



# FROM THE VINEYARD

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**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** is celebrated around the world in January, usually from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, culminating on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. These are also the dates recommended by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, while recognizing there could be some local variation. Christians are encouraged to gather in prayer this week praying that all may be one, as Christ desires. The theme for this year is “Do good, seek justice” (Is. 1:7). Information and resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity may be accessed on the CCCB website [here](#).

**THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD** was established by Pope Francis in 2019 to be celebrated each year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Holy Father wrote “devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his Word.” Some excellent resources for this Sunday can be found on this [webpage](#) of the Diocese of Hamilton. It includes some good, brief video reflections by Father Timothy Scott on the Gospel of Matthew, from which we read at Sunday Mass this year.

**“MOTHER TERESA: NO GREATER LOVE”** is coming to Peterborough. Produced by the Knights of Columbus, it profiles the work, ministry and ongoing impact of this great woman of faith who always sought to serve Christ in the poor. Showings will take place at the Galaxy cinema in downtown Peterborough on Sunday, January 22 and Monday, January 23. Click [here](#) for more information.

**BURYING THE DEAD; GRIEVING WELL** is an online guide provided by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, addressing various issues around death, funeral rites and grief. It is a well-done resource, exploring important Catholic teachings at a time when new technologies are changing the way many people deal with bodily disposition at the time of death. The Canadian Bishops are presenting this guide to the faithful as a reflection on the ways we address practical issues and live out our grief when faced with the death of a loved one. It is a worthwhile read for clergy, laypeople and consecrated men and women.

**OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE** met last week, working through the material that came out of last fall’s four regional meetings and the Diocese-wide gathering. We were grateful that Teresa Hartnett, who facilitated those sessions, also worked with us for last week’s meeting, helping us to unpack the material and prayerfully discern how to begin writing the Pastoral Plan. We are expecting to publish the plan in the Easter season this year, and to help local parishes as they look at various ways to implement the goals in their faith communities.

Fraternally, † Daniel