



Our Lady of Mercy  
Pray for Us



St. John the Baptist  
Pray for Us

### Collections from April 26 to May 3

#### **Regular Sunday offerings: \$225**

\* Thank you to all, who, even in difficult times and without Sunday Masses, take efforts to drop off their church's offerings in the rectory mail slot; some send through Canada post; some through PAP; and some use the online donation of "Canadahelps" link. May God reward you a hundredfold for your generosity.

\* My Video or Voice Sunday Gospel Message will be posted in parish website while Church gathering restrictions continue.

\* Please provide our office with your Email and Telephone number so that you can receive updates, messages from the parish and from the diocese.

\* We celebrate Easter behind closed doors, like the followers of the Lord at that first Easter Sunday, but we celebrate confident that the Lord is among us and that the doors will be opened again. May God bless you and your family abundantly this Easter Season. I pray you are keeping well, and I look forward to our church community worship when things get normal. *Fr. Martin*

### *The Sunday Gospel Jn. 10:1-10*

“This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Throughout John’s Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus’ ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be “robbers and thieves” because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus’ disciples) should follow. The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd. Today’s Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus’ words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus’ allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.” *Sunday Connection*

### Important Links:

<https://www.ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca> - This is now our new parish website

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/848623575RR0008-our-lady-of-mercy-church/> - Online Donation to Our Lady of Mercy Honey Harbour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbqmYGV2U5k&feature=youtu.be>  
Youtube Mass of Bishop Miehm 4th Sunday Easter

[www.peterboroughdiocese.org](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org) – Diocese of Peterborough

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### Bishop Daniel Miehm- Bishop of Peterborough Diocese

\* Bishops in Canada and the United States consecrated their dioceses to Mary, Mother of the Church May 1st. This consecration seeks the grace and protection of our Blessed Mother during this time of the coronavirus. I was happy to offer this prayer of consecration at a liturgy celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains this afternoon. Pastors were also invited to celebrate the consecration today. A video of the liturgy held at the Cathedral will be found on the YouTube channel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough this weekend. The beautiful consecration prayer is one that may be offered by families during this difficult time, and it may also be found on our website. What a wonderful prayer for us to offer throughout this month dedicated to Our Lady. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

\* CANADIANS AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WERE SHOCKED BY THE RECENT MASS SHOOTINGS in Nova Scotia. It has been hard to comprehend and process, even with the round the clock news coverage. We continue to hold in prayer all the victims, those who have lost loved ones, and those impacted in any way by this tragedy.

\*I KNOW THAT MANY PRIESTS HAVE BEEN WORKING THE PHONES to check in with their parishioners. And many have told me that parishioners are calling them to make sure they are doing well. I am glad for the care and solicitude being shown by our priests – and to them! May God continue to bless us all in these trying times.

*May 1st, on the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop Miehm consecrated the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough to the intercession, care, and protection of Mary, Mother of the Church during the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.*

### Prayer of Consecration

Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in this time of pandemic, we turn our gaze to you, and in Christ consecrate to you the faithful of our Diocese together with all the people of Canada. At the Annunciation, fear gave way to trust as you embraced the mysterious and loving plan of God, who through his providence, care and concern brought about newness of life in you and through you. Intercede, we pray, on our behalf as your children, Virgin most faithful. Grant us, faith, hope and perseverance, as we strive to serve and bear witness to all persons, responding to the needs of those affected by this virus. Standing at the foot of the Cross at Calvary, you united yourself with the sufferings of Christ and so uniquely contributed to the mystery of our redemption. We beseech you as Health of the sick, draw to yourself in maternal compassion the brothers and sisters of your Son Jesus and all those who are grieved by this pandemic. Strengthen the dying and comfort those who weep so that all may experience the healing grace of Christ our Divine Physician. At the Cenacle, after the Resurrection, you accompanied the Apostles with prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In your maternal care as Consoler of the afflicted, accompany healthcare professionals, all who minister to the sick and those who seek a cure to end this pandemic, that the Holy Spirit may renew the face of the earth. To all of us, dearest Mary, Mother of all the living, be present and show forth your tenderness, as we raise our eyes to you who shines forth before the entire community as a merciful and compassionate companion on our journey. Time and time again, with burdens weighing heavily on their hearts and in their many necessities, the Christian faithful have sought refuge under your mantle of protection. Come quickly to our aid at this time, Mother of Mercy, and deliver us from the dangers that surround us in our hour of need; watch over especially the elderly, the weak and the infirm, our children and the unity of our families, and all those who give of themselves selflessly in pastoral care to those in need until in your arms and in your gentle embrace we all find safety and solace. Amen.