

FRIDAY FACTS

Archdiocese of Ottawa, Pastoral Office

April 3, 2020

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Daily Thoughts from Archbishop Prendergast SJ in the Time of COVID-19:

Available online and **updated daily** at <https://catholicottawa.ca/thoughts-in-the-time-of-covid-19-1>.

Chronicle from Bishop Guy Desrochers C.Ss.R.: Click [here](#) to read the first of Bishop Desrochers' periodic chronicles of spiritual guidance, "A virus that spreads in the head, in the heart and on the lips!" To read this and future issues of the Chronicle: <https://catholicottawa.ca/bishop-guys-chronicle>.

Archdiocese of Ottawa –Decree on Holy Week Liturgies: The Decree on Holy Week Liturgies from the Archdiocese can be found [here](#). Current info is updated as it becomes available at CatholicOttawa.ca. Info on making a Spiritual Communion and updated suggestions for Mass on TV/Internet on CatholicOttawa.ca.

Diocesan Centre Offices Closed: The Diocesan Centre, 1247 Kilborn Place is closed until further notice. Most staff continue to be available by email. Thank you.

Events in Parishes: At present all Churches are closed. For events announced in previous Friday Facts (<https://catholicottawa.ca/news-from-pastoral-services-friday-facts>), please use the contact given in the notice to confirm status and/or a new date once facilities reopen.

Prayers: For the repose of the soul of Fr. Arthur William Ockwood, M.S.F., who died Friday, March 27, 2020 in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 91. Fr. Ockwood was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1957. As well as serving his religious community, he served in the parishes of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ottawa, St. Martin de Porres, Nepean, and St. Monica, Nepean in the Archdiocese of Ottawa. The funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Angelus Funeral Home, 1119 N Saint Marys Street, San Antonio, Texas. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

VOCATIONS

Prayer for Vocations: Second Sunday of Easter - April 19, 2020 - Divine Mercy Sunday. That we may be blessed with priests, deacons and consecrated religious to serve as messengers of God's divine mercy, we pray to the Lord.

FAMILY, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Family Prayer – in every home: A publication from Archbishop Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal. A prayer booklet to make it easier to pray, to read the Bible, to recite the rosary, whether alone, as a couple, as a family, with children and young people. Free download at <https://www.diocesemontreal.org>.

FROM THE CCCB

Hope, Gratitude and Solidarity - A Message to Canadians from Religious Leaders in Canada in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: On Monday, March 30, more than 80 religious leaders from across Canada issued a common message to all who call Canada home, expressing the need for hope, gratitude and solidarity in response to the COVID-19



"Lord, to whom can we go?
You have the words of eternal life".
John 6.68

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pandemic. The message says: *"In spite of present sufferings, which can seem overwhelming at times, the flames of hope cannot be extinguished. Love, which gives life its fullest meaning, continues to seek out the common good in spite of individual difficulties."* The message reflects a unity of thought and concern among Canada's diverse religious communities in the face of the uncertainty, fear and anxiety surrounding COVID-19. Acknowledging the significant impact of COVID-19, the message reminds Canadians of the hope we share, the reasons we have to give thanks, and the ways we can act together for the good of one another. [To read the message, click here.](#)

Life and Family Suggestions for Homilies and Prayers of the Faithful During April 2020: Even during a time of social isolation because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Sunday liturgy continues to offer nourishment for prayer and reflection during the whole week – whether we are meditating on the readings, or participating in a television broadcast of the Mass and making a spiritual Communion. The suggestions [here](#) can be easily adapted for family or personal prayer or for use with other groups.

FROM THE HOLY SEE

Collection for the Holy Land 2020: Normally the Collection is taken up on Good Friday. Due to preventative measures and precautions regarding COVID-19, however, Pope Francis has approved that the Collection for the Holy Land 2020 take place on Sunday, 13 September 2020 near the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The collection is traditionally reserved to help support the Christian holy places, pilgrimage facilities in the Holy Land and the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Info: <https://www.custodia.org/en/news/2020-pro-terra-santa-collection-postponed>.

Pope's April Prayer Intention: The Pope's April prayer intention, disseminated by the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network \(Apostleship of Prayer\)](#), is "that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied."

The Congregation for Divine Worship Issues a votive Mass "in time of pandemic" and a new prayer for Good Friday: The Collect of the Votive Mass reads *"Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name."* The intention for Good Friday includes a prayer that ...asks that God in His compassion might protect those who are suffering, relieve the pain of those who are sick, give strength to those who are taking care of them, and welcome the deceased into eternal peace. From (vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-04/votive-mass-pandemic-intention-good-friday-liturgy.html). See the Archbishop's *Thoughts in the Time of COVID-19—#8, April 2, 2020* [here](#) for more details.

CARE FOR CREATION

Coronavirus Pandemic and the Global Climate Crisis: Globally we are facing both crises resulting in a growing number of deaths. Urgent action is needed to help all peoples stay safe, especially the vulnerable. Let us pray for all who work hard to safeguard humanity and all creation through actions and advocacy. As expressed by Pope Francis in his Christian Prayer in Union with Creation, "O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty." Info: John Dorner (613-738-5023, ext. 251; jdorner@archottawa.ca)

OTHER CATHOLIC EVENTS

Postponed - Good Friday Gregorian Chants for Meditation: Lawrence Harris and Chorus Ecclesiae will reschedule the annual Gregorian Chants for Meditation later in the year. Please email for notification: ChoirClass@hotmail.com.

Live-streamed "Exploring the Shroud of Turin": Presenter is Shroud Scholar, Cheryl H. White, Ph.D., Hubert Humphreys Endowed Professor of History, Louisiana State University. Co-Presenter is Fr. Peter Mangum, Director of the Museum of the Holy Shroud & Rector of the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans. Offered by The Vancouver Shroud Association on **Sat., Apr. 4, 12:00 pm** (Ottawa time) at <https://www.facebook.com/events/277991136521562/>.