# MARCH 28ST, 2021

## St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission

28 King St. W., P.O. Box 238



Millbrook, ON LOA 1G0 **C** 705-400-7888



@ office@stthomasmillbrook.ca 

stthomasmillbrook.ca

PASTOR: FR. ADTODIO BAROL

PLEASE PRAY FOR ... Those who are sick, especially: Erica Perk/Shirley Kloepfer/Josef and Hermie Jandristis,

> And those who have died, especially Bernadette Durand

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (MARCH 30 - APRIL 4)

**ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH** TUESDAY - 5:30 PM - MASS WEDNESDAY - 5:30 PM (GENERAL ABSOLUTION) HOLY THURSDAY - 5:00 PM (FOLLOWED BY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT) GOOD FRIDAY: VENERATION OF THE CROSS AND HOLY COMMUNION 11:00AM - NESTLETON & 3PM - MILLBROOK HOLY SATURDAY - 8:00PM EASTER VIGIL EASTER SUNDAY: 9:00AM. – MILLBROOK **11:00 AM NESTLETON** 

PLEASE VISIT THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND LINKS TO ON-LINE MASSES https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/how-do-i-find/ livestreaming-and-broadcasting.aspx

## FR. ADTODIO BAROL'S MESSAGE - PALM SUDDAY OF THE PASSIOD OF THE LORD

Dear Sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,

May the love of God the Father, the obedience of His Son Jesus, the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit be upon us as we journey the most holy week of the year.

We are now almost at the end of our Lenten journey. Let us look back to give praise and thanks to God who journeyed with us as the Lenten hymn mentioned, "Lord, who through these forty days, for us did fast and pray, teach us to overcome our sins and close by you to stay." This line of the Lenten song, says about our journey, of prayer, fasting and we just have to add about our works of charity to those who are in need that we have done last weekend during the Development and Peace, Solidarity Sunday when we tried to contribute to help developing nations to be able to stand on their own, especially with the theme, "Share Love, Share Lent." Thank you for your generous gift; many countries will benefit from our sharing. Lent is remembering the greatest love of all, our loving Father in heaven sending to us His only Son, to suffer and die for us as a sacrificial offering; as Jesus said in the gospel of St. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." In this most holy week of the year, we remember and celebrate the peak of Jesus sacrifice on the Easter Triduum, his passion, suffering, death and resurrection, which starts on Holy Thursday at the Last Supper, his dying on the cross on Good Friday and his rising again on Saturday during the Easter vigil. As we complete the journey in Lent, we join the whole Christian world in rejoicing the Resurrection of the Lord, leading us towards the celebration of the Divine Mercy Sunday, which is the second Sunday after Easter.

Remembering the Passion of the Lord, he started with his solemn entrance into Jerusalem, he had entered this city many times in the past but this time is different because he entered to finalize the prophecy of the prophets especially Isaiah, about the suffering servant of Yahweh, "I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard, I did not hide my face from insult and spitting." Try to read and reflect the words of prophet Isaiah about the servant of Yahweh, chapter 50, especially during the Holy Week. Cont'd... /

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Let us try to make this coming Holy Week a spirit filled week. Let us contemplate on the saving mystery of our salvation through Jesus' obedience to the will of the Father, to undergo his passion of suffering, dying and rising again to teach us that life follows the same pattern, that the glorious Easter Sunday follows after the suffering of Good Friday, that we can only have the crown of glory if we take the way of the cross.

Congratulations and thank you for all those who successfully went another mile during the season of Lent by participating in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross and mass. Let us not stop our spiritual journey by cutting off what we have done, especially the holy sacrifice of the mass. I am aware that we are accustomed to the weekend masses only, but I am sure many are willing to try to go another mile in life by maybe adding one more mass during the week, especially the Friday mass. After Easter, I will plan to have the Friday mass in the church at 5:30 in the evening, to be preceded by the chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 5:15 PM. It is a way of promoting the devotion of the Divine Mercy, which was envisioned by St. Sister Faustina Kowalska, which is becoming popular now in the Catholic church, and given permission by St. John Paul II to be celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter and the nine day series of prayer, called Novena which starts on Good Friday. In the novena every day different groups of people are prayed in the intentions. Some copies are available at the church entrance.

Actually this Sunday we have two gospel readings, the first being the solemn entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem, remembering the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly, when people cut branches to lay along his path and shouting, "Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David." The people for a while recognized and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, but when the religious leaders enticed them to shout 'crucify him' they changed their minds and went with the mob shouting 'crucify him'. It is easy to get into a mob mentality, and it is happening in the world, when people go around and vandalize places and even sacred statues and images, drawn by the angry crowd, thirsting for revenge and bloodshed to the point that they forget their identity but identify with the angry mob. These people who shouted 'crucify him' were Jesus admirers when he taught them about the kingdom of God. Some even witnessed some of the miracles, but when the religious leaders enticed them, they shouted with the mob. If you journey with Jesus in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross, you will see our very own life's journey, like from the first station of Jesus being condemned to die. Many times also, we are judged by others or maybe we could be like Pilate who give the judgement, carrying the cross is a must for us followers of Jesus for that is who we are a follower of Jesus who invited us to carry our cross too. The falling down of Jesus is familiar to us since in life many times we also stumble and fall. Like Jesus we have to stand and try again or maybe we are the cause of another's downfall and we could also be like Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry the cross, though as the scriptures say, reluctantly but we can make it heartily to lighten up the loads of others. We can also be like Joseph of Arimathea who helped lower Jesus from the cross and offered his own grave for burial. There are many other characters in the Stations of the Cross whom we can identify ourselves in our journey of life and characters also that we can avoid, such as Pilate who was pressured to give the judgement of death even with full knowledge that his judgement was unjust. He did it in favor of the religious leaders who were jealous of Jesus or could be like the soldiers who carried out their duties to crucify an innocent person because they are obliged by do it. In all these events let us remember that the death of Jesus was a necessary event to save us, so in the Easter proclamation it is said, "O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld. The sanctifying power of this night dispels darkness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners."

Therefore, sisters and brothers let us try to keep this week different from the other weeks of the year by intensifying our prayers. On Monday, try to watch the broadcast of the Chrism mass at the Cathedral in Peterborough at 2:00 PM. On Tuesday we will have a mass at 5:30 PM in the church. On Wednesday, since the Pope allowed a celebration of general absolution because of the pandemic, we will have a celebration of general absolution on Wednesday at 5:30 PM. Then we follow the Holy Week schedule - Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday. Remember that Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. To top it all, try to listen to many spiritual speakers on You Tube for some Holy Week reflections on the passion of Jesus and of course, try to read ahead the readings for the different liturgical celebrations, which are in the missals or in the Holy Bible.

#### Quotes of the week:

"Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you." (Didache) "Heaven is filled with converted sinners of all kinds, and there is room for more." (St. Joseph Cafasso)

Please, sign your name for the different liturgical and para liturgical celebrations during the Holy Week. May God bless your Holy Week journey and please, stay safe and healthy always. Fr. Tony

