



FROM THE VINEYARD

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YESTERDAY, MARCH 19, WAS THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, patron of the Universal Church and patron saint of Canada. I offered a Mass privately for the protection and wellbeing of all in our nation, especially during this crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. Included in my prayers were the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who have served and continue to serve with such selfless dedication in our Diocese.

THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE OUR SOCIETY AND CHURCH. I released a video message yesterday to the priests and faithful of the Diocese of Peterborough about our response in these remarkable times. There are various opportunities to view the Mass on television these days and we are alerting people to those through our social media. A Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent will be available on the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough's YouTube channel this Sunday. Our website also has various spiritual resources to help people maintain a spirit of faith and prayer during these difficult times. The latest statements about the Covid-19 response in our Diocese can be found [here](#).

OUR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL OF PRIESTS HAD THE FIRST MEETING of its three-year term on Tuesday. We met by video conference, something we are getting very used to in these strange days. I was delighted that the technology worked very well and allowed the ten or so participants to be clearly seen and heard. I am grateful to those returning to the Council of Priests and those who serving for their first term. The Code of Canon Law directs that there is to be such a Priests' Council in each diocese, which advises the Bishop and promotes the pastoral good of the faithful.

THE DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL will also meet by video conference later this week, and the agenda will be taken up with the impacts of Covid-19. The challenges of the current pandemic to our Parishes and Diocesan Pastoral Centre are significant. Our Office for Temporal Affairs is already working with those parishes who will be the hardest hit.

THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD AND VIRGIN OF MATARA are celebrating their 10th Anniversary of service in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough. The planned festivities for next week have been put on hold, but we are truly grateful for their presence and their apostolates in the city of Peterborough, especially at Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist Parishes.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel