

# PENTECOST SUNDAY - MAY 23RD 2021

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



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office@stthomasmillbrook.ca



stthomasmillbrook.ca



PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially:

Erica Perk/Shirley Kloefer/Josef and Hermie Jandristis,  
Dolores Flood, Rio Barol and Oswaldo Bacareza.

And those who have died, especially  
Bernadette Durand, Carlos Tampon and Fr. Bernie Bascal

MASS SCHEDULE: MAY 26TH – MAY 30TH

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY : 5 PM, THURSDAY: 9 AM

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

FRIDAY: 5:30 PM

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**SUNDAY 9AM–10:30AM**

THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE WORSHIP  
(ROSARY WILL COMMENCE AT 9:00 AM)

*(MAX ATTENDANCE IN THE CHURCH - 10)*

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

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## FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

Using the entrance antiphon from the Book of Wisdom, "The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia." May the love and mercy of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus who sent the Holy Spirit to dwell among us, fill us with all the blessings we need in our journey to eternity.

After celebrating the Ascension of the Lord last weekend and Jesus seated at His place in the heavenly Kingdom, let us remember that he promised his followers, "I will be with you until the end of the age", and to fulfill that promise both him and the Father sent the third Divine Person of the Holy Trinity, 'the Holy Spirit,' who will continue guiding the new people of God born of baptism to the time when Jesus himself will come again this time as a Judge. He promised to his followers that he will send the Advocate (Helper), from the gospel of John, 16, 5-15, "But I am telling you the truth, it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go away, then the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go away, then I will send him to you." All these happened during the Last Supper when Jesus gave his disciples his farewell before accomplishing his passion. It is for us to learn the three R's of life about the event; 1st. R is to remember the events that took place, the words that he had spoken. 2nd R is to rejoice that everything was done for our benefit, rejoice that our sadness will turn into joy, it is said that when God closes a door a window is opened and in the Ascension it was not only a window that was opened but the whole roof of the world, the heaven that was closed after the downfall of humanity, with Jesus' ascension it was opened again so Rejoice and be glad. 3rd R is restoration, with ascension the world is restored back to its original status. Once again the stairway to heaven is made accessible to all who believe and follow Jesus who is the way the truth and the life or as St. Matthew mentioned, Mt. 7:21 "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do."

Cont'd...../

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

This weekend is the feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit we call "Pentecost Sunday." The Acts of the Apostle narrated how it happened, that before ascending into heaven Jesus asked his disciples to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit. We learned that after the death of Jesus, the disciples were wanted by the Jewish authority, especially after the resurrection, because the authorities wanted them to stop spreading the news of Jesus' resurrection. Still filled with fears and their only source of strength was there being together and they continued to share each other the story about their knowledge of Jesus and they prayed. As described, the tongue like fire came to them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they came out of their hiding place and boldly proclaim about their Lord and Master Jesus. Many writers would say, it was the birth of the Church. And from that moment on, the followers of the Risen Lord grew in number that the authorities have to stop their number by killing them in many different ways like, feeding them to wild beasts, making them as entertainers to fight as gladiators, and even others by burning them publicly. Did it slow down the number of conversions, no way?

People still continue to believe and were willing to die of what they believed. The Holy Spirit gave them the courage to face all the trials and difficulties in life, until the time when Constantine became the King and was converted to Christianity through his mother Queen Helena's prayers, and as king he made an order that Christianity will be the religion of the people. Let us remember that one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit is Fortitude and that is to strengthen our will. One martyr was asked to deny his faith and he will be spared, but his answer was, "Even if I die a hundred times I will never deny my faith." (San Lorenzo Ruiz.) We know that we already have received the Holy Spirit, first in baptism for we were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and again during our confirmation we were sealed by the Holy Spirit through the anointing of the holy chrism. Let us remember that as a Catholic Christian we are a Trinitarian people, who believed in God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. Let us look forward next weekend that we will celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity to complete the mystery of our faith.

What does this mean to us? It means we are not abandoned by Jesus when he ascended into heaven, because through the Holy Spirit God's presence continues in the world today. The Holy Spirit is now guiding the Church to accomplish her mission of building the kingdom of God, a kingdom of love, justice and peace. We know that the Holy Spirit dwells with us, but the fruits of the Holy Spirit which are, "Joy, Charity, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Long-suffering, Humility, Fidelity, Modesty, Continence and Chastity.

With this feast of Pentecost, let us examine ourselves in what way we have shown these fruits in our lives, that the Spirit of God is living and active longing to show that we are part of the Church built by Christ, and that like the apostles we are ready to proclaim that the kingdom of God is shaping in the world today. In this time of the pandemic, let us call on the Holy Spirit to heal the world from all our failures through our misuse and abuse of God's creation that instead of taking good care of this Earth our common home we have destroyed it in the name of progress and development with the intentions of accumulating wealth and power motivated by greed. It is time to humble ourselves and ask for forgiveness of all the wrongs we have done to God and to all of his gifts to humanity. Let us pray that the spirit of wisdom will guide us to the right direction in life. We believe that God hears the cry of the poor and the humble of heart. Let us also seek help from our heavenly mother Mary and the Church protector St. Joseph.

Quote of the week; "A person's rightful due is to be treated as an object of love, and not as an object for use." (St. John Paul II)

Thank you and stay safe and healthy always. God bless. Fr. Tony



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