

April 7, 2020

## King's Campus Ministry turns to online resources for Holy Week

London, Ontario – Normally, King's Campus Ministry would be preparing to hold Holy Week services both in the chapel campus and at and at Windemere on the Mount chapel, Christ the King University Parish. With COVID-19 having prevented public gatherings, King's Campus Ministry has turned to online resources to connect with the community during this important time.

Campus Ministry is providing prayer and reflection resources to celebrate *Holy Week at Home*, including video reflections on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. You can find more resources for celebrating Holy Week at <u>www.kings.uwo.ca/campus-ministry/updates-covid-19/</u>.

Even with parishioners unable to gather in a physical space due to social distancing, King's Campus Ministry remains a vibrant part of the King's and London community.

Every weekday at noon, Campus Ministry broadcasts their Daily Prayer Live on the <u>King's Campus</u> <u>Ministry Facebook page</u> (which includes a link to the daily prayer book for those who would like to participate at home). Reverend Michael Béchard, Director of the Office of Campus Ministry and the Pastor of Christ the King University Parish, will be posting Sunday reflections to Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Campus Ministry has also instituted a Virtual Scripture Study via video conferencing every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. Meanwhile, Pastoral Counselling is now being offered through virtual appointments.

King's Campus Ministry has found that, in a time of social distancing, there is still an opportunity to gather virtually. "There's a real longing for community," says Father Béchard.

"People really appreciate being able to still interact with us, especially on our live daily prayer," says Janet Loo, Campus Minister, Office of Campus Ministry and Conductor/Artistic Director, King's University College Chamber Choir.

Online parishioners are invited to type in their own prayers so all can pray together. King's Campus Ministry's Facebook page post reach has increased by 200%, post engagement by 560% and new page likes by 1200%.

"I believe this is a very promising sign that we have succeeded in increasing our engagement online with our community," say Loo.

For more information on King's Campus Ministry, please visit <u>https://www.kings.uwo.ca/campus-ministry/</u>.

King's is a public Catholic University College which provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master's degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student

experience. Institutionally autonomous, King's is academically-affiliated with Western University, and King's graduates receive a Western University degree. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centred on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person.

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