



FROM THE VINEYARD

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EARLIER TODAY, POPE FRANCIS OFFERED THE *URBI ET ORBI* BLESSING (“to the City and the World”) praying for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. This special blessing is usually limited to Christmas and Easter but was held today because of the gravity of the global situation. The Holy Father spoke on the gospel text “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” He also exposed the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and bestowed his Apostolic Blessing, offering everyone the opportunity to receive the plenary indulgence. Pope Francis reminds us that this crisis is most certainly a time to turn to God in prayer, seeking His strength and protection. Several faithful joined our “Watch Party” on the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough Facebook page for the *Urbi et Orbi* blessing today. We are discovering new ways to be together in prayer.

THIS WEEK I PUBLISHED A DECREE ABOUT HOLY WEEK and its celebration in this unusual time of the pandemic. It is applicable to priests, but it is certainly helpful for all the faithful to know what is happening during the time of Holy Week and its solemnities. Although we will be unable to attend these Holy Week liturgies all together, each person is invited to unite spiritually with the celebrations at these most sacred times. Let us commit to carrying one another in prayer.

I WAS AT THE YOUR TV (COGECO) STUDIOS earlier today, taping a message which will air on television this Sunday in their broadcast area of Peterborough and the Kawarthas. Most of my remarks were based on the Gospel of this Sunday, the raising of Lazarus. I am grateful that Your TV is making this airtime available to faith leaders, at a time when our communities cannot gather in the usual way. I am very pleased that Your TV has agreed to tape and broadcast our Palm Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. And lest we forget, Holy Week begins a week from this Sunday, with the celebration of Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion.

THIS SUNDAY, WE WILL FEATURE A TAPED MASS FROM OUR CATHEDRAL on our YouTube Channel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough, which will be accessible through our website and Facebook page. We are certainly honing our skills in working with this media, given the times that we are in. On **EASTER SUNDAY**, our plan is to livestream the Mass from our Cathedral.

THE FUNNIEST INTERNET MEME I SAW THIS WEEK: a picture of a church sign bearing the message, “I hadn’t planned on giving up quite this much for Lent!” Amen to that!

PLEASE KEEP WELL AND SAFE, practice good hand hygiene and physical distancing – and keep the faith! The resources on our Diocesan website should help with the latter.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel