



FROM THE VINEYARD

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HOLY WEEK BEGINS WITH PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION. People will be gathered in churches across the Diocese of Peterborough on Sunday to celebrate the Lord's entry into Jerusalem and inaugurate this most solemn week of the Church's liturgical year. May this coming week be a faith-filled time in all our parishes!

I WAS IN GOOD COMPANY AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS, held one week ago in Ottawa. Sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, this meeting gathered people who work in the field of religious education and faith formation. I was glad to attend with some staff from our Diocese and Sacred Heart College. And we were all delighted to see Bishop William McGrattan, our former bishop, who gave the closing address on Saturday and did a fine job summing up.

OUR ANNUAL WAY OF THE CROSS THROUGH THE STREETS OF PETERBOROUGH takes place on Good Friday, beginning at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains at 10:00 a.m. This has become a great Holy Week tradition in our city, drawing people from near and far. Father Craig Cruikshank, Deacon Aidan Murphy and their team have been working to get the young cast members ready. It promises to be another inspiring celebration of the Lord's passion and death.

THE CLERGY TRANSFERS FOR 2019 were announced today and published on our website. With a few exceptions, they take effect in the last week of June. Please pray for the priests who are preparing for a change in pastoral assignment, and for the parishes that will be receiving them.

THE CHRISM MASS is celebrated this Monday at 7:00 p.m. at our Cathedral. This is the Mass at which all priests working in a diocese renew their commitment to priestly service. It is also the celebration at which the holy oils (Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumens and Sacred Chrism) are blessed and distributed to priests for sacramental celebrations in the coming year. All are welcome to attend with the hopes of having a good cross-section of people from around our diocese.

A HOLY HOUR FOR HEALING AND CONVERSION IN THE CHURCH will be celebrated in each parish on the Second Sunday of Easter, "Divine Mercy Sunday." We will pray especially for victims of sexual abuse by clergy and for a renewed commitment in the Church to protect the most vulnerable. Please check your local parish bulletin for specific times.

PASTORS AND RCIA TEAMS are reminded about our annual **MASS FOR NEW CATHOLICS**. This year we are celebrating it on Saturday, April 27 at 5:00 p.m. in our Cathedral: in other words, right after Easter, when the halos should still be bright! New Catholics, sponsors, family and RCIA team members are all welcome to the Mass and the reception following.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel