

MARCH 23RD, 2025 - THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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, Sandra Pilipinko,
Fr. Ron Meyer, Fr. Paul Hickey and Anna

MASS SCHEDULE ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

NO WEEKDAY MASSES
Fr. Tony away until Friday March 28th
(Fr. Jithin will celebrate mass on
Saturday and Sunday in his absence.)

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

MARCH 22ND - For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM

MARCH 23RD - For all the Sick of our
Parish Family

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

MARCH 23RD - For Peace in the World

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

Thursday, March 27	7:00 PM - St. Alphonsus '1700 Years of the Nicene Creed' by Fr. Hubertus Drobner
Saturday, April 12 -	9:30 AM - CWMC Monthly Meeting in the Church Hall - Everyone welcome
Monday, April 14 -	2:00 PM - Chrism Mass in the Cathedral
Friday, April 18 -	10:00 AM - Way of the Cross - Starting at Peterborough Cathedral



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: "To each one of us Christ is saying: If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do as I do. Be converted into a seed that lets itself be buried. Let yourself be killed. Do not be afraid. Those who shun suffering will remain alone. No one is more alone than the selfish person. But if you give your life out of love for others as I give mine for all, you will reap a great harvest." (St. Oscar Romero)

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>

St. Thomas More Parish offers eGive.

Enroll: <https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/get-involved/donate.aspx>

FR. TONY'S MESSAGE FOR THIS WEEK

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

Theme: "Our God of mercy and compassion has given us all a second chance in life."

Readings: First Reading: Exodus: 3. 1-8, 13-15: "The Lord calls Moses to lead the chosen people, and reveals God's name to Moses."

Psalm Response: "The Lord is merciful and gracious."

Second Reading: 1Cor. 10.1-6, 10-12: "We must remain steadfast in our faith. We cannot become over confident even though we are the recipient Of God's favor and grace."

Gospel: Luke 13. 1-9: Jesus tells us to repent. Time will run out, and no one can ever count on another year. Now is the time."

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.' 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 are now halfway in Lent and let us be grateful to God that we are able to be faithful to our Lenten discipline of Fasting, Abstinence, Prayers and Devotions. Maybe we have failed in some of them but it is not yet late to renew that commitment and be steadfast again as we near the peak of Jesus sacrifice to fulfill his mission of salvation. As I mentioned these forty days and forty nights with Jesus in the wilderness is also like our own spiritual retreat, constantly asking ourselves about our own journey of life from birth to our natural death, whether or not we have done some personal sacrifice for the good of others. As mentioned also our fasting and abstinence are not only for the self but it has a social dimension, that what we have saved from our self denials of fasting and abstinence would be use to help others especially in every Lent we launch the campaign of Development and Peace to help our developing countries stand for their rights over their ancestral land which are being devastate by illegal loggings and mining. The difference between fasting and dieting is that fasting has a spiritual value and a charitable purpose while dieting is a personal self serving for one's health.

Let us also do the Lenten devotions of making the Stations of the Cross either privately or joining our Friday Lenten journey of attending the mass at 5:00PM and joining the Stations of the Cross which comes to us in many different versions written and inspired by many saints who showed us the way to holiness and eventually to our final home in heaven.

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 developing countries.

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. We missed the two Fridays , but this coming Friday March 28, Fr. Tony is back and so we will have the 5:00 PM mass followed by the Stations of the cross.

Please, mark in your calendar the Chrism Mass in Peterborough on the 14th of April at 7:00 PM

God Bless Fr. Tony

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