

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



28 King St. W., P.O. Box 238  
Millbrook, ON L0A 1G0



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office@stthomasmillbrook.ca



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**PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

Those who are sick, especially:  
Erica Perk, Hermie Jandristis

And those who have died, especially: Dolores Flood

**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

**ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL**

WEDNESDAY : 5:00 PM THURSDAY: 9:00 AM

FRIDAY: 5:30 PM

**ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK**

**SATURDAY: 4:00 PM**

For the People of the Parish

**SUNDAY : 9:00 AM (Rosary at 8:45AM)**

For eternal rest of Dennis Flood

**ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON**

**SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — For the Missions**

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**FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – OCTOBER 24TH, 2021**

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

In this difficult time of the pandemic, let us use Psalm 30 to open our message; "Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my Rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name." May the grace and peace of God the Father, the love of God the Son and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you.

This is a very special weekend in the life of the Church, it is World Mission Sunday. In 1926, Pope Pius XI, initiated that the second to last Sunday in October would be designated as World Mission Sunday. Catholics throughout the world are invited to pray for and give to the missions. Sometimes when we think about the mission we cannot help but think outside of Canada, especially those developing countries. Actually right in our very own country we have a mission territory. In Northern Canada we have six dioceses which are under the Pontifical Missions. I do remember that one Christmas season, our diocese sent two of our priests to assist them in their Christmas celebrations for they lack priests to cover most of their areas. We can also expand our vision to other countries where Christianity has just started to flourish and they need prayers and also financial support that our missionaries will not become a burden to the people, but with our financial help they will be able to develop the local Church to become a praying, witnessing and self-supporting Church. This weekend then let us pray for all the missionaries all over the world and let us also give generously so they will be able to continue the work of evangelization.

Last weekend Jesus reminded us of his mission, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many." He demonstrated his service to the disciples who at first were fighting who will be the greatest, then at the Last Supper Jesus stooped down to the lowest level of being a servant by washing their feet and on the cross became a ransom for many. His life was a fulfillment of Prophet Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant of Yahweh.

This weekend's readings focused on Jesus' mission of gathering the lost sheep of Israel. Prophet Jeremiah, who lived during the time of the exile prophesized about the reunion of the remnants of Israel, the few remaining faithful Jews, who will be gathered together and among them will be those who are blind, the lame, those with child, and those in labour and they will be brought safely by a father's love. Cont'd.../

Although there will be weeping and tears but with joy in their hearts and the responsorial psalm says it all, "The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy."

In the gospel, Jesus was nearing Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Jericho is only around 15 miles from Jerusalem and, as customary, people near Jerusalem will be lining up the streets to greet pilgrims and also listen to the many teachings from the religious leaders while they will be walking to attend the festival. They have heard of Jesus' fame and glory, therefore many were lined up to listen to this itinerant preacher who had many unpleasant encounters with the traditional religious leaders of the time.

As expected all sorts of people were present and a good timing for all those begging for some blessings from the pilgrims, like the lame, the blind and all those who suffered from physical defects. A blind man named Bartimaeus hearing that Jesus was passing his way shouted in order to catch Jesus' attention, "Jesus son of David, have mercy on me." To those who were listening to Jesus' teachings, thought it was an offence to be shouting, but no one could take his chance to escape from his dark world so he was brought to Jesus and this is a very good example of a miracle unfolding in their midst; his sheer persistence, his determination to meet the one person whom he longed to confront with his trouble. It was his desperate desire and that kind of desire that get things done. His response to Jesus call was immediate that he threw his cloak and sprang to Jesus unlike the others that they have to delay by doing other things before responding to Jesus' call and he knew what he wanted, "My teacher let me see again," and although he did not really know Jesus well, he was able to address Jesus as the Messiah in the line of King David who will lead Israel to national greatness. Bartimaeus believed that Jesus can heal him and in the end there is a precious touch in spite of being a beggar by the wayside he was a man of gratitude. After receiving his sight, he followed Jesus; he did not go on his way when his need was met. He began with a need, went on with gratitude and finished with loyalty and this is a perfect summary of the stages of discipleship.

The gospel today is challenging us to look around us and see who are the blind beggars who are trying to reach out to Jesus and instead of denying their intentions we should bring them to Jesus. We should be instruments in bringing those who are searching for Jesus and so in this mission Sunday let us be missionaries in our own little way to bring Jesus to them, and also to bring them to Jesus for healing. We can also be like Bartimaeus who are still in search or still blind to the ways of God.

In this difficult time of the pandemic many of our brothers and sisters are searching for the answers about many things, like the vaccine and the different protocols; we should be ready to assist people to know the truth and not hinder them by teaching things that are contrary to church teachings. May the good Lord open our eyes to see what is to be done for the good of our brothers and sisters, especially those who are struggling to see the truth of this pandemic.

Thank you for your support and cooperation to make us safe and healthy. God bless....fr. tony

Quote of the week; "Do not spend your energies on things that generate worry, anxiety and anguish. Only one thing is necessary: lift up your spirit and love God." (St. Pius of Petriecina/Padre Pio)

Mass Intention: Saturday October 23, @ 4PM in Millbrook– For the people of the parish.

Sunday: October 17 @ 9AM, in Millbrook for the Dennis Flood, 11AM in Nestleton – For the Missions

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and please come a little early (15 minutes) before the Mass to be able to join in praying the Holy Rosary and thank you that our number is growing.

The autumn leaves are almost down and I know we love to work together to take them out of sight. **Please join us next Saturday – October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.** The more we work together...the happier we are. Please, bring your tools for cleaning or blowing leaves. Thanks and stay safe always.

November will soon be here and it is the month to remember our deceased brothers and sisters. Please, find some envelopes and try to list all the names of your family members, relatives and friends that you want to be remembered in our masses in the month of November. I will be celebrating mass on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> for All Saints Day at 10 AM, and on Tuesday, November 2nd, for All Souls Day at 10 AM. Thank you.

Contact Fr. Tony for details about arranging baptisms, marriages, birthday or anniversary announcements or blessings, or mass devotions.

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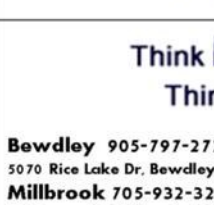
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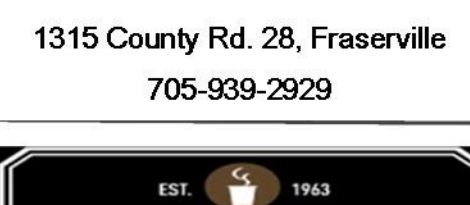
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