Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - March 29, 2015

Jesus freely chose to suffer and die so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be reconciled to the Father. The motivation our Lord had for doing this was his great love for us and his desire to be faithful to the will of his Father. By entering more deeply into our Lord’s passion, we can come to experience more fully his great love for us.

Dear Parishioners: God bless us all as we enter Holy Week! I pray that our families will be blessed by all our celebrations, from Holy Thursday to the glories of Easter itself. Please pray for all the priests of the Diocese as we go on retreat, celebrate Reconciliation and renew our priestly promises at the Chrism Mass this Monday. (My thanks again to all our young people who will be attending the youth event & serving as our parish representatives, to bring our holy oils back.) Our Candidates for First Communion and their families have started their final preparations for receiving the Blessed Sacrament: you are our “Easter People” this year! One small difference you may notice is that we will be having a Good Friday Collection again: I was on the Council of Priests – and objected strenuously – when the traditional collection for the Holy Land was folded into our monthly assessment. Unfortunately, the discussion never went beyond “Fewer collections mean fewer headaches”: the whole notion of all the Faithful having a direct connection with the Church in the Holy Land was lost. I firmly believe that – especially when our faith communities gather in such great number on Good Friday – that we should feel the weight of the Cross everywhere, especially in our pocket-books. Also, for many people, Good Friday might represent their first opportunity to give alms this Lenten season: therefore, we will forward the entire collection to the Sharelent Campaign from Development & Peace. It won’t make me many friends on the Council of Priests, but I will spend the rest of my days working to get this decision reversed. There’s many different ways to greet the King of kings: may your life sing Hosanna this week!

Fr. Matt

Thank you from Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro C.S.B.,
re: Online survey – 2015 Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

The vocation and the mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world

Dear Friends, I thank all of you who responded to the online survey from the Holy See and the Canadian Bishops in preparation for the 2015 Ordinary Synod to be held in Rome this coming October. In reviewing your responses, I realize that this was not an easy questionnaire to complete. Many of you expressed to me how difficult some of the questions were. I am very grateful that you persevered in responding to the questions. I was encouraged by the genuine concern you expressed for couples and their families.

On March 13, Pope Francis declared a jubilee year, The Holy Year of Mercy for 2015-2016. I found in many of your responses echoes of the mercy and compassion that Pope Francis is calling the Church to in its interactions with all families and with the larger community. You have provided me with many good suggestions for pastoral outreach to our families. I have completed my report which takes into account your thoughts, insights and ideas on how our Church might better respond to the needs and challenges facing families today. My report was sent to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops which will be making a submission to the Holy See. I ask that you pray for our families and for the bishops and others who, along with Pope Francis, will participate in the 2015 Ordinary Synod.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London

Reminder!!!
Our Saturday night Mass will move back St. Peter’s Church on Saturday, April 18 at 5:00 pm.
Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family suffering from illness, Joyce Waller, Roxanne Rau, Louise Meren, Reese Lensen, Steven Wild-Denys, Emily DePaape, Darl Rau, Tanya Ashenden, Joyce Cole, Zack Baldwin, Bill Brand and Katelyn Bedour.

Prayers & Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy is extended to the family of Miroslaw Kozlowski, husband of Teresa who died this past week. May he rest in peace.

Easter Flowers

We will be accepting donations for Easter Flowers in memory of deceased loved ones. If you wish to make a donation in their memory please place your donation in an envelope marked “Easter Flowers” along with the name of the deceased person and your name or the name you wish to use as offered by. Please have all donations into the church office by March 31, 2015. The names of the deceased loves one will be published in our Easter bulletin.

Easter Food Drive

Please drop off your non perishable items at the back of our Churches for the annual Blessings Food Drive by April 1, 2015. Thank-you for your generous support.

Mass of Chrism

Everyone is invited to the Mass of Chrism to be celebrated at St. Joseph Church. It is also an opportunity to be strengthened together with our bishop at the Tables of the Word and the Eucharist.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3. Please make sure to have all bulletin news to the office by no later then Wednesday, April 1 at noon.

The Word Among Us

and Living Faith Booklets

The Word Among Us Booklets for April and Living Faith Booklets for April, May & June are available in the entrances of the Churches. Cost: $2/each.

Attention All Youth Age 16-21!

There is a COR weekend coming up on the weekend of April 17, 18, 19 at St. Patrick’s School in Dublin. This is a fun, exciting and spiritual co-ed weekend for all youth. It is a great weekend to meet other Catholic youth! Applications are available at the back of the church, St. Michael CSS, St. Anne’s CSS, or by contacting Betty and Jeff Visser (bvisser@ezlink.ca 519-348-9172.) The cost of the weekend is $60.00. Financial assistance is available. If you have any questions please contact us and we will be happy to answer them!

St. Anne’s Catholic Secondary School

This week at St.Anne’s we donated the stuffed animals that were collected by students for the Bear Necessities Fundraiser to the Ronald McDonald House. Also this past Thursday all of our Grade 10 students wrote the Literacy Test. For athletics our Badminton teams travelled to Stratford for their second tournament of the year and had a great day. As spring is in the air our spring sports teams are starting up and eager to get outside. Our Concert Band earned a silver medal in London which qualifies them for Nationals in Toronto. Our Drama Club performed in the Sears production which they co-hosted with Goderich. New initiatives for the remainder of second semester include our Agents of Change who are running an after school program called “Getting Active in the HC.” This encourages students to move, interact and collaborate with others by signing up for activities such as dodgeball, floor hockey, and even bus trips to London for Laser Tag, bowling and mini putting. Our student cabinet is also travelling to all of our local libraries to run an after school reading program for the younger children. We would also like to recognize and congratulate Joe Fonseca who is a Grade 12 student of St. Anne’s, the Prime Minister of Student Cabinet, and is an actively involved student throughout the school and community who was awarded the Chancellors Scholarship for Queen’s University. This is truly an outstanding achievement that required a great deal of effort and dedication but was very rewarding for him and his future career in medicine. Have a wonderful week.

Ministers of Faith, Lexi Smith and Yris Van der Ploeg
Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance.....

- Lenten Evening Prayer - Sunday, March 29 at 7 pm at St. Peter’s Church
- Men’s Ministry - Crossing the Goal Program - Tuesday, March 31 in St. Peter’s Hall at 7 pm
- Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 1 following the 7 pm Mass at St. Boniface
- Men’s Ministry - Crossing the Goal Program - Tuesday, April 7 in St. Peter’s Hall at 7 pm
- Youth Group - Friday, April 10 at the Zurich Bowling Lanes at 7 pm
- Life in the Spirit Seminar - Saturday, April 11 at St. Boniface Church beginning with 5 pm Mass
- St. Boniface CWL Fundraiser - Raffle Tickets available before & after Mass on April 11 & 12

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR PARISH BY REMEMBERING TO INCLUDE YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.
St. Boniface and St. Peter Parishes

Weekend Masses
Sat 5:00 pm  St. Peter (mid April to mid October)
            St. Boniface (mid October to mid April)
Sun 9:00 am  St. Boniface
            11:00 am  St. Peter

Pastoral Staff:
Pastor:  Fr. Matthew George
Secretary:  Lori LaPorte
Office Hours:  Tuesday - Thursday
             8:30 am – 4:30 pm
             Friday - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

MISSION STATEMENT
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."  Matthew 28:18-20
(NRSV, Catholic edition)

Parish Organizations
Parish Advisory Council: A combined council meets every month to discuss and plan pastoral initiatives and practical functioning of the parish. If you have suggestions please consider contacting one of the members.
Youth Ministry: Youth from grades 5 to 8 gather regularly for fun, faith and friendship. See the website for information.
Children’s Liturgy of the Word: Every Sunday at both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses.
Catholic Cemeteries: We have the privilege of having cemeteries associated with St Peter and St. Boniface Churches. Information can be found on the website.
Other Organizations: Catholic Women’s Leagues, Knights of Columbus and others.

Parish Council
Chair
Monique Hartman
Vice-Chair
Brian DePaepe
Rose Marie Rader
Ken Forler
Liz Masse

Contact Information
Mail: 22 Mary St., PO Box 81
       Zurich Ontario N0M 2T0
Phone: 519 236-4191
E-mail: bluewater@dol.ca

Celebrating Our Faith
Baptism
Please contact the office as you await the birth of your child or while you are awaiting adoption.
Reconciliation
God sent His Son so that we might be saved! Experience God’s healing through the sacrament of reconciliation before Mass on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 - 6:45 pm at St. Boniface or Saturday mornings from 8:00 - 8:45 am at St. Peter’s or by appointment.
Marriages
The sacrament of marriage is a beautiful expression of God’s love for the world! Minimum six months notice is required during which time the engaged couple must attend a Marriage Preparation Course.
Sacrament of the Sick
If you know of a person who is in hospital, or who is homebound because of illness and is desiring the sacrament of the sick, contact the office to make arrangements.
Bluewater Nursing Home
A weekly mass is offered on Thursdays at 3:30 pm in the chapel. All are welcome.
Devotions
St. Joseph and Saint André - Saturday after the 9:00 am mass - St. Peter’s.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wednesday after the 7:00 pm mass - St. Boniface.
Every first Friday at St. Boniface Church there is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm—come be transformed by the healing power of Jesus.

Website
Our website is regularly updated. There is a monthly calendar of events, important information and great pictures.
www.bluewater.dionet.ca