

# PENTECOST SUNDAY

## Collections May 31

**Regular Sunday offerings: \$1, 285**

\* 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 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-John 20:19-23

The Season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world. In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people. *Sunday Connection*

***Important Links:*** <https://youtu.be/0aaifSOfkPc> Youtube Mass of Bishop Miehm - Pentecost Sunday

<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

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

### ***Bishop Daniel Miehm- Bishop of Peterborough Diocese***

\* The Ontario legislature passed the extension of emergency measures until June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Accordingly, the closure of parishes and parish offices remains in place. I take this opportunity to thank you for working from rectories and home settings. I know this is not easy and I am thankful for the creative ways you are reaching out to the faithful and supporting them during this time of the pandemic. I also recognize that the pandemic has brought unique challenges for each of you - priests, staff, and your families. This a difficult time. I thank you for your ongoing commitment to the parish and kindness to your people as we endeavor to get through this together and earnestly look forward to re-opening. The plans for reopening are beginning. There is no specific date in view just yet but we know that eventually, daily routines will begin to resume. I assure you that the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and the individual Dioceses and Archdioceses across Canada are beginning to formulate plans which ensure the safety and health of people while resuming the celebrations of services, programs, and sacraments which are dear to us. Please keep these plans in your prayers asking for the wisdom of God to guide us prudently in these efforts. Once again, I thank you for your ministry and work. May God bless each of you and keep you well.

\* 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.

**\*ALL Churches, chapels, and offices remain closed to staff, volunteers, and the public. Premiere Ford’s nonessential workplace closure date has been extended in the legislature to TUESDAY JUNE 9th, 2020.**

**\*There is a Diocesan Reopening Committee currently ramping up. Further Information to come in the next few weeks regarding Guidelines and Framework for Reopening our parishes from Bishop Miehm and the Committee’s recommendations will follow.**

***Ontario Stage One Reopening*** (May 14) Ontarians will be able to go shopping, play tennis and take their pets to the vet next week, but they should still avoid visiting friends and family, Premier Doug Ford announced. Tuesday will mark the beginning of the province's first recovery stage, which also includes the resumption of some surgeries, as the numbers of new COVID-19 cases in Ontario continue to drop. A few measures will be loosened over the weekend. On Saturday, golf courses can reopen though clubhouses can only open for washrooms and take-out food. Marinas, boat clubs and public boat launches can open Saturday, as can private parks and campgrounds for trailers and RVs whose owners have a full season contract, and businesses that board animals. Although stage one will allow in-store shopping, golf games and for house cleaners and babysitters to work in people's homes, provincial guidance to stay two metres away from anyone outside people's immediate household is still in place. The health team is also looking closely at current restrictions on religious ceremonies. All construction can resume Tuesday and limits will be lifted on maintenance, repair and property management services, such as cleaning, painting, and pool maintenance.