

May 22, 2020

Dear Parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Church.

During this time of anxiety and uncertainty, we wanted to reach out to our parishioners. We understand that it can feel like we are all alone when Masses and events at the church are cancelled, and we are isolated at home. Please know that our parish community will continue to keep in touch to address your needs.

Pastor's Message

In order to combat the widespread of the coronavirus Diocesan and Parish Offices have to be closed at least until June 2nd, as declared by the Premier of our province. For office-related needs, we encourage you to contact us by e-mail or phone. Irene will check messages daily. If you have any needs please let us know and we can direct you to the appropriate resource.

Here is our contact information:

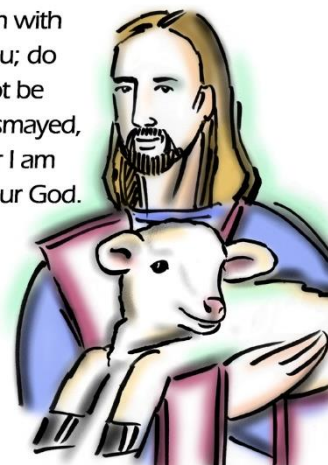
Parish Website: www.fatimaparish.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OLFottawa/

Parish Office: 613-722-7661x2 or info@fatimaparish.ca

Fr. Bosco Wong: 613-722-7661x3 or pastor@fatimaparish.ca

So do not
fear, for I
am with
you; do
not be
dismayed,
for I am
your God.



Isaiah 41:10

We continue to live-stream our daily and weekend Masses every day at 9am. Please check out our website and participate in the live-streamed Masses. You can also watch the recorded Masses at a later time; they will be kept for several days before being deleted. The parish bulletin also continues to be prepared weekly and is posted on our website.

This coming Wednesday, May 27th we shall celebrate the *Votive Mass In Time Of Pandemic*, the prayers at Mass are available on our website. We hope to celebrate weekly a special *Votive Mass In Time Of Pandemic* at 9am until further notice.

With the reduction of Covid-19 cases, the premier has announced Phase One of gradual opening in the province. I presume that we will have to adjust to a new normal, when churches can be re-opened again. We have to await direction from both the province and our diocese, as to how we can accommodate worshippers in a manner that is safe and prudent for everyone. The Archbishop has noted that the reopening will be gradual and some restrictions will remain – we will need great patience.

Meanwhile, at our virtual meeting on Pastoral Day May 21st, the diocese gave us suggestions:

1. You can start preparing for resumption of Masses in the near future.
2. Attendees should have personal face-masks and proper hand-hygiene would help slow the spread, in addition to safe-distancing.
3. Reduce chit-chatting in the parking lot and inside the church.
4. Using different doors for entrance and exit, reducing size of the congregation to avoid over-crowding.

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5. If one is elderly and frail, you could avoid a bigger crowd at Sunday Mass and attend weekday instead, since it would be a while before Sunday obligation would be re-instated.
6. Should you feel unwell, please avoid the crowd by staying at home.

I will keep you informed as plans materialize.

We have had to postpone 1st Communion until a later date. Please visit our website for a special message to the parents and children from Archbishop Prendergast.

Sadly we have learned of more deaths in our parish community. Please keep them and their families in your prayers: Marc Allaire, Valerie Fitzgerald and Karen Young-Midkiff. Fr. Jeffrey King, former Pastor, also passed away this week. Funeral arrangements are pending.

During this time of lockdown all parish meetings are cancelled. However, I am open to input from parishioners through phone-call or e-mail, as I have done so when needed.

Due to these unusual times our **Annual General Meeting** will take a different form this year. Since we are not able to meet in person, I invite all parishioners to send any questions or comments to the Parish Office by June 5th. We will respond to questions and publish replies in our weekly updates after June 15th. Please send your comments to info@fatimaparish.ca, pastor@fatimaparish.ca or mail it to 153 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2A 3T8.

If you would like me or a volunteer to call to check in on you, please let the Office know. If you know other parishioners who are not receiving these updates, please keep them informed.

I would like to acknowledge all parishioners who continue to financially support the parish. Many have used automatic deduction, others have placed their donation envelopes in the rectory mail slot [153 Woodroffe Ave, across from Hulse, Playfair and McGarry funeral home]. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

As your pastor I am still available in the Rectory. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything. I shall keep you in my prayers, including daily Masses which I am able to celebrate. I also pray daily for all the victims of the coronavirus, especially those in long-term health facilities and their families, as well as the health care workers who make sacrifices and keep us healthy on the frontline! **Fr. Bosco**

We have links to several resources on our website. You will find a message from the Archbishop, several prayers, broadcast times for Mass on TV and more. There are many resources available on the Diocesan website. Visit <https://www.catholicottawa.ca/pastoral-resources-for-the-pandemic>

The Britannia Woods Food Pantry is located at 9-115 Ritchie St. Please contact them directly at 613-820-0853 or general@britanniawoods.com.

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If your child attends an Ottawa Catholic School Board school, and needs any support including internet access or electronic devices such as a Chromebook, email your school principal for help, call the school office and leave a message, or contact Mante Molepo, the Board's Equity and Diversity Advisor at mante.molepo@ocsb.ca.

What if I need to go to confession? What if I need anointing of the sick before surgery/I'm ill?

For any pastoral needs, including individual reconciliation, please contact Fr. Bosco directly. The Archdiocese advises that the only ordinary way of attaining forgiveness for sins is participating in individual and integral confession and absolution. Nonetheless, if a person is unable to meet with a priest for the Sacrament during this pandemic, it will suffice for the moment to pray an Act of Contrition as best one can intending it truthfully, and to commit to participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible when conditions allow. If you are in the hospital, please contact the hospital chaplain.

Can somebody bring me communion at home?

For the safety of our Pastoral Care Team we have suspended home visits until further notice. The Archbishop suggests we have "spiritual communion" by reciting the following prayer:
"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen."

What happens to the Mass intention I had scheduled, now that Mass is cancelled? Can I still offer a Mass intention?

As we are now in complete lockdown of the church, Fr Bosco is celebrating daily Mass privately. Please be assured that the scheduled Mass intention is being prayed for and honored. If you would like to book a Mass intention please contact the Office and leave a message. The suggested donation for a Mass intention is \$15 and payment may be made by credit card or cheque.

Will there still be Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, 1st Communion?

Weddings will not be scheduled until a later date. Couples wishing to be married here should contact Fr Bosco directly.

Funerals may proceed but gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people. There will be no reception to follow, and for the safety of our volunteers there will be no funeral choir in attendance. If you need to discuss funeral arrangements, please contact Fr Bosco directly.

Baptisms will be postponed for the time being except in the case of emergency.

1st Communion, originally scheduled for May, has been postponed until further notice. Parents will be contacted directly when new dates are confirmed.

How can I continue to support the parish?

I wish to thank all those who have signed up for regular monthly donations and those who have mailed their donation or dropped it off through the mail slot at the front door of the Rectory.

Our parish depends exclusively on the on-going generosity of your donations to maintain our operations. Various ways can be considered to continue your financial support. ***...continued***

1. Cheques may be mailed to: Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 153 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2A 3T8. Donations may also be dropped through the mail slot at the front door of the Rectory.
2. If you would like to donate by credit card or if you would prefer to donate on-line please visit our website www.fatimaparish.ca and click on the "Donation" tab.
3. Many parishioners also take advantage of our automatic pre-authorized monthly donation option – via credit card or through your bank. Check the "Donation" tab for a copy of the form.

Your continued prayerful and financial support is much appreciated – thank you!

You have received this message because you provided us with your e-mail address. If you would prefer not to receive further communications please reply to this message with the Subject "Unsubscribe".