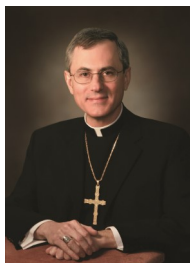


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**SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
February 23, 2020**



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

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SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 7:30pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:05pm
Tuesday, Thursday 7:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 to 11:30am
Saturday 4:30 to 5:30pm

Or by appointment

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St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

The Ashes of Lent

“We begin the season of lent with ashes on our foreheads. What is symbolized by this smudging? Perhaps the heart understands better than the head because more people go to church on Ash Wednesday than on any other day of the year, including Christmas. The queues to receive the ashes in many churches are endless. Why? Why are the ashes so popular?”

Their popularity, I suspect, comes from the fact that, as a symbol, they are blunt, primal, archetypal, and speak the language of the soul. Something inside each of us knows exactly why we take the ashes: “Dust thou art and into dust thou shalt return!” No doctor of metaphysics need explain this. Ashes are dust and dust is soil, humus; humanity and humility come from there. It is no accident that ashes have always been a major symbol within all religions. To put on ashes, to sit in ashes, is to say publicly and to yourself that you are reflective, in a penitential mode, that this is not “ordinary time” for you, that you are not in a season of celebration, that you are grieving some of the things you have done and lost, that some important work is going on silently inside you, and that you are, metaphorically and really, in the cinders of a dead fire, waiting for a fuller day in your life.

All of this has deep roots. There is something innate to the human soul that knows that, every so often, one must make a journey of descent, be smudged, lose one's lustre, and wait while the ashes do their work. All ancient traditions, be they religious or purely mythical, abound with stories of having to sit in the ashes. We all know, for example, the story of Cinderella. This is a centuries-old, wisdom-tale that speaks about the value of ashes. The name, Cinderella, itself already says most of it. Literally it means: “the young girl who sits in the cinders, the ashes.” Moreover, as the tale makes plain, before the glass slipper is placed on her foot, before the beautiful gown, ball, dance, and marriage, there must first be a period of sitting in the cinders, of being smudged, of being humbled, and of waiting while a proper joy and consummation are being prepared. In the story of Cinderella there is a theology of lent.

The church taps into this deep well of wisdom when it puts ashes on our foreheads at the beginning of lent. Lent is a season for each of us to sit in the ashes, to spend our time, like Cinderella, working and sitting among the cinders of the fire – grieving what we've done wrong, renouncing the dance, refraining from the banquet, refusing to do business as usual, waiting while some silent growth takes place within us, and simply being still so that the ashes can do their work in us.”

Excerpt from The Ashes of Lent, Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, March 5, 2000

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.





Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Dinner

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 25th at St. Peter's Parish Hall from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Pancakes (gluten-free available), sausages, syrup, fruit cup, coffee & tea. All are welcome. Cost is "goodwill offering."



Bible Study of St. Matthew Continued

On Thursday, February 27th, we will continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew. We will meet for six consecutive Thursdays during the season of Lent. Newcomers are welcome to join us for the second part of our study. To register or for more information, please go to our parish website or call the office at 519-432-3475.



CWL Diocesan Lenten Retreat

2020 Lenten Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 29th from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM at St. John the Divine. Topic is "Spiritual Loneliness." If interested, please contact Julie at 519-641-1753 before February 24th. Carpooling available.



World Day of Prayer

Will be held at First-St. Andrew's United Church, Waterloo Street, London on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 11 AM. Country is Zimbabwe. Theme is "*Rise! Take Up your Mat and Walk.*" All are welcome!



Ministry of Altar Server

We are always looking for more women and men, girls and boys, young and not so young to join our Altar Server ministry (Guild of St. Stephen). We have a small group of very dedicated people helping us serve Mass regularly, but we could always use the assistance of a few more people just like you. Our experienced servers will take their time in training you and you will be partnered with various servers as you begin to learn about the ministry. Also, you will serve at the Mass that is most convenient for you to attend. If you are interested in knowing more about the ministry of Altar Server, please introduce yourself to Fr. Gary Ducharme before or after Mass or send him an email.

OFFERTORY UPDATES: February 16, 2020

Offertory Needed	Offertory Received	Surplus or (Shortfall)
\$11,556	\$12,620	\$1,064
Breakdown of Offertory Collected		
Envelopes	Cash & Cheques	Pre-Authorized
\$4,974	\$4,775	\$2,871

Our Lenten Journey at St. Peter's Cathedral

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 25 at 5 PM - 7 PM

Ash Wednesday Masses

February 26 at 7:30 AM, 12 PM, 7 PM

Lenten Luncheons

every Wednesday following the noon Mass
(Ash Wednesday until April 1)

Stations of the Cross

every Friday during Lent at 12:45 PM

Lenten Day of Confessions

Wednesday, April 1 at 8 AM - 7 PM

Extraordinary Mission Month

Young men from the age of 18 to 40 are invited to a "Come and See Event" with the Capuchin Franciscan Friars. We will meet at St. Francis Friary, 9169 West Ridge Line, Blenheim, at 9 AM and will end at 4 PM on March 14, 2020. Come and pray and learn about our life as brothers and priests who follow St. Francis of Assisi, St. Padre Pio, Blessed Solanus Casey and many other saints. If you plan to attend, please contact Fr. Loius Mousseau by phone at 519-676-7623 or email at friarlouisca@yahoo.ca.

Grieving with Great Hope

St. George Parish Bereavement Ministry is offering Catholic Grief Workshops (six-week sessions). Choose to attend one of the following: *Tuesdays afternoons*- March 24 - April 28 at 12:30 pm - 3 pm (last date to register: Mar 15); *Wednesdays evenings*- September 16 - October 21 at 6 pm - 8:30 pm (last date to register: Sep 7). Registration fee is \$20 for materials. Seating is limited so register today! Call 519-471-4220 or go to www.stgeorgelondon.ca.

Christ the King Parish Lenten Retreat Sunday, March 1, 2020

Our speaker for the day will be Richard Pommainville, Executive Director of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Richard has shown his dedication to serving the poor both through his work at the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and his years volunteering with Development and Peace, Caritas Canada. He will guide our reflection on the relationship between Catholic social teaching, charity, social justice and reflective living. Our Lenten retreat will begin at noon with a simple lunch in the Parish Hall at Windermere on the Mount. There is no cost for the day, but your RSVP is requested (so as to plan for food) to lisa.caeiro@kings.uwo.ca. The day will conclude with the 5:00 PM Eucharist in The Chapel at Windermere on the Mount.



From the Desk of the Rector

Some thoughts from Vinita Hampton Wright can assist us in the wonderful days of prayer set to begin on Wednesday. *"How do you prepare for Lent? How have you prepared in the past? What are your ideas about what should happen during Lent?"*

We have the traditional Catholic practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. We eat smaller or fewer meals or give up a favourite food or drink group. We give more of our resources or give them specifically to special works of mercy during Lent.

Prayer, fasting, and charitable giving continue to be quite good practices during Lent or at any time.

But, you might think, how do I prepare myself for this season? What needs to happen within so that I can practice with more integrity and intention whatever I'm doing on the outside?

There are plenty of ideas for actions and practices during Lent; coming up with ideas usually is not the problem. But we don't want to do anything simply to be doing it, even if it's a good thing. We don't want to make a list of merciful works so that we can place a checkmark beside each one as we accomplish it.

It's good to have a plan for doing. It's also good to have a plan for being.

How do I want to be during Lent this year? More quiet and thoughtful? More open to God's desires? Better able to sit with people who need me? More attentive to sacred readings, whether in church or in private? Do I need to be more compassionate toward my own fears and failings? Do I need to become more courageous about using the gifts God has given me?

In the days prior to Lent, try one or more of these suggestions:

1. Ask God, every day, "What does my soul need?" Just ask, and wait quietly. Because we're very good at fooling ourselves about how we're doing, it might take several days of praying this question before we're truly open and humble enough to know the answer.
2. Ask God, every day, "What about my life makes you happy?" Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it-perhaps many aspects of it-bring joy to God's heart. Think of how your children or grandchildren or other people close to you make you happy. God is in relationship with you, which means that your sins grieve God's heart, but also that your growth and love and freedom and kindness bring joy to God of the universe. Again, you will probably need to pray this a few times before you are willing to consider that you give God pleasure, that you make God happy in any way. Stick with this little prayer and keep listening.
3. Tell God, and yourself, every day, "I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season." Maybe you're not open right now, or you're not as open and willing as you'd like to be or think you should be. What else is new? We can always open our lives a bit more, let go of more stuff, listen better, and do more quickly and passionately what we know helps nurture God's kingdom on earth.

This is a beginning: three short and simple prayer starters to ready yourself for the holy season.

Fr. Jim Mockler

CELEBRATION OF WEEKDAY LITURGY

Monday, February 24 - 12:05pm

Vittorio Valastro; Nirmal Beekhoo; Tony Augustine

Tuesday, February 25 - 7:30am

Nirmal Beekhoo; Mary Ducharme; Cesar Torrefranca

Ash Wednesday, February 26

7:30am

Cune Gundo Flores; Jack Downes; Diane Kisilak

12:05pm

Nellie Morris; Virgilio Guevarra; Elda Bot Aspden

7:00pm

Anna Teefy; Ruth & Walter Sans;

Intentions of Milan & Carmen Marek & Family

Thursday, February 27 - 7:30am

Anthony & Mary Pinto; Prudencia Romero;

In Thanksgiving

Friday, February 28 - 12:05pm

Fr. Stephen Bodnar; Richelle Oatman; Tony Augustine

We remember in prayer all those who are sick, including Shari Houghton. We also pray for those who have died, including Sr. Cathleen Flynn of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph; Cindy Nisbett Conklin, wife of Jamie, and daughter-in-law of Marilyn and David Conklin; Mary Ellen Wettlaufer, sister/sister-in-law of Ruth and Larry Barrett and sister-in-law of Claude Pensa; and comfort for those who mourn.

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

Chrisandra Skipper, Campus Minister;

Rev. Ronaldo Tagnines;

Kim Bornais, Coordinator of Youth Ministry;

Rev. Pio D'Oria; Dcn Steve Cartier;

Maria Mollica, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

READINGS - SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2020

First Reading - Genesis 2.7-9, 16-18, 25; 3.1-7

The creation and the sin of our first parents.

Psalm - Ps 51.1-2, 3-4a, 10-11, 12+ 15 (R.1a+4a)

Have mercy, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading - Romans 5.12, 17-19

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Gospel - Matthew 4.1-11

Jesus fasted forty days, and was put to the test.


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