



Our Lady of Mercy
Pray for Us



**"Stay awake, for
you know neither
the day nor the
hour."**



St. John the Baptist
Pray for Us

Collections - Sunday November 1st

\$1,465 - Regular Sunday Offerings

Weekday Masses

Wed Nov 11 – 11am Mass for Corbier & Phillips deceased family members by Mark and Mary Rose, all souls

Thurs Nov 12, Mass 11am – Melchor, Salus, Claro, Sergio, all Souls

Friday Nov 13, Mass 11am - all souls

Weekend Masses (33rd Sunday Ordinary Time)

Sunday November 15, 9am- Port Severn – For the people of the parish

Sunday November 15, 11am- Honey Harbour

St. Mary's Catholic Women's League, Victoria Harbour

Saturday November 14 from 10am-3pm & Sunday November 15 from 12N-2pm. *Huge Craft and Penny Sale with a large selection of Gifts and Preserves for Sale.*

The Sunday Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. He wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

Important Links

<https://youtu.be/TS9RaF1ZGiY> - 32nd Sunday Mass by Fr. Tom Lynch
<https://www.ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca> - Our 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 – Diocese of Peterborough

Bishop Daniel Michm

PRIEST BENEFIT FUND takes place on the weekend of November 22nd. This is another collection that we have had to reschedule from the period of church closures in the spring. It is an essential one as it maintains the fund that cares for our retired priests in the Diocese, so we really appreciate your generosity in supporting it. Rather than write the customary appeal letter, I tried something a little different this year; a conversation in which I interview Father Peter Seabrooke, who is one of our retired priests. You can view that brief video to learn about the life of a retired priest with its various blessings and a few challenges as well. Thanks, Father Peter, for being a willing participant!

Reopening Planning Committee met again this week for online discussions. Although we are now more than four months into the reopening of our parishes, matters of concern continue to be raised, especially as COVID-19 numbers in our province have escalated in recent weeks. These days I am emphasizing as much as possible with people the danger of COVID-19 fatigue. We must continue to be vigilant about our practices and safety protocols, both for the safety of our people and because we all want to avoid another round of closures. Prominent in our discussions this week was the celebration of Christmas which will undoubtedly present a few challenges given the current conditions.

Remembrance Day (Nov 11) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries. Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of First World War on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month", in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning. The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.

Pope's Comments on Same-Sex Civil Unions Were Taken Out of Context

- In a letter sent on October 30 from the Vatican's Secretariat of State to papal representatives around the world, the Vatican said that two comments made by Pope Francis in the film "Francesco" were taken out of context. The letter states that the Pope was speaking about the fact that "a son or daughter with a homosexual orientation should never be discriminated against within the family." They're children of God and have a right to a family," which was interpreted by some to mean that the Pope was in favor of same-sex couples forming families. Regarding the pope's comments in the film that "what we need is a civil union law," the Vatican's clarification says that the Pope was speaking about his opposition to a same-sex marriage law in Argentina ten years ago when the Pope was Archbishop of Buenos Aires. In that context, the Vatican's letter claims, the Pope "had spoken about the rights of these people to have certain legal protection," but not about same-sex marriage. "It is clear that Pope Francis was referring to certain provisions made by states, and certainly not to the doctrine of the Church, which he has reaffirmed numerous times over the years," the letter explains.

Saint Leo the Great (feast day September 10)-He was pope in year 440 to 461. He is one of the greatest popes of Christian history. In fact, he was the first pope to be given the title "the Great." Leo was widely respected for his love for the Lord, intelligence and persuasive nature. He was also gifted in bringing reconciliation between disputing groups of Christians. Pope Leo was deeply dedicated to his service as pope. Over time, he became known as one of the best administrative popes of the ancient Church. During his reign, he tirelessly fought to preserve the unity of the Church and its faith; and to ensure the safety of his people against invasions from armies which sought to destroy the Church and the Christian influence on culture which she brought to bear. He continuously worked to oppose and root out numerous heresies which were threatening the Western Church. Pope Leo was a great defender of the orthodox teaching of the Catholic Christian Church and protected the full deposit of faith. He was renowned for his profoundly spiritual sermons. With his words, Leo could reach the everyday needs and interests of his people. It was his reputation as an "instrument of the call to holiness, well-versed in Scripture and ecclesiastical awareness" that helped him become one of the greatest popes in the history of the Church.

Pope Francis – "The company of the saints helps us to recognize that God never abandons us, so that we can live and bear witness to hope on this earth. Let us strengthen the bonds of love and communion with all the Saints who are already in God's presence."