

MARCH 21ST, 2021

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/Shirley Kloefer/Josef and Hermie Jandristis,

And those who have died, especially
Bernadette Durand

MASS SCHEDULE: MARCH 24TH - 28TH

WEDNESDAY : 5PM, THURSDAY 9AM (CHAPEL)

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

FRIDAY: 5PM—STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FOLLOWED BY MASS

SATURDAY 4:00PM

SUNDAY 9:00AM. (PALM SUNDAY)

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON

SUNDAY 11:00AM

(MAX ATTENDANCE IN THE CHURCH - 37)

PLEASE VISIT THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND LINKS TO ON-LINE MASSES

[https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/how-do-i-find/
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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE - THE 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT - SOLIDARITY SUNDAY

Sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,
May the grace and peace of God the Father, the love and sacrifice of the Son Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit be with us at all times as we continue to journey life in this time of trials and difficulties due to this pandemic. I want to say to each and every parishioner to try to hold on to the three P's - Prayer, Patience and Perseverance. *Prayer* makes us believe of a loving and merciful God who loved us that he gave us His only Son to die for us. We pray because we have hope that this pandemic will come to an end according to the timeline of God who is preparing a better tomorrow. *Patience*, because sometimes we often lose our patience while waiting; our minds are set on instant things according to what we want immediately. Patience is a virtue that we should cultivate from this pandemic in following health protocols and in understanding others. *Perseverance* - because the victory is for those who can persevere to the end.

I hope that we are managing our time wisely, especially our time for staying home and isolating ourselves to protect ourselves and others. Please continue to stay safe and healthy, as far as possible use the media in connecting with our loved ones.

We are now in the last Sunday before the Holy Week which starts on Palm Sunday. It is good to evaluate our Lenten journey towards holiness in order to participate in the liturgical and para liturgical activities in the Holy Week leading to our participation of the Easter Triduum of the passion, suffering, dying and rising again. It begins on Thursday with the mass commemorating the Last Supper to be followed by the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On Friday will be the Veneration of the Holy Cross with Holy Communion. Saturday will be the Easter Vigil and on Sunday the mass of the Resurrection of the Lord. For those who would want to celebrate the Divine Mercy, please start praying the novena daily commencing on Good Friday and finishing on the second Sunday after Easter, which was declared by St. Pope John Paul II as Divine Mercy Sunday. Some prayer leaflets are at the back of the church to guide us in this great devotion.

Cont'd..../

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

The focus for this fifth Sunday is the sacrifice of Jesus, as he mentioned last week to Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up on the cross for the salvation of all. Jesus chose to die on our behalf so that we find new life in Him. He compared himself like a seed that falls to the earth and dies, because it is the only way that a seed will grow; it has to die and fall to the earth, otherwise if it does not die and fall to the earth it will remain a single seed. As the letter to the Hebrews mentioned, "Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he was bargaining with his heavenly Father to let go of the coming suffering and dying, but at the end he willingly entrusted himself, so he said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but rather what you want." It was only through his obedience of death that salvation came into the world, from the sin of disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God believing that what the Devil offered them was everlasting life to become like God. The sin of disobedience is corrected by the obedience of Jesus. Many people in this age find it hard to accept obedience, since we are bombarded with the so called freedom, that we are free and that no one should tell us what to do. It stems from our wrong concept of freedom, thinking that it is doing the things we want to do as opposed to doing things for the common good.

In the first reading, Prophet Jeremiah told the people about God's plan of making a new covenant. This was necessary because the old covenant had been broken many times and the chosen people had not been so faithful to the covenant, even though they had seen all the wonderful events that God showed them when they were rescued from slavery in Egypt. For example, when they walked through the walls of water in the Red Sea, when Moses struck the rock and water flowed, when Moses lifted up the bronze serpent on a pole to heal those beaten by the snake, the manna and the quail for their food and many others, and therefore they had hardened their hearts. Jesus, at the Last Supper, taking the cup said, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many". As the old covenant was sealed by the blood of the lamb, this time it is sealed by the Lamb of God, Jesus.

Every time we celebrate the holy sacrifice of the mass, we renew this new covenant with God; it is said by many spiritual writers that this is our way of bringing heaven to earth and bringing earth to heaven. We make Jesus present in the world and Jesus brings our prayers to our loving Father. Let us pray for one another that as we continue to journey our life we will yearn for this heavenly food that gives us spiritual nourishment. Let us make an effort to make a special devotion to attend mass not only on Sundays but whenever it is available for us. Try to make it part of your daily schedule like your daily exercise. More graces are poured out when we know how to put Christ as the center of our daily activities.

This will bring us to the central theme for this weekend, Sacrifice. Let us make a little effort to sacrifice some of our daily activities in order to make room for the daily sacrifice of the mass. I know most of us have been schooled for a weekend mass and not very much on the weekday masses. It is never too late to start a new habit for the good of our soul, to make some spiritual nourishment as we journey to holiness towards our final destination, our everlasting home in heaven. Give it a try and see for yourself. In this Development and Peace Sunday let us give generously to our brothers and sisters from the developing countries, our prayers the monetary aspect of our fasting and abstinence, and let us offer them our works of mercy.

Quote of the week: "Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." (St. Gregory Nazianzus.)

May God bless and protect you always.....Fr. tony

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to determine the number of people who will be attending the Holy Week masses and liturgical services, please sign up your name on the sheet provided at the back of the church. Thank you and God bless.

Holy Week Schedule on the Easter Triduum.

April 1, 2021 - Holy Thursday - Mass of the Last Supper - 5:00 PM - to be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:00 PM.

April 2, 2021 - Good Friday - Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion - 11:00 AM -Nestleton and 3:00 PM. Millbrook

April 3, 2021 - Saturday - Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM

April 4, 2021 - Easter Sunday - 9:00 AM - Millbrook and 11:00 AM -Nestleton.

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