



We Are Family

### Capuchin Friars

Capuchin Website: [www.capuchins.ca](http://www.capuchins.ca)  
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Capuchins of Central Canada

## SOUTH KENT CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

### St. Mary's Church

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### St. Michael's Church

26 George St., PO Box 478  
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MASS TIMES FOR  
ST. MARY'S,  
BLENHEIM

MASS TIMES FOR  
ST. MICHAEL'S,  
RIDGETOWN

MASS TIMES FOR  
ST. PAUL'S,  
THAMESVILLE

# ALL MASSES CANCELLED

APRIL 5TH, 2020

PALM SUNDAY

**Please Pray for Healing:** Bernice Fiala (B), Linda Burk (B), Eugene Barron Piggot, Ray Breault (R), Sandra Sonneveld, sister of Randy Sterling (B), Carolyn Malic (T), Max Connolly, brother of Linda Burk (B), Nicholas (B), Germaine Pynenbrouck (R), Connie Murray (B), Andrea Pike (R), Michelle MacLean (B), Marcel deWit (R), Irene Stepniak (R), Art Tremblay (B), Lena Mazan (R), Roger DeCock (B), Antoinette Lauzon (B), Sylvain Bilo-deau (B), Ruth Demaiter (T), Denise DeWitte (B), Frank Slemensky (B), Diana and Dennis Klodt (B), Tony Driesen (B), John Irving (B), Bessie Kominek (R), Dr. Janet (Vlasschaert) McElhaney (B), Lorraine McIntosh, Gerry Willemsen (B), Jim Clark (R), Bill Van Loon (B), Lorraine Trinacty (B), Harry Wijsman (R), Leatha Burke (R) and all others in our parish who need prayers.

**Please Pray for the Deceased:** Please pray for those who have died, Tom Farrell, and for all the deceased members of our families.

**Diocesan Ministers Prayer Calendar:** Ms. Francine Visser, Pastoral Minister; Mrs. Virginia Eade, Pastoral Minister; Rev. Jose Seminati; Ursuline Sisters of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus

Dear Pilgrims on the Journey

Peace and goodness. I am with you. I know for many of you there are questions and few answers. I also have questions. But as Pope Francis said recently, he was not an optimist because optimism is just wishful thinking but rather he said he was a man of hope, I too am a man of hope. This isolation can be difficult for us especially when we can't reach or visit our loved ones. These times are difficult for the parishes especially when we think of economics. At the moment there are many parishioners I would like to visit. I am hopeful that soon we will be together again celebrating our faith and our lives. We need to be patient with each other and continue to hold each other in prayer.

May God bless you all

Fr John and Fr Manoj (George)

You can visit our website at

<https://southkenticatholicfamilyofparishes.ca/> for updates. Fr. John now has permission from the Bishop to do Masses on Sunday's at 11am which will also be available by clicking on the 'Watch Sunday Mass' link and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/skrcfamily>

If possible, please continue supporting the Family of Parishes with your contributions. They can be dropped off at the offices, or mail them to the address on the envelope. Thank you for your help.

#### Mass Intentions

Mass intentions will be honored at the Friary as requested as much as possible. Masses can still be requested through telephone or email to the parish offices.

Fr. Richard's Indian dinner in Alvinston is postponed to a later date in the fall because of Covid and social distancing. More information to follow..stay tuned.

Attached to this weeks bulletin you will find a prayer service for Palm Sunday to assist in celebrating from your homes while public celebration is not possible. Next week we will attach prayer services for the Triduum.

#### Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in  
a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

- Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

March 13th 2020



# DIOCESE OF LONDON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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30 March 2020

To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A month ago when we began our Lenten journey, we could hardly have imagined how that spiritual journey would be drastically altered by the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic. We expected to enter the desert of our familiar Lenten practices of abstaining from certain foods or pleasures and striving to be more considerate to each other and conscious of the needs of the poor. Instead, we have suddenly entered an unknown new desert filled with fear, sickness and even the spectre of death.

Yet, these unexpected and confusing circumstances do not nullify our customary Lenten practices. We are still called to fasting, but from that which is most dear to us, namely, the Eucharist, the sacraments and the solace of gathering as a community of believers to celebrate them. This fast, this absence, has made us appreciate even more how precious they are to us.

The fruit of fasting is to make us aware of our hunger for God and to lead us, as we draw closer to our loving God, to works of justice and the care of others. Now, in this moment, our fasting from that which nourishes us is for the sake of service to the common good of our wider community. And our prayer, which is the hallmark of our Lenten repentance, is not simply for ourselves and our deepening in our baptismal commitment but also for the sick, those who are courageously caring for them and our public leaders who must guide our nation through this crisis.

In our new Lenten journey, one thing remains the same. Lent is intended to be a sacred time when we discover anew who we are in Christ and recommit ourselves to our consecration in him. As Jesus came to understand in his forty days in the desert, he was the beloved Son of the Father designated to proclaim the kingdom of God. The desert in which we now find ourselves is not only a place of anxiety and darkness but also a means for us to realize anew that we, too, are the beloved sons and daughters of God and as such sent out as missionary disciples of Jesus to proclaim the Gospel to a world desperately in need of it.

But we are certain of God's choice of us as his own and as such, like St. Paul, we can say:

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? [...] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [...] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31-32; 35; 37-39).

At this difficult time, I am holding all of you in my heart and prayers, longing with you for that day when we can gather together again in our churches to sing the praise of our God!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London

*Diocese of London: Being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus*

# Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

## Introduction

Palm Sunday celebrates two seemingly different stories. We begin the liturgy by commemorating Jesus's triumphant journey to Jerusalem where he is greeted by shouts and songs of acclamation and joy. Everything seems to be going well. Jesus is hailed as a King and people wave palm branches to show their honor for him. By the time we reach the Gospel, however, we hear the Passion of Jesus Christ, recalling the events leading up to his crucifixion and death on the cross. It may seem strange that these two extremes are celebrated on Palm Sunday, but that is the reality of the Paschal Mystery. There is only one story. Jesus's life, death and resurrection are all connected; It is impossible to separate them as isolated events. The same is true for our lives. Everything we do is united with Christ, the good times and the difficult ones. Even when God seems distant and far away, we know that we are always connected to the story of Jesus's life, death and resurrection. We are always connected to Christ.

As we begin Holy Week, take a moment to recall this narrative of Christ with your family. What are some events from Jesus's life that stand out to you? Do you have a favorite parable or story of healing? It is important to remember that the Jesus who walked and taught and ate is the same Jesus who dies and rises again. Think too about your own life. What are some of the significant events you have experienced this past year? Recall some of these moments aloud as continue to share the story of your family, which is also the story of Christ!

## Ritual at Home

Perhaps the most memorable part of the Palm Sunday liturgy is the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem. To help us celebrate, the church invites us to carry palm branches as we gather for prayer today. Even so, we remember that liturgy is not a recreation of a past events. Rather, it is an *anamnesis*, an active remembering of the past so that we may live those realities today.

Opening Prayer: Loving God,

As we come to the beginning of Holy Week,  
we remember your triumphant entry into Jerusalem.  
We sing your praises, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David."  
You alone are the true King, the leader greater than all others.  
Even so, in your great mercy you chose to become like us,  
taking on human form and living among us.  
As we celebrate and shout "Hosanna" today,  
may we remember what will soon follow.  
Keep us faithful in word and deed,  
and help us love you to the best of our ability.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 (*Celebrating the Eucharist*, page 141)

Procession: We, too, welcome Jesus, the Son of David,  
the one who comes in the name of the Lord,  
the King of Israel.  
Holding our palm branches, let us acclaim Christ, the Lord.

*If circumstances allow, a short procession around the house (inside or outside!) would be appropriate, with all responding, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Children may wish to make banners or streamers to wave in the procession and play tambourines or other percussion instruments. You can use palms from last year that you might still have, other tree leaves, or even homemade crafted leaves.*

To Jesus, the True Light, who illumines the darkness and brings us hope during difficult times.

*Hosanna to the Son of David!*

To Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who models compassion and inclusion, sensitivity and goodwill.

*Hosanna to the Son of David!*

To Jesus, the Master Teacher, who shows by example how to accompany others, offering gentle guidance and direction.

*Hosanna to the Son of David!*

To Jesus, the Great Healer, who cares for the sick with tenderness and mercy, showing love to heal body, mind, and spirit.

*Hosanna to the Son of David!*

To Jesus, the Paschal Victim, who dies so that we might rise to new life. *Hosanna to the Son of David!*

Intercessions: Confident that Jesus Christ hears our prayer,  
let us offer our petitions with open hearts.

For the Pope, and all church leaders: May they continue to boldly lead, offering prophetic witness to the Gospel.

For all people in positions of leadership: May they work tirelessly for peace and justice to ensure the common good for all.

For all families and communities, especially those longing for intimacy and communion: May they know the tenderness of compassion and joy of inclusion.

For our own needs this day: *Prayers may be offered aloud.*

For all who have died: May they rest and rise in Christ.

The Lord's Prayer: Gathering these prayers together,  
as well as those we hold in the silence of our hearts,  
we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father . . .

Prayer: Loving God,  
We praise you in a special way today as we celebrate Palm Sunday.  
Be with us as we begin our journey through Holy Week,  
that we may more closely align our lives with yours,  
knowing suffering and death,  
yet remaining hopeful in the life you promise.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Conversation Starters**

1. What images, words, or phrases do you associate with Palm Sunday?
2. The Palm Sunday liturgy shows the fickleness of humanity. One minute we shout someone's praises, and soon after we yell, "Crucify him!" When in your own life have you been inconsistent in your actions or beliefs?
3. What is your prayer as you begin Holy Week?

### **Continuing the Conversation**

The *Rule of Saint Benedict* encourages us to welcome all as Christ. With this, we are called to see and welcome Jesus in all whom we encounter. As we celebrate Jesus's entry to Jerusalem and hear of the people who welcomed him, think about the ways your own family welcomes Jesus through the people who visit your home. Work together to create a sign to hang near your door, reminding you to "Welcome all as Christ."

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**COMMUNITY VILLAGE MASSES:**

Mass is held every second Friday of every month at 10am at Blenheim Community Village, and every second Tuesday of every month at 10am at the Ridgetown Village. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

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Blenheim Baptist Church,  
24 Talbot St. E.  
Wed. 1pm-4pm, Thurs. 1pm-4pm

**RIDGETOWN FOOD BANK**  
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18 Main St. 519-674-3765  
Tues. & Fri. 10am-4pm, Wed. & Thurs. 10am-12pm

**THAMESVILLE FOOD BANK**  
Thamesville United Church,  
107 Elizabeth St.

**FOOD BANKS:**

A basket is available at St. Mary's for anyone wishing to drop off donations for the Blenheim Food Bank for distribution to those in need. There is a cubby by the driveway at Thamesville United Church, open 24/7. Take only what you need. If you are able to help with donations, please bring to the front entrance of the United Church Monday through Friday.

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