#).

Journey Through Advent – "Consolation-Prepare the Way"

The video series "Journey through Advent" – Second Sunday of Advent is now available on the CCCB website in English and French. This week's reflection contemplates the theme of consolation and how we can "prepare the way" in our own lives. The video series offers short reflections on the Sunday Gospel readings throughout this joyful liturgical season and is available each Monday in advance of the upcoming Sunday celebration. Click [here](#) to access this week's reflection.

Volunteers for Mass-WE NEED YOU!

As we approach the Christmas Season and the additional Masses we will have, we will need even more volunteers to be able to safely open for these scheduled celebrations. Our volunteers are responsible for welcoming and screening of our parishioners, seating of parishioners, directing of traffic flow in and out of the Cathedral and at communion, and sanitizing of the Cathedral after every celebration. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute. Training will be provided in order to carry out all tasks safely and effectively. Please contact [Cathryn Hall](#)

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.

The Sounds of the Cathedral

The title of this piece may seem a little odd but is appropriate for 2 projects that are currently underway at St. Peter's Cathedral.

The Bells of St. Peter's have been silenced since October and have been misfiring over the past couple of years. A bell contractor who had been in Victoria Park working on the Carillon bells heard our Cathedral bells misfiring and offered to review our bell system. Two members of the Verdin Company, Peter and myself climbed the bell tower to review our system. Unfortunately, we found some of our strikers (the units that ring the bell) on the ground. Others have seized entirely and a few were working. We have moved forward with replacing the bell strikers as well as upgrading the electrical system. In addition, an overhaul of the controller was also needed to accommodate the new equipment and new electrical needs. Our contractor is doing their best to construct the equipment, ship and install by Christmas Eve so we can hear the "Bells of St. Peter's", which parishioners, downtown residents and visitors miss dearly.

We made a prudent decision earlier this year due to Covid-19 and the lock down to push some of our organ pouch replacements on hold. We have completed less than half of our pouch replacements but will begin back in earnest in January. It was a conservative financial decision and our talented organists under the guidance of Ron Fox could play the organ without us noticing a missing or different note. In addition, our leaks in the Cathedral needed to be addressed on a priority basis so that additional damage was not done to the interior. Our Casavant Organ will work beautifully for another 50 years without major work being needed.

At times, it can be difficult to prioritize one project over another, and fortunately, we have had some very generous donations that have allowed us to complete quite a few projects over the past couple of years. However, the balance in our Cathedral Restoration account has been reduced substantially. If you have the ability to donate to the Restoration Account this Christmas, it will aid us in completing these very worthwhile projects. We completely understand if you are not able to give as this has been a very difficult year financially for many.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Peace,

Brian Galea, Business Manager



Flowers for Christmas

We are collecting monetary donations to offset the cost of flowers for our Christmas celebrations. Donations may be made in the name of family or friends, deceased or living, for whom you may wish to pray. These names will be placed in the bulletin and remembered in prayer throughout the Season of Christmas. To make a contribution, please seal donations in an envelope, along with your name, address and phone number as well as the name of the person you are honouring and drop it in the Sunday collection or mail in to the office. Donations can also be made by e-transfer to basilica@dol.ca, memo line-Flowers for Christmas. Please indicate the same information as above in an email to the office. Thank you for your generosity.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Angel Tree Appeal

This is the last weekend to give to the Angel Tree. Please drop off your gift cards (\$10 Gift cards from places such as Giant Tiger, Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart or Tim Horton's) in the collection basket or at the parish office. Monetary Donations are also accepted-cash, cheque, or e-transfer (basilica@dol.ca, memo line-Angel Tree). Christmas Delivery Packages to our neighbours in need will take place on Saturday December 12, 2020. Thank you in advance your continued support of this initiative and for helping us bring joy to someone over this special season.



From the Desk of the Rector

Numerous encounters this week verified there are people working hard to serve others and enhance their part of the world to make it better. That's what God calls us to do. We all have something to contribute. It might not be everything but it doesn't have to be. Jesus invites us to use the talent we have been given, and he will do the rest. At all times, but especially during Advent, we can pray that God will open our eyes to see what God wants us to see. Look around...where you do and I find the places where people are struggling in the midst of the pandemic, racial injustice, the loss of work, alienation, and insecurity? Our responsibility is to do whatever we can. Every person and every effort can make a difference. We also realize while God assists others through us he is there to support us. God understands you and me. We can bring and he wants us to bring to him whatever weighs us down, whatever is causing us distress, uncertainty and anxiety. Christmas will be different this year but it will still be Christmas and we need to celebrate it in different yet meaningful ways. Find some quiet time. Ask God for what you want to happen this year at Christmas - perhaps it's a needed change or a tough decision. Talk to God about it... Then listen to how he answers.

December 12th is the annual National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. Our London District Catholic School Board is committed to fostering learning that will broaden our perspectives and responsibilities as we live out our faith. They have adopted as their first mandate the following: "We are committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 62 and 63. In this we are fully supported by the Catholic Church. To cite the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in their Letter to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada: "For our part, through the participation of Catholic Bishops and faithful in the TRC process and from our ongoing relations with Indigenous Peoples, we have heard your

invitation to engage honestly and courageously with the past, to acknowledge the failings of members of the Catholic Church, and to take active steps of solidarity with Indigenous Peoples towards a better future. To this, with the strong encouragement of Pope Francis, we pledge our commitment." Chief Justice Murray Sinclair, head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was quoted in MacLean's Magazine..."Achieving reconciliation is like climbing a mountain — we must proceed a step at a time. It will not always be easy. There will be storms, there will be obstacles, but we cannot allow ourselves to be daunted by the task because our goal is just and it also necessary." Thank you to all those at LDCSB who model ongoing Catholic education for all of us.

On December 8th we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Pius IX defined the dogma on December 8, 1854. It holds that Mary was untouched by sin from the moment of her conception. In other words, she was born free from original sin and remained free from sin for the rest of her life. We celebrate God's choice of Mary and her saying "Yes" to God's call. Her life inspires us and gives us renewed confidence. She didn't have all the answers nor did instant solutions come her way. She had to struggle and wait but she never lost faith. That gift needs to be imitated more and more these days.

Have a look at the first reading from Isaiah heard at Sunday Mass (Isaiah 30.19-21, 23-26) where we are called to a new life. What might that mean? I always use Advent to clean things up and try to get things straight. I don't ever have to argue or bargain with God. He's always there to help me in my ministry in preparing the way for Jesus. As I reflect on the reading I find myself asking...What valleys and empty places in my life need filling in? What mountains and obstacles need to be leveled? What rough edges need to be smoothed?

Fr. Jim Mockler

Celebrating the Sacraments

Baptism:

We welcome into God's Family through the waters of Baptism

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✠ Emmie-Jean Matton | ✠ Rónán Lavery |
| ✠ Sunny Corneil | ✠ Grace Herrington |
| ✠ Ryleigh Soetemans | ✠ Sophie Herrington |
| ✠ Jake Franke | ✠ Sebastian Gnys |
| ✠ Evangeline Simmons | ✠ Colton Scafe |

Marriage:

We congratulate *Joshua Edmond and Marie Binnie* who have committed their lives to each other and God through the sacrament of Marriage last weekend.

Mass for the Unborn

Due to the COVID restrictions, the annual Mass for the Unborn, celebrated around the date of the Feast of the Holy Innocents will not take place this year. Please continue to pray for life, from conception to natural death.

Celebration of Weekday Liturgy

Wednesday, December 9th - 12:00 pm

Jose G. Medonca; Daniel Charles Maloney; Don Scruton

We remember in prayer all those who are sick. We also pray for those who have died including Gene Rosetto, and comfort those who mourn.

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

Rev. Robert Weaver; Deacon Lyle Lalonge; Rev. Bernard Pinsonneault, C.S.B.; Colleen Kean, Pastoral Minister; Christine Coyle, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Rev. Steve Wlusek; Suzanne Walton, Pastoral Minister

READINGS - SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading - Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11

Responsorial Cantic - Lk 1.47-48, 49-50, 53-54 (. Isa 61.10b)

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Gospel - John 1.6-8, 19-28



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