

Friday, April 3, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

I pray that in this challenging time you are experiencing peace.

Had you asked me a couple of months ago what my plans were for Holy Week, I promise you that it looked nothing like this. While I am managing my time at home fairly well, I miss being able to pray with our community. The liturgies of the Triduum are my favourite and I am sad that I will have to find creative ways of celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus without the physical presence of our community.

For now, I know that we come together but staying apart and that we show our solidarity while isolating.

I know that I am not alone. God is my constant companion.

The Pastoral Team has had the privilege of meeting virtually these last few weeks. Yesterday, we learned that many in our community were unaware of how we are trying to facilitate a virtual community. At that time, it was decided that I would provide you with a brief description of the initiatives underway.

LITURGY

In this time of fasting from the sacraments, I take great comfort in knowing that God manifests God's presence in a variety of ways. Pope Paul VI in his encyclical *Mysterium Fidei* (32-38) reminds us that while Christ is present in the Eucharist, he is also really present in the person of the minister, in the scripture, and where two or three are gathered in his name.

I encourage you to explore different types of prayer and devotion.

RESOURCES: There are a number of resources available to you on our webpage (www.kings.uwo.ca/campus-ministry) and on the King's Campus Ministry Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/KUC.Campus.Ministry/>).

DAILY PRAYER LIVE: We continue to offer a Liturgy of the Word each weekday at noon. These brief services are streamed live through the King's Campus Ministry Facebook page (see link above).

VIDEO REFLECTIONS: We continue to offer reflections on Sunday and will offer reflections throughout Holy Week. These are available through Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

'HOLY WEEK AT HOME' RESOURCE: There is also an Order of Service which provides guidelines, texts, rituals and scriptures that you can use with your family, to keep holy the Triduum.

[https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/Holy_Week_at_Home%20\(1\).pdf](https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/Holy_Week_at_Home%20(1).pdf)

MASS ON-LINE: Throughout Holy Week, celebrations from St. Peter's Cathedral will be available on-line at the Diocese of London website (www.dol.ca). The same website will provide a list of a number of parishes that have chosen to live-stream daily mass.

OUTREACH

A number of you have asked if there are people in need and whether you might be of assistance at this time. Here are ways you can help:

SUPPORTING REFUGEES AND NEWCOMERS: Some of the refugees and newcomers who we have been assisting have experienced the loss of employment as a result of COVID-19. Already living on a very tight budget, their financial needs are now overwhelming. If you would like to make a financial contribution, go to <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/alumni/support-kings/refugee-sponsorship-program/> or contact our office.

THE HOSPITALITY CENTRE is limiting the number of people on-site for the protection of the volunteers and the guests that gather there. Juice boxes, granola bars and similar items are needed. These can be dropped off at the back door of the Hospitality Centre at 707 Dundas Street East 9am to 12noon Monday to Friday. Financial donations are also needed to purchase food. Here are ways to make a financial contribution:

- 1) A cheque made out to St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre. Send to 707 Dundas St. E, London Ontario, N5W 2Z5.
- 2) Go to www.canadahelps.org search for "Sisters of St. Joseph Peterborough" and make a note that the donation is for the Soup Kitchen in London.
- 3) Money can be dropped off Monday to Friday between 9am-1pm at the Hospitality Centre.
- 4) Contact our office.

PROGRAMMING

While not all of our programs can be offered virtually, some can be.

VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: Sundays at 10am via video teleconference. Contact Maija Wilson at maija.wilson@kings.uwo.ca to take part.

VIRTUAL YOUTH PROGRAM: Contact Maija Wilson at maija.wilson@kings.uwo.ca to take part.

VIRTUAL SCRIPTURE STUDY: Tuesdays 7pm-8pm via video teleconference. The study on The First Letter of John is facilitated by Kerry Wilson. E-mail to lisa.caeiro@kings.uwo.ca to register.

You can follow us on Facebook or visit our website to learn about what we continue to offer and how you might get involved.

PASTORAL CARE

This is a challenging time for all of us and sometimes a little support is needed. If you would like one of us to reach out to you by phone or through another platform, virtual appointments can be set up by contacting Lisa Caeiro at 519-963-1477 or lisa.caeiro@kings.uwo.ca.

IF YOU ARE IN HOSPITAL

We are very fortunate that the hospitals in the City of London have the full-time ministry of priests, deacons and religious. If you are in hospital and in need of pastoral care or the Anointing of the Sick, simply ask the staff to page a chaplain.

RESCHEDULING

I believe that we have been in contact with all those who had planned on celebrating baptisms, confirmations, first communions and weddings in the coming months. We will do our best to accommodate the many adjustments that need to be made. Please be patient with us as there are a limited number of Saturdays and Sundays in the calendar year.

Sacramental reconciliation will also be rescheduled.

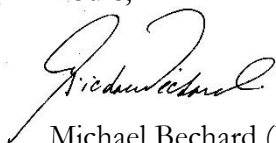
TO REACH US

For general inquiries or to make a financial contribution, please contact the office at 519-963-1477 or e-mail campusministry@kings.uwo.ca. If you would like to reach us directly, our personal email addresses are provided below:

Michael Bechard	michael.bechard@kings.uwo.ca
Lisa Caeiro	lisa.caeiro@kings.uwo.ca
Annette Donovan Panchaud	annette.donovanpanchaud@kings.uwo.ca
Jim Panchaud	jim.panchaud@kings.uwo.ca
Janet Loo	janet.loo@kings.uwo.ca
Victor Salazar	vsalazar@dol.ca
Maija Wilson	maija.wilson@kings.uwo.ca

Until such time that we can gather together as brothers and sisters around the table of Christ Jesus, let us hold one another in prayer.

Yours,



Michael Bechard (Rev.)
Pastor | Christ the King University Parish
Director | Office of Campus Ministry