

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2020

St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



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PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially:
Erica Perk/Bernie Durand/Shirley Kloefer/Dolores
Flood/Josel and Hermie Jandristis,

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday: 5:30pm- Mass at Rectory
Thursday & Friday: 9:00am—Mass at Rectory
Saturday: 4:00pm – Mass at St. Thomas More
2:45 – 3:45 pm - Confession and Rosary
Sunday: 9:00am –Mass at St. Thomas More
8:15-8:45am – Confessions and Rosary
11:00am – Mass at St. Bernadette, Nestleton

PLEASE ORDER YOUR 2021 SUNDAY MISSAL (\$5.00)

Instructions for obtaining your new missal:

To avoid contact to printed materials and many hands
handling it, I would suggest you either send me an email
(office@stthomasmillbrook.ca) or call the rectory (1-705-
400-7888). Please specify your choice of picking up your
missal, either at the Church or at the Rectory.

FR. ANTONIO BAROL MESSAGE FOR THE 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,
Greetings of peace, love and good health. May God the Father, the Son Jesus who is the King of Kings, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be upon us all.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a thumb's up to the members of our Parish Finance Committee for a job well done. We had a zoom meeting last Thursday evening and our Diocesan Chair of Temporal Affairs attended and praised our parish finance committee. In spite of this pandemic and limited attendance for masses, parishioners continue to give generously making it possible for us to put some funds into a term deposit where it will earn revenue like the person in the parable of the talents, as well as reduce our diocesan levy. We are also blessed with a gift from a parishioner who just passed away who indicated in her will a generous donation to St. Thomas More. It is a way of giving a legacy to the parish that she was nourished spiritually. Thank you to the family that fulfilled her will and as a parish we pray for her eternal rest. I also have to thank the four wise men who came last Wednesday afternoon to put back the car shade that was blown upside down last Sunday from the wind storm. I felt bad I was not around, but blessed also that my car was not inside otherwise it could have been damaged. We all know that God is good.

After reflecting last weekend on the gifts that God has given us and knowing that one day He will come to ask for an accounting of these gifts, this weekend we are asked how we have used these gifts according to the plan of God. He had asked us to share these gifts for they are not only for our use but to be shared with our brothers and sisters who are in need. It was very appropriate that last Sunday was also World Day of the Poor, instituted by Pope Francis in 2017, that Christian communities can become a greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need. Last weekend's parable of the talents, the Master who went on a journey who is Jesus when he ascended into heaven, he promised to come again to ask for an accounting of the gifts he had left us and through these gifts his kingdom of love justice and peace may flourish in the world. We do not know when he is coming back, so he warned us to be ready at all times for it will be like a thief in the night; he said be watchful and ready at all times for we do not know the day or the hour. He is asking us to store up treasures in heaven not of this earth and when one is blessed with things of this world, let it not be the cause for his/her downfall but a means to gain eternal life by giving them to those who are in need.

Cont'd

St. Thomas More Parish offers eGive. Enroll: <https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/get-involved/donate.aspx>

As I mentioned at the start of November on All Saints Day, the saints are our model of how to become blessed and enter eternal life by their life example especially in their care of the poor. Like Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, as a queen she built hospitals to care for the needy and the sick and when her husband died she was thrown out of her throne and after making provisions for her children, she entered the third order of St. Francis and continued caring for the sick, the aged and the poor. She is known for her life of prayer, works of charity, her spirit of penance and great gentleness. She died at the age of 24. Only 4 years after her death in 1235, she was canonized patron of the Franciscan Third order and of Catholic charities. She used her gifts to care for the poor and needy so at the end of her life's journey, she is blessed for she found Jesus in the poor and the sick and she cared for them and answered to what the king said, "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothe me.....for whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you did it to me."

This weekend of the feast of Christ the King, another cycle of the church liturgical year ends and with Advent next weekend the next cycle which is cycle C begins. It is fitting that the last Sunday's readings will be reflective of who is the King of the universe. Let us remember that the king we celebrate is the one who humbled himself though he is God but did not deem equality with God but humbled himself of becoming one like us, humans in all things except sin. He emptied himself and was born in a humble way, not in the palace of the kings but in a manger where animals were fed. When he went around preaching the kingdom of God, he identified himself as a shepherd who came to gather the lost sheep and would lay down his life for the sheep as prophet Ezekiel foretold in the first reading.

St. Paul in the second reading wrote to the Christians of Corinth that after the good shepherd laid down his life, he died but rose again as a sign that we too shall rise again following the example of the good shepherd. He ascended into heaven but continued to show his presence through the sacraments that he instituted while he was in the world. As we call the sacraments are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace." We encounter Christ every time we participate in any sacraments and most especially the sacrament of the Eucharist that He himself instituted during the last supper when He himself becomes our food and drink in this journey of life. At the last time He entered Jerusalem to fulfill His mission of redemption, people acclaimed Him as king, like his ancestor David but more so for he came in the name of the Lord and he came to fulfill his mission as a shepherd laying down his life for the sheep. We know the story of salvation that death has no power over him so on the third day he rose again as foretold by the prophets, then ascended into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father. As our creed mentioned, he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. The next coming is indeed to judge us all whether we have done our part in the story of salvation and we have to give an accounting according to the law of love of the least of our sisters and brothers. Let us remember the two great commandments to love God above all and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. The first is to love God above all then to love our neighbor and the love of self is only third.

This is how it is in the end of time, when the king of the universe will come again and this time as a judge according to what we have done with the different talents and gifts that He has given us, especially the power to serve those who are in most need. In this feast of Christ the King we are not called to be like the popular image of Christ the King, seated on a throne, wearing a royal robe, with a golden crown, holding a golden sceptre, but we are called to imitate him as a king who serves and not to be served, not a golden crown but a crown of thorns, not seated on a throne but hanging on the cross, not wearing a royal robe but died shamefully with almost nothing on. This is the king who has invited us to follow him, the narrow road that leads to the kingdom of heaven. How ready are we to follow him and how ready are we for his coming as a judge. Blessed are the servants who are found waiting and watching for the day or night of the master's return. May the feast of Christ the King give us the opportunity to examine our priorities in life and make them into the image of the King of Kings, who came as a shepherd, not to Lord over others but in order to serve the least of our sisters and brothers.

In the coming season of Advent, unfortunately the Missals that were delayed in printing have not arrived yet; maybe it will be time to open our Bibles at home for next week's readings.

First reading: (Isaiah 63, 16b-17; 64.1, 3-8)

Responsorial psalm: (Psalm 80) Response is; "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved."

Second Reading: (1 Corinthians 1. 3-9)

Gospel: (Mark 13. 33-37)

Try to read ahead and reflect on the words of scripture for spiritual nourishment. See you next Sunday and if you have an Advent wreath at home, please pick up some prayers at the back that go with the lighting of the candle. They are scattered to avoid touching the other copies.

Take good care and stay safe at all times....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem. Faith takes you through the problem. Faith doesn't always take away the pain, faith gives you the ability to handle the pain. Faith doesn't always take you out of the storm, faith calms you in the midst of the storm." (Author unknown)

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