

**Statement Regarding Corona Virus** – Issued by Most Reverend  
Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The news reports regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus are raising questions about the implications for liturgical practices.

Accordingly, I am providing these guidelines which are rooted in practices for good hygiene to reduce the risk of infection.

**Handwashing** – One of the most effective means to prevent the spread of viruses is frequent and thorough handwashing. Parishes may wish to consider making hand sanitizers available to parishioners at the entrances of Churches, Halls and Parish Offices. Parish Priests and Pastoral Ministers should be especially attentive to regular handwashing, particularly between Masses or before and after visiting the sick. **Sign of Peace** – “In the dioceses of Canada, the sign of peace is given by a handshake or a bow.” (GIRM, 82, page 31.) At this time, Pastors may advise their Parishioners to exchange the Sign of Peace by a bow and a greeting of “Peace of Christ” or another appropriate greeting. The Sign of Peace is not to be omitted from the celebration of the Eucharist. **Reception of Holy Communion** – The option to receive Holy Communion in the hand, or on the tongue, is up to the Communicant. During a viral outbreak people may wish to receive Holy Communion in the hand, but they are not to be denied if they choose to receive on the tongue. **Communion from the Chalice** – Christ is fully present in each species. Those who are ill or suspect illness should refrain from receiving from the chalice. At this time, there is no need to discontinue Communion from the Chalice. For those who bring Communion to the sick in Health Care Institutions, please follow the directions of the Institution you are visiting. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to those who are ill, especially those who suffer from a contagious illness. Those with flu-like symptoms may choose to remain at home in order not to spread the virus to others. Let us be united in prayer for all those who are impacted by illness, for their families and caregivers. This situation will continue to be monitored and further guidelines may be issued as necessary.

Yours in Christ,

*†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm*

## OUR PARISH BULLETIN



**Our Lady of Mercy Church  
Honey Harbour**



**St. John the Baptist Church  
Port Severn**

**PARISH ADDRESS:**

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish**

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**Honey Harbour, On P0E1E0**

**Fr. Martin Dalida – Parish Priest**

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**Website: <https://ourladyofmercyparish.weebly.com>**

**Weekend Masses**

**Saturday 5 P.M. (May 1 to Oct 31 only) - Port Severn**

**Sunday 9 A.M. (all year) - Port Severn**

**Sunday 11 A.M. (all year) - Honey Harbour**

**Weekday Masses**

**(See inside bulletin)**

**Confession: 20 minutes before weekend Masses**

**Wedding and Baptism: Call the office**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 2020

### Gospel Today: Matthew 17: 1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John: the first disciples whom Jesus calls. A voice heard affirms that Jesus is God's Son. The appearance of Moses and Elijah connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. They represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.



### Weekday Masses

Thurs March 12, 9am Mass for Peace in the world

Fri March 13, 9am Mass for sick parishioners

### Weekend Masses

(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent)

Sunday March 15, 9am @ PS

11am @ HH for the people of the parish



*\$862- March 1 Sunday Offerings* - Thank you for your generous support.

### Pray for Sick Members of our Parish Community: Mark

Vessair, Maryrose Vessair, Clifford Legault, Gloria & Louis Cousineau, Theresa Phillips, Ernie Corbier, Derek Wiese (Call the office if you would like someone placed on the prayer list).

Food for Thought- "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." C.S. Lewis

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed". Mahatma Gandhi

**"Get up and  
do not be  
afraid."**



**Transfiguration**

The Season of Lent is upon us. This annual time of prayer, penance and works of charity prepares us for the Holy Week and Easter, helping us to turn from sin and turn back to God. May this season be for all of us a time of spiritual growth and a call to do good in our world.

Bishop Miehm's Statement on Corona Virus – Kindly find the full text of the said statement at the back page of this bulletin.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC # 37) "In the historical conditions in which he finds himself, however, man experiences many difficulties in coming to know God by the light of reason alone: Though human reason is, strictly speaking, truly capable by its own natural power and light of attaining to a true and certain knowledge of the one personal God, who watches over and controls the world by his providence, and of the natural law written in our hearts by the Creator; yet there are many obstacles which prevent reason from the effective and fruitful use of this inborn faculty. For the truths that concern the relations between God and man wholly transcend the visible order of things, and, if they are translated into human action and influence it, they call for self-surrender and abnegation. The human mind, in its turn, is hampered in the attaining of such truths, not only by the impact of the senses and the imagination, but also by disordered appetites which are the consequences of original sin. So, it happens that men in such matters easily persuade themselves that what they would not like to be true is false or at least doubtful."

Pope Francis: In view of the 5th anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis addresses Catholic communities around the world: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who will come after us, to children who are growing up? I would like to invite you to participate in *Laudato Si* (On the care of our common home) Week, a global campaign from 16-24 May 2020." The Pope also renews his urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis: "The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor cannot continue", he says. "Let's take care of creation, a gift of our good Creator God. Let's celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week together."

World Health Organization Corona Virus Update- As of March 4, 2020: 95,079 cases of the COVID-19 disease have been confirmed globally, 3,249 deaths, 85 countries affected. The World Health Organization upgraded the global risk from the new coronavirus to "very high" as the virus continued to spread. W.H.O. reminds, "This is a reality check for every government on the planet: Wake up. Get ready," "Disasters and Virus pandemic periodically remind humanity that we all have only one planet: We either stand together or fall together". *Catholic news site Crux.*