

DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES DIOCESAN UPDATE



March 20, 2020

FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

▪ We continue to monitor the situation daily as the coronavirus epidemic remains a 'moving target'. Nobody has all of the answers and there is a great deal that is unknown. This is especially true in regards to how long this will last. Experts are all saying it could be two to three months or longer. A lot depends on how well we follow protocols today. Let us continue to pray and be a source of comfort for our people who are filled with anxiety and fear. When we feel overwhelmed we can turn to the Lord for comfort. This crisis should be forcing us down on our knees. We need to be men of prayer. We should also be turning to one another for support. Keep in contact and try to develop a routine for your day. Learn something new, read those books that have been on your shelf for months, talk with friends and family via electronic communication, get outside and enjoy nature. God has given us the gift of time. Let us use it to our benefit. Most importantly, keep in contact with your parishioners. Facebook, parish websites, electronic bulletins are a great way to do this. Some parishes are live streaming daily Mass with great success. Let us continue to pray for one another.

▪ I wish to thank the following priests who have agreed to be available for emergency spiritual care at the three sites of the Niagara Health System. This morning they received specific training at the St. Catharines site for the pandemic protocol. This means that **no other priests** will be allowed to visit hospitals for the foreseeable future.

St. Catharines General Hospital:

Fr. Andy Goodwin, Chaplain, St. Catharines General Hospital

Fr. Benjamin Weber, St. Denis Parish, St. Catharines

Welland Hospital:

Fr. Chad Grennan, St. Ann Parish, Fenwick

Fr. Paul Vellakunnathu, St. Andrew Parish, Welland

Niagara Falls Hospital:

Father Stephen Bruzzese, Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, Niagara Falls

Fr. Gerard Power, O. Carm., St. Patrick Parish, Niagara Falls

I sincerely thank these priests for assuming this responsibility on behalf of their brother priests. By doing this they are helping to ensure that those in hospitals do not feel spiritually abandoned at this time.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- In light of the COVID-19 situation, Salt + Light TV has made arrangements with cable companies across Canada (Rogers, Bell, Telus, Shaw Direct, Videotron) so that Salt + Light TV is available free of charge to all subscribers **until May 1, 2020**. This means that any person who subscribes to cable TV will be able to access Salt + Light TV and therefore the **Daily TV Mass** and **Sunday TV Mass** produced by **National Catholic Broadcasting Council**. Also, “*La Messe du jour*” that is produced and televised by Salt + Light TV six days a week from the crypt at Saint Joseph Oratory in Montreal will likewise be televised on **Sundays** now through arrangements with the Archdiocese of Montreal. Therefore, all may have access to televised Mass in both French and English seven days a week. Salt + Light TV is televising the daily Mass celebrated by Pope Francis from Casa Santa Marta. This airs every day at 9:00am and will be televised in both English and French. Attached you will find a poster produced by Salt + Light TV that succinctly provides the Mass times on social media. The channel number on each cable company that carries Salt + Light TV can be found at <https://saltandlighttv.org/subscribe>. Please note that the Daily TV Mass is available on other faith based television networks besides Salt + Light TV. The various networks and Mass times can be found at <https://dailytvmass.com/about/broadcast-schedule/>. On a similar note, please note that the weekly (Sunday) showing of “*Le Jour du Seigneur*” (Radio Canada) will continue as always to provide Sunday Mass at its usual time and channel.

- The CCCB General Secretariat has received word from **Novalis**, *Living with Christ* and *Prions en Église*, that during this current health crisis, they are willing to post on their websites PDFs of the pages from *Living with Christ* and *Prions en Église* for each upcoming **Sunday Mass**, as well as for **Daily Mass**, so as to allow people to download them for free during this limited period of time – **until March 29**; this offer will then be assessed based on the situation at that time. These resources can help the faithful who follow Mass from their homes on TV or internet. At the very least, they can read the Scriptures and follow along on televised celebrations. The CCCB has given permission to Novalis to do so. Please click on the following links for the English and French PDF versions of the Sunday Mass Readings and prayers from Novalis: *Prions en Église*, French Canadian edition: <http://www.prionseneglise.ca/>; *Living with Christ*, English Canadian edition: https://www.livingwithchrist.ca/index.php/intentions?_ga=2.50103011.496730847.1584390822-169904871.1417450886

The approved version for Canada of the Scriptural texts for Mass are likewise readily available on the website for the *Association épiscopale liturgique pour les pays francophones* (AELF) at <https://www.aelf.org/calendrier/romain/2020/03>

- Due to COVID 19 the **Mission Cooperative Plan** (Mission Co-Op) has been cancelled in the Diocese of St. Catharines for 2020. There will be no exceptions.
- For the foreseeable future, there will be **no regular Friday Update**. I will update you with a memo when necessary.