

MARCH 9TH, 2025 - NINTH 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:
George Korcsok, John, Margaret Lechelt, Divina,
Jacob, Victoriana Meneses, Rita Lockhart,
Henry Cruz, Jocelyn Guamos, Fr. Ron Meyer, Anna
And for those who have died, especially:
†Marilyn Cervený, †Keith Lynch and †George Schmidt

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MARCH 9TH, 2025

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

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK
FRIDAY (during Lent) - 5:00 PM
(Friday March 14 & 21 - No Mass)
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

MARCH 8TH - For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM
MARCH 9TH - For Pope Francis' speedy recovery

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

MARCH 9TH - Safety to all Travellers

***** IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER *****

Wednesday, March 5 - 5:00 PM - Ash Wednesday in the Church

Friday, March 7 - 2:00 PM - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. St. John's Anglican Church, 1758 County Rd. 10

Sunday, March 16 - 10:00 AM - Pancake Sunday, following 9:00 AM Mass

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 Friday, March 7th, 2025



The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. St. John Anglican Church, Ida will be hosting an Ecumenical Service at 2:00 PM in the Church (1758 County Rd. 10, Cavan) followed by beverage and snacks. The theme country this year is The Cook Islands. Please, let us support this worldwide women's initiative to pray together as one family of God.

To learn more about World day of Prayer visit the following link: <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/what-is-wdp/>



Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/get-involved/jubilee-year-2025-events-schedule.aspx?_mid_=35659



Quote of the Week: "Since we are travellers and pilgrims in the world, let us ever ponder on the end of the road, that is of our life, for the end of our roadway is our home." (St. Columbanus)

Pope's Prayer intention for the month of March: "For Families in Crisis": Let us pray the broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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

<https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/index.aspx>

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

FR. TONY'S MESSAGE FOR THIS WEEK

Dear sisters/brothers; parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,
Theme: "Lent is a time of spiritual preparation for Easter, purifying our actions and motives from spiritual obstacles and participating in the Passion and Death of Christ through self-sacrifice, in the belief that with Christ we will rise again."

Our Readings: First Reading: Deut. 26. 4-10: "The fruits of our labor are from God. Before we use and enjoy them, we should first acknowledge God's bounty with dedication and thanks."

Psalm Response: "Be with us Lord, when I am in trouble."

Second Reading: Rom. 10. 8-13: "Holiness is rooted in faith. Believe in your heart that Jesus is raised from the dead."

Gospel: Luke 4. 1-13: "Jesus is fully human and overcomes the temptation of Satan. As Messiah he will not resort to expediency."

As part of our Jubilee Year Journey of Hope theme we continue our Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour before the 4:00 PM mass every Saturday. Jesus is inviting us to come and pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy was approved by St. John Paul II, a prayer revealed to St. Faustina to be prayed especially at 3:00 PM as the hour of great mercy when our Lord Jesus died on the cross for us. During this Jubilee year, please come and spend some time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Spending some time with the Lord in silent prayer and meditation is not wasted but graces are gained. Most of the time we know how much money we have in the bank but we do not know how much time we have here on earth and so it is time to give some of our time to the Lord that he may grant us some more days, months and years.

During this Jubilee Year, we are encouraged to visit areas or places of encounter with the Lord, we call Shrines or Holy Places, like the Holy Land or Rome, but it is expensive. Therefore in every diocese, they tried to set aside some churches or places as a place of pilgrimage with special indulgence. These are the Churches in our diocese: (1) St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral in Peterborough, for the city deanery, (2) St. Mary's Church in Lindsay, for the central deanery, (3) St. Michael's Church in Cobourg, for the Lakeshore deanery (4) In the northern deanery is St. Patrick's Church in Kearney. A diocesan pilgrimage is also planned for the diocese of Peterborough the Martyr's Shrine in Midland on September 20, 2025.

To visit a shrine is also suggested and what are these? Shrines are erected either to protect relics or to commemorate the presence of God in a particular place at a particular time. The Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy says that they can also have a deep significance as 'signs of cosmic harmony and reflections of divine beauty because of their physical positioning' (paragraph 263). Some are placed over the grave of a saint, while others, like the Oratory of St. Joseph in Montreal, are built on the faith of a visionary. These can be privileged places to ask for God's help or to give thank for favours received. They are often the object of pilgrimage.

We have just started Lent and let us remember that this is a special time that we are with Jesus in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights, in prayer, and fasting. Lent is a time that the Church is asking us to intensify our spiritual life that we may be strengthened in our spiritual combat against Satan who is trying to divert our attention and would lead us away from our Lenten plan. This is also the time that we recall the Israelites journey in the desert for forty years. God's intention was to purify the chosen people. So our forty days of Lent is also meant to purify us, so that through prayer, fasting and all other Lenten devotions and actions we will be able to joyfully encounter the Risen Lord. Speaking of fasting and abstinence let us not focus only on the material fasting and abstinence of food and drink but let us go beyond these to the fasting and abstinence of anything harmful and hurtful to our sisters and brothers.

Let us not forget also that in the season of Lent we have some special Lenten Devotion like, Stations of the Cross and we are also given a time for spiritual purification in the Sacrament of Confession. The diocese of Peterborough is setting a date for a Diocesan wide day of confession on the 5th of April. Every church in the diocese would be open that day for anyone who wishes to receive the Sacrament of forgiveness.

Let us put to mind that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence and it is also good to go another mile to practice the discipline of fasting and be able to raise some money to be shared to Share Lent of the Development and Peace program of the Church, to help the Global south fight for their rights to own their piece of land and to live peacefully. Please, mark in your calendar the Chrism Mass in Peterborough on the 14th of April at 7:00 PM.

Please, take note that our Friday mass in Lent would be at 5:00 PM in the church because after the mass we will have our Stations of the Cross devotion. But the two coming Fridays, March 14 and March 21, we will not be having a mass, because Fr. Tony will be in the Philippines to celebrate a 100 years birthday of his only surviving benefactor.

Please pray for his safe trip.

Fr. Tony Barol