



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 131; February 12, 2021

**LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY THIS COMING WEEK.** With recent easing of provincial lockdown restrictions, churches in most regions of the Diocese of Peterborough will be able to return to 30% occupancy on Tuesday, February 16. An exception is churches in the North Bay – Parry Sound Regional Health Unit which remain in a lockdown zone with a maximum of ten people permitted. As we welcome the faithful this Ash Wednesday, we will diligently observe capacity limits and safety precautions, to assure everybody’s wellbeing. As I noted in last week’s Vineyard, the practice for distributing ashes this year in the universal Church will be sprinkling on the head, rather than imposing on the forehead, thereby avoiding direct personal contact.

**MASS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY** will be available for viewing on our Diocesan You Tube channel, where we have also been broadcasting the Mass from our Cathedral each Sunday. We foresee continuing that weekly You Tube broadcast for as long as this pandemic is with us. My sincere thanks to our team from the Cathedral Parish and Diocesan staff who have worked hard each week to prepare and televise the celebration of the Holy Mass.

**“JOURNEY THROUGH LENT,”** a video series prepared by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, is an excellent spiritual resource for the coming season. Bishop Gerard Bergie of the Diocese of St. Catherine’s, and Archbishop Marcel Dampousse of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall will offer reflections on the Sunday readings each week. The links for the series in English and French are available on the CCCB Website. It is well worth making this part of your Lenten prayer and reflection.

**PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE JOINED IN A VIDEOCONFERENCE** on Wednesday, “Caring for Ourselves during COVID-19.” Registered nurse Christy Morrisette (who spoke at our Priests’ Study Days a few years ago) gave us good practical advice about nutrition, exercise, mental health, and pandemic safety precautions. I thank the Priests’ Ongoing Spiritual and Pastoral Formation Committee for organizing this online session, and an upcoming one about caring for our parishioners in these times.

**THE ST. JOSEPH’S DINNER TO SUPPORT CAMPUS MINISTRY** was a great success last Saturday. Despite the challenges of organizing an online program and door drop food delivery, Father John Perdue tells me it was the best “attended” St. Joseph’s Dinner yet. And while I can’t speak for anyone else, the dinner dropped at my door was delicious! Thanks so much to the organizing committee for their hard work and ingenuity, and to all those who participated in this annual dinner to support Campus Ministry at Trent University and Fleming College.

Fraternally, † Daniel