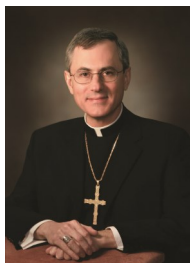


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**SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 14, 2021**



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

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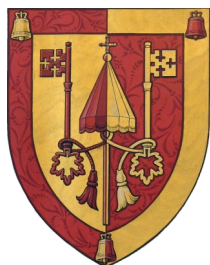
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Courageous Humility

"The message of healing that we heard about in the gospel last Sunday continues today when a leper comes to Jesus and asks to be healed. The Jewish regulations and laws regarding leprosy are clearly outlined in the first reading from the Book of Leviticus. Those who are lepers are to go to one of the priests; 'the one who is leprous: they are unclean. The priest must declare them unclean. They are to shield themselves and cry, unclean, unclean.' As long as they are unclean, they must live apart, outside the camp.' As well as being physically sick, those who were lepers were seen as sinners who were being punished by God. By the time of Jesus things were much the same if not worse. Lepers, indeed all whom were sick were seen as sinners. They were dismissed, despised, ignored and pushed to the margins of their community and family. They were excluded from all religious and social activities.

This encounter between the leper and Jesus begins in an unusual way. Normally it is Jesus who makes the first move when healing someone; however here it is the leper who takes the initiative and approaches Jesus; 'a leper came to Jesus and pleaded with him on his knees: if you want to, he said, you can cure me.' The leper knows the strict religious laws and yet he still breaks them. He doesn't keep his distance and shout 'unclean.' He walks right up to Jesus, falls to his knees and pleads with Jesus to cure him. What courage, strength and humility this leper has. Maybe he recognised Jesus or just heard about him; either way he knows what he must do. Jesus returns the leper's courage. As the leper reaches out to Jesus, he in turn reaches out, touches and heals him. Jesus not only reaches out to heal the leper, but reaches out across all social and religious boundaries separating the clean for the unclean. Jesus, too, breaks every religious and social restriction. Jesus goes out of his way not only to comfort and heal this leper but to identify with him.

If we are honest with ourselves and God, there are parts of our own lives that we might call 'unclean.' Maybe there are things in our past that we have said and done, of which we are not proud. Perhaps there are relationships with our friends and families that are still broken and that hurt after many years. There are so many examples that we could give; take a minute a name one that is important to you at the moment.

The invitation and challenge of this gospel is to follow the courageous humility of the leper. Can I in any way this week follow his example and make his prayer my own? Can I come to Jesus and pray, 'If you want to, you can heal me?' If I find the strength and faith to reach out to Jesus, he in turn will reach out to touch and heal me. There is nothing more Jesus wants than to heal and help me; renew and restore to me full health at all levels.

In a beautiful new book just published called, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, which is a modern parable, by Charlie Mackesy, there is profound line; 'What is the bravest thing you ever said,' asked the boy. "Help" said the horse.

This week, may we have the faith and find the humility to ask God's for help, so that we too may be renewed and restored to health at all levels."

*Br Michael Moore OMI, Gospel Reflection, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
<https://oblates.ie/pray-with-us/weekly-reflections/>*

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.





LIVING LENT

Lent begins this coming week with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday February 17, 2021. Though we may not be able to gather in person throughout this great season, this does not prevent 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.

New Interpretations of the Holy Week Stories

This series, presented by Fr. Scott Lewis, SJ, of the Jesuits Canada and New Testament professor at Regis College, Toronto, will examine the Holy Week texts in light of recent theological trends and issues. Topics such as How to Read the Bible, difficult passages, violence and the meaning of the resurrection will be explored. Click [here](#) for the poster and registration information.

Journey Through Lent-CCCB Video Series for Lent

Given the positive feedback the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops received about the video series Journey through Advent, they are releasing a new series for Lent 2021. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 17), Journey through Lent will offer an introduction to the Season and reflections on Gospel readings of each Sunday in Lent. The short videos will be posted on the CCCB website. Each Monday, the link for the upcoming Sunday celebration will be released in English and in French. The CCCB would like to thank Bishop Gerard Bergie and Archbishop Marcel Dampousse for their generosity in preparing and recording these spiritual and pastoral reflections. Click [here](#) to access.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday at noon. This virtual service will feature our Cathedral's stations in still images accompanied by prayer and reflection. The service will be available each week on our YouTube [channel](#).

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 7-8 PM. Email behall2@gmail.com for a link. All are welcome.



World Day of the Sick Prayer Service

This past Thursday, Feb. 11, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church highlighted the centrality of Jesus' ministry to the sick. The Diocese of London collaborated with St. Joseph's Health Care to mark the day through a virtual Prayer Service. Click [here](#) to view the Prayer Service.



St. Peter's Cathedral Goes "Live"

Over the past 7 months we have offered an online Prayer Service exploring the Sunday scriptures through prayer and reflection, led by members of our Pastoral Team. We hope it has provided spiritual "food for thought" as we all continue to manoeuvre through this pandemic.

In recent months we have been researching and investigating the ability to livestream from the Cathedral. After much time, we have purchased a camera system that will work for our unique space and expanded our internet capability in to the Cathedral. Over the last 2 weeks the installers have been working with us in positioning and operating the system and several "practice" runs have been done. With all of this work we are now ready to go live just in time for Lent!

We will begin livestreaming Wed. Feb. 17, Ash Wednesday at noon, and subsequent Wednesday Daily Masses at noon. Beginning the weekend Feb. 20/21, 1st Sunday of Lent we will livestream the Saturday 5pm Mass and subsequent Saturdays. The Cathedral has a YouTube [channel](#) which mass will be livestreamed on. You may wish to subscribe to get reminder notices of upcoming celebrations.



St. Vincent de Paul

During the month of January, our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society made 67 calls, assisting 97 of the needy who live among us by distributing food gift cards worth \$3570. We had eight teams of two going out on four successive Tuesday afternoons. This is made possible by your generous support, both through prayer and financial donations. If you also have some time that you would like to donate to this work, we could definitely use your help. Please call 519-434-5235 for further information.



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 info. Final reminder for those members renewing that the renewal form was inserted in your October newsletter, please complete and submit to the Parish Office.

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.



From the Desk of the Rector

As I walk through downtown, I'm reminded of the pandemic at almost every turn. Some store windows are boarded up indicating protection against ongoing vandalism or it's a sign the business has been closed. There are far fewer people on the street and most who are find themselves in need or homeless. I know the pandemic will end but what will be left behind for us to do to restore? Plenty. This remains a time of reflection for us to discern how we will contribute to re-energizing our lives and the lives of others. As I walk past the Cathedral, I always have the memory of how many people go in and out of the building on a regular basis for various reasons when the space is open. There are those who come for Mass. Others drop in during the day to pray and reflect, find silence and a place of comfort in difficult times. They light candles as a gesture of remembrance and connection for those who are ill or who have died. There are those who enter to get out of the cold or heat for a few moments of relief. Many people do not attend church frequently, but they come. They come for shelter at funerals and occasionally to weekday or Sunday Mass and often sit at the back. Why? It is because they feel at home here in this sacred space downtown and open to all. Fr. Donal Neary, SJ commented: "We know in the heart also that there is something in ritual, in the community, and in the prayer that shelters us from the worst despair of life, that there is no hope." So, some come, some go, some remain and take part. That's why I look forward to opening when we can – because all are welcome.

Last week I reflected on how important it is to share responsibilities and get along in our mission together while supporting each other. In this week's Sunday Mass readings St. Paul encourages his community to serve one another and seek unity. We are not serving properly if we create arguing and division. This doesn't inspire anyone. I could ask... How does my daily life identify me as a Christian? Do I ever do anything that hides that identity?

Elsewhere in the bulletin you will notice that we are moving to engage in live streaming some of our parish Masses. This will, of course, be a continuing work in progress. I want to thank all those who participated regularly in making the Sunday Service audio presentation. Those in music ministry, readers, office staff, pastoral team members offered their time to record and facilitate. On behalf of all of us I want to thank Morris Lamont for his enthusiasm and skills. He produced, edited and brought everything together while maintaining patience and good humour. Audio presentations will not disappear as we seek new avenues.

As we prepare for Lent here's something to think about from Fr. Jeffrey Kirby : " It is for this reason that the believer needs Lent. The mystery of the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection requires constant reflection and a re-living in the lives of believers in order for the mystery to be fully assimilated in our hearts and appreciated in our everyday lives. With the pace of life and the multiple distractions presented by our world, it's too easy for a Christian to miss the mystery. And so, Lent comes and commands a pause. It orders us - through various penances, some universal to all believers, while others of a more personal choosing - to slow down and see the mystery, feel the love, and desire heaven above all things.

And so, Lent is not a season about self-help or self-improvement for their own sake. It's not just about giving up caffeine or chocolate (although these could be good penances) or about eating right or being more punctual (although it could be good to improve these habits). No, above all these things, Lent is about believers deepening their knowledge and experience of the Suffering, Crucified, and Resurrected God who loves them and seeks to be with them and seeks to be with them. It's about grasping - and being grasped by - the radical and self-emptying love of Jesus Christ."

Fr. Jim Mollen

CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY (LIVE STREAM ONLY)

February 17—Ash Wednesday 12 PM

Olive Lesperance; Luciana Iormetti; Jack Downes; Clarissa Glanville; Steve Dittrich; Intns of Fran Dittrich

February 20—Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM

Vittorio Valastro; Lilian Chan; Fr. Gary Roy; Nellie Harris; Alfonso & Christina Villamor Sr.; Larry Mellen

READINGS: FEBRUARY 21, 2021-FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading - Genesis 9.8-15

Responsorial - Ps 25.4-5a, 6+7b, 8-9 (R. 10)

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3.18-22

Gospel - Mark 1.12-15

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:

Deacon Anthony Rebkowec; Rev. Philip Joseph; Rev. Clare Coleman; Deacon Jose Viveiras; Rev. Ross Bartley;
Rev. Mark Poulin

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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