

# APRIL 3RD 2022 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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



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stthomasmillbrook.ca



**PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially:

Erica Perk, Vern Menzie, Rita Lockhart, John Miron  
Fr. Peter Conlin, Augustine Sheppard, Cory Wanjon,  
Maureen O'Grady, Fr. Bill Maloney

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL  
WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM, THURSDAY: 10:00 AM,

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK  
FRIDAY: 5:00 PM, Followed by Stations of the Cross  
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

For the eternal rest of Maria Martignetti  
SUNDAY : 9:00 AM (Rosary at 8:45AM)  
For the People of the Parish

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON  
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM  
For the journey of Truth and Reconciliation with the  
Indigenous People of the Church of Canada.

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## FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – APRIL 3RD, 2022

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,  
Let us use the entrance antiphon of last Friday's mass for our greeting from Psalm (53); "O God, save me by your name; by your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth." As we see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, we continue to pray for a complete healing of the world from the Coronavirus. It is only through the power of God that we can overcome this trial and let us also continue to invoke the intercession of our heavenly Mother Mary that she will ask her Son Jesus to heal the sick, to protect the workers, and give eternal rest to those who died. And let us continue to pray for one another that all the remaining restrictions will be lifted soon, and to all those who remained fearful be strengthened and enlightened by the Holy Spirit that their fears may be transformed into strength knowing that God is our refuge and protector.

This would be the last weekend before Holy Week which begins Palm Sunday, the day that we commemorate the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. But before that, we still would deal with the readings that will add up to Jesus' condemnation and eventually his being crucified. Last weekend we learned of his association with the tax collectors and the sinners who the Jewish religious leaders despised them. Jesus came into the world to save sinners and not the righteous and so it was just natural that he should associate with those whom he was sent for. In the mystery of salvation Jesus left his heavenly kingdom and humbled himself to become part of the human family, so that through him the journey of reconciliation would commence. He became one of us in all things except sin, so that he can bring us back to our heavenly inheritance and he did it by becoming the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. He did the ultimate sacrifice of dying on the cross for he said, "no greater love than this that a person lays down one's life for a friend." No matter what the executioner did for him, he remained calm and willingly accepted all the beating and nailing. When he was hanging on the cross, the words that he uttered were words of forgiveness, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

Cont'd ....

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Forgiveness was the heart of Jesus' mission and should also be in the heart of every Christian. As we recall the parable of the loving father, we remember how he forgave his two sons, the youngest for squandering his share of his inheritance and the elder son for his unkind behavior. The youngest son returns to his father and begged for mercy and it was afforded to him, even restored to his place in the family by putting on the robe, the ring and the sandal and of course the fatted calf for the celebration. The elder son, though he did not express his repentance, the father initiated the reconciliation by coming out of the house and pleaded with him to accept his brother who was dead and has come to life, who was lost and is found again. Although it has an open ending whether the elder son accepted his younger brother or not, the point is that like the youngest son we too have to return to the loving father in times that we have left his side in order to pursue our own wants and pleasures, and like the elder son, we too must forgive our brothers and sisters who in one way or the other have wronged us. Let us hope and pray that the journey of Truth and Reconciliation between our indigenous sisters and brothers who are now in the Vatican to have an audience with Pope Francis and other Church leaders that they will put on the heart of the loving father and the heart of the younger son, a desire to be reconciled.

This is what Jesus showed when confronted by the Scribes and the Pharisees who brought to him a woman caught in adultery. They used the law to condemn the woman and be stoned to death. Jesus did not give his answer immediately but tried to write something on the ground and one writer said, maybe he wrote, "Where is the man?" When the religious leaders insisted that he should condemn her, he said, "Let anyone among you who is without sin; be the first to throw a stone at her." Jesus bent down again and wrote something on the ground. The religious leaders slowly disappeared and then told the woman, that he will not condemn but said to her, "Go on your way and from now on do not sin again." Many biblical scholars wrote that the woman became a good follower of Jesus in his missionary work. The story is pointing an important message for us that we are not here to condemn anyone, for we too deserve condemnation for we are also sinners that instead of condemnation we should be generous in our forgiveness as God has shown to us his love and mercy through forgiveness.

This Lent let us try to reach out to our loving and merciful God and Father who is always waiting for our return; and let us also reach out to our sisters and brothers who have wronged us or whom we have wronged and once again build that bridge of relationship that was broken and destroyed in the past. Like the parable of the loving father, the story of the woman caught in adultery is also open ended that we must figure out whether the woman walked away rejoicing and not sinning anymore. But again, we are given the lesson that no matter what our sins are, we have a loving and merciful God who will not scrutinize us but waits that we come to our senses and return with a contrite heart. That is why we have the sacrament of reconciliation that Jesus himself instituted after his resurrection giving his disciples the power to forgive sins and that power is passed on to all the ordained ministers of the Church. It is said that we as Catholics are blessed that we have everything we need for our journey of salvation. We have the Scripture as our guide, we have the Sacred Traditions that the church kept for a long period of time, we have the Church Magisterium to guide and teach us about faith and morals, we have all the sacraments especially the Eucharist to nourish us, and we have a heavenly Mother whom we can count on in times of troubles and difficulties.

No wonder that our beloved Mother when she appeared in Fatima in 1917, told the three children about the need to consecrate the world to her Immaculate Heart and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After the consecration it does not mean we stop praying for peace in the world, but the more we should pray especially the Holy Rosary, so please come a little early every Sunday and join us. I will announce the mysteries and please feel free to start the Our Father and then the ten Hail Mary. It is good to hear your voice in prayer and thank you.....Please, stay safe and healthy. God bless.....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first with all your heart. Ask him simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues; with it you can accomplish what you desire." (St. Vincent Ferrer).

Prayer for the sick: Erica Perk, Vern Menzie, Fr. Clare Hickson, Rita Lockhart, Augustine Sheppard, Cory Wanjon, Maureen O'Grady

Camp Northern Lights, will resume this summer for children ages 9 to 13. Website: [www.campnorthernlights.com](http://www.campnorthernlights.com)

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

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