



Dear Parishioners,

I hope by God's grace you are all well and safe. Occasionally, once in one's lifetime there is an event that changes our lives forever. The Covid-19 pandemic certainly has had a powerful impact on all our lives. It has caused stress on many families, with the loss of employment, with being forced to stay in our homes, and with the limited connection to loved ones; by way of computers and phones.

St. Mary's Parish is still functioning during this pandemic, albeit in a limited way. Personally, I find it very disconcerting celebrating Mass in an empty church each day, (Mass intentions are for the well-being of the parishioners), and I miss the personal connections with the parishioners. I am sure we are all looking forward to the easing of restrictions and the re-opening of the church. I know there are many parents who look forward to having their children baptized, and parents that would like to know when their children will receive First Holy Communion. We will continue to update you by posting information on St. Mary's website (www.stmaryhespeler.ca). You can always send an email to the parish if you have questions. The office door is unlocked between 9:30 am and 2:30 pm, Monday to Friday, if anyone wants to drop off a letter, envelope, or a food donation for St. Vincent de Paul. There will be occasions when the office door is locked if I happen to be away.

At all times we need to place ourselves in the hands of our loving God, to always pray, and live out our faith each day in what we say and do. May the Lord's blessing be upon each one of you and keep you safe.

Sincerely,
Fr. Robert Love

**On May 3rd, Fr. Love celebrated his 17th anniversary of Ordination.
Congratulations Fr. Love!**

O Jesus, our great High Priest, Hear our prayers on behalf of your priest, Father Love.

Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life.

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your son who is close to you because of his priestly ordination, and because of the power which he has received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs him so much.

*Be his comfort, be his joy, be his strength.
Amen.*



A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: During this time of pandemic, as we are separated from all of our Church friends, the CWL continues to

pray for everyone. We also continue to financially support the Parish and other organizations such as; St. Vincent de Paul, Monica House, Michael House and Bridges Shelter, during this period of isolation. We patiently await the day when we can be reunited and celebrate the Eucharist together! In an effort to stay connected, hopeful, and supportive during these difficult days, CWL Hamilton invites us to join them for a Candlelight Prayer Vigil every Wednesday at 7:00 pm. The outline for this prayer service can be found on the Hamilton Diocesan CWL website at www.cwlhamilton.ca



UPDATE FROM THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY.

St. Vincent de Paul continues to help the less fortunate during this time of covid-19. We have put procedures in place that ensures volunteers, as well as those receiving help, are well protected. We thank those who have contacted us to provide food and monetary donations. Please know our food pantry is open for parishioners that might be struggling during this time. All calls are confidential so please contact us if you are in need of assistance. Our phone line 519-658-6511 is checked daily. Those wishing to drop off donations may do so between 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the entrance to the parish office. Food donations can be placed in the provided boxes, monetary donations can be slipped under the office door. Please note, if the door is locked during the given times, Fr. Love has been called away and will re-open the door when he returns. Thank you and stay safe.

PARISH OFFERINGS:

March 2020

(following church closure)

Donations made online, mailed, dropped off:

Sunday Offerings: \$ 280.00

Pre-Authorized Giving:

Monthly Offerings: \$4,300.00

Building Fund: \$1,020.00

April 2020

Donations made online, mailed, dropped off:

Sunday & Easter Offerings: \$9,500.00

Building Fund: \$ 478.00

Pre-Authorized Giving:

Monthly Offerings: \$4,270.00

Building Fund: \$1,010.00

Thank you for your continued support!

Reflection on John 14: 15-21 Gospel Reading for 6th Sunday Of Easter

Last week's Gospel reading began by our Lord Jesus saying to his disciples "Do not let your hearts be troubled" and he exhorts his followers to believe in, i.e. to put their trust in, the Son and the Father. We could rephrase this exhortation as "don't be anxious". Why were the disciples so stressed out anyway? You will recall that the Master was preparing his followers for what was to come next i.e. his death and resurrection and what was next for them. It was all very hard for them to grasp; it was all very perplexing and unprecedented. Unlike the disciples, who were trying to visualize the future with little, if any, frame of reference, we have the advantage of being able to look back on the historical events, and the spiritual significance, surrounding the Passion and Resurrection. We also have the Scriptures and Church teachings to help us understand what was about to happen.

In the Gospel for this Sunday (May 17), our Lord continues preparing his disciples, and his disciples' anxiety, no doubt, continues also. He explains to them that they are to demonstrate their love for Him by obedience even when things are hard to fully understand. Moreover, he will no longer be visible to them, but the Father will send the Holy Spirit to mightily help them. While I imagine the disciples' angst building, Jesus declares these incredible words, "I will not leave you orphaned" and "because I live, you will also live." There is much more to this passage, but these are the words, I believe, God wants us to hear, process, and be changed by, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Like the disciples, we are living through very anxious times and things are confusing. I encourage us all to look back on the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ as we near the end of the Easter season and heed the words of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit "I will not leave you orphaned" and "because I live, you will also live." God bless you!

Finally, I wish to include some of the words of a popular Gospel song which I was reminded of whilst preparing this reflection.

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus.
He came to love, heal, and forgive!
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!
Chorus:
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone!
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

For those with Internet here is the URL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection Provided by Deacon Michael Foulger



THANK YOU to the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's for their generous donations to the parish.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU: Although the church and office remain closed, please know that you can still call the parish at 519-658-4443 or email: stmarycambridge@hamiltondiocese.com.



NEED YARN FOR YOUR KNITTING PROJECTS? If you are in need of the yarn that we distribute for knitting projects, please contact the office and we will arrange to drop off a bag on your porch.



The Knights of Columbus Annual Charity Draw has been changed, with the consent of the OLG (the Ontario Lottery Governing Body), to October 30/20 from May 29/20 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

HAMILTON DIOCESE WEBSITE: Be sure to visit the Diocesan website for important updates and resources: <https://hamiltondiocese.com>

Prayer in Times of Need

For those in any need:
Almighty God, keep them in your love
And make us generous in responding to those in need.

Lord God,
We turn to you in all our troubles
And praise you in all our joys.

Hear our prayer this day and see our need.
Give us the strength and courage
That flows from your Spirit
To follow your Son, Jesus, in the way of the cross.
Send us your support
And let us experience it
In the generosity and support of others.
Glory and praise to you, God of mercy,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(Excerpt from *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*, CCCB Publications.)