

FEBRUARY 13TH, 2022 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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, Victoria Meneses, Rita Lockhart, John Miron,
Augustine Sheppard, and Fr. Peter Conlin.

For those who have died, especially:

Fr. Floro Arcamo, and Roberto Banda

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM

THURSDAY: 10:00 AM, FRIDAY: 10:00 AM

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

For the People of the Parish

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

For all the sick

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — For an end to this pandemic.

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 FOR SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 13TH, 2022

In this difficult time of the pandemic, we still have many things to be grateful and so let us use the introduction of St. Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians (1:3-4); "Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes. He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God." As we continue to journey in this difficult time at least we are now seeing a bright light at the end of this dark tunnel. But let us continue to be vigilant and adhere to some remaining restrictions to protect one another until everything will be made clear and safe. Let us pray more Rosaries to ask the intercession of Our Heavenly Mother, that just as she interceded at the wedding in Cana, that once again she will ask her Son Jesus to do something about our difficult situation. Please, come a little early and join us in the Holy Rosary before mass. I will announce the mystery and feel free to start the Our Father and the Hail Mary. If you are struggling how to pray the Holy Rosary, feel free to pick up some copies of "What the Catholic Church Teaches" pamphlet found at the entrance door. The best learning is by joining.

Last weekend we learned about Jesus calling his first four followers; Simon called Peter, his brother Andrew and the other brothers James and John. They left everything and followed Jesus. This weekend Jesus had just completed the call of the twelve disciples, and these represented the twelve tribes of Israel. Luke has the sermon on the plain while Matthew has the sermon on the mount, and both started with a series of beatitudes. These beatitudes are secrets to happiness and indeed very revolutionary in character like bombshells and spoken in an electric atmosphere, flashes of lightning followed by a thunder of surprise and amazement. They take the accepted standards and turn them upside down. The people whom Jesus called happy the world would call wretched; and the people Jesus called wretched the world call happy. Indeed, if you examine the statements, it is for us to decide what kind of standard or values should we use, is it the standard of the world or the standard of the gospel. The standard of Jesus is obedience, poverty and humility while that of the world is power, wealth and prestige. Those who are blessed according to the beatitudes are those who trust in God and not in mere mortals.

Cont'd /

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In the first reading Prophet Jeremiah cried out, "Cursed is the one who trusts in mere mortals and makes mere flesh their strength". He lived through the tragic years preceding and succeeding the ruin of the kingdom of Judah. Jeremiah lived throughout these catastrophic events, preaching, threatening, prophesying disaster, vainly admonishing the incompetent Davidic Kings one after the other and by the war party he was dubbed a defeatist, persecuted and imprisoned. Jeremiah was called by God, "Look, today I have set you over the nations and kingdoms, to uproot and to knock down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." During his time, he suffered a lot from the hands of his own people, but all this suffering purified his soul of everything unworthy and made it open to God. Before expressing it in his prophecy of the new covenant, Jeremiah practiced a really inward and heartfelt religion and this is what made him near and dear to Christians. This personal religion led him to rethink traditional teaching; God examines the heart, and rewards each according to his works; friendship with God is broken by sin which is the consequence of a perverted will. Jeremiah indeed paved the way for the new covenant of Christian times, his life of renunciation and of suffering in the service of God, which may well have contributed to the portrait of the servant in Prophet Isaiah that makes Jeremiah and ante type of Christ. The second reading from the 1st letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians deals about the resurrection of the dead. Indeed, it is giving us hope that we have something to look forward after our time here on earth. This is the reason why we accept all the trials and difficulties in life because we are meant to be with God forever in heaven and not just here on earth. St. Paul said to those who do not believe in the resurrection, "For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

As I always mentioned during funeral masses that we Christian believers are indeed blessed for we have a place to go after our earthly journey as compared to those who do not believe in God; they too will die as we all will be but when they die, they might be all dressed up, but nowhere to go. Jesus in the gospel of St. John assured us that we don't need to worry because there are many rooms in his Father's house, not made by human hands but built since the beginning of time. What is needed is that we believe in Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. Let us remember that what matters in life is not what we have but what we have given away because it is said, you never see a U-Haul after a funeral coach because you cannot take with you what you have. If wealth is the secret of happiness, then the rich will be dancing in the streets but only the poor kids do that. Our poverty in spirit should lead our hearts yearn for God to fill our emptiness.

Take good care everyone; stay safe and healthy always....God bless....fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "We should keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us the spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God." (St. Vincent de Paul).

Mass Intentions: Saturday Feb. 12 @ 4PM – For the people of the Parish;

Sunday February 13 @ 9AM For all the Sick and 11AM at St. Bernadette in Nestleton – for an end of this Pandemic.

Appeal: In the journey towards the coming Synod in Rome, all the Churches are asked to participate in the preparation process by reflecting the three main points of the Synod: Communion, Participation and Mission. I know we have done in the diocesan level by answering the questions posted to us online and submitted our answers to the diocese. Each parish is also mandated to do the same, and the process is through sharing in groups about the three topics. So far, we as a parish have not done this and so I humbly asked for your help so that we can submit our responses and also the process how it is done. Since we do not have a parish council, I trust that the CWMC with some others can help in this process. (An invitation and reminder will be sent out separately this coming week from the St. Thomas More CWMC.) We are given until the end of this month. May I invite you to join the parish gathering and sharing on Saturday the 26th of this month at 10AM at the parish hall. Our hall according to the fire department can accommodate 200 people and we are now allowed to have a 50% capacity. Thank you for your help and stay safe. God bless.

In the topic of participation, this is my second call to ask for a volunteer to be our contact person for Development and Peace. The main task is to coordinate with the diocesan coordinator. Especially Lent is coming and there is a coming Lenten launching of Development and Peace in Peterborough. Thank you.

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

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