



CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

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Website: www.ccfp.dol.ca and Facebook: <https://facebook.com/bssaususj>

St. Agnes Church
52 Croydon Street

St. Ursula Church
205 Tweedsmuir Avenue West

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and we will return your call.

OFFICE CLOSED
(staff and team are available by phone)

The Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes has a Youtube channel. You can either go to our Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes website (www.ccfp.dol.ca) and click on the link provided or you can type in the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TF-6fs8iJfQ>

Please remember to click Subscribe to become one of our followers. Spread the word and let others know about our Youtube channel!



Next live streamed Masses:
Sunday, December 27 at 9 am
Friday, January 1 at 9 am
Sunday, January 3 at 9 am



PASTORAL STAFF

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Readings for January 10
Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7. Acts 10: 34-38.
Mathew 3: 13-17.

December 27, 2020 & JANUARY 3, 2021
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



UPDATE FROM BISHOP FABBRO

As directed by the Province of Ontario, as well as Bishop Fabbro, beginning December 26, all Masses and parish activities are cancelled until further notice.

Bishop Fabbro's update can be found on the Diocesan website at www.dol.ca. Look under "Covid-19 Update from Bishop Fabbro - update #15".

Please remember that Bishop Fabbro has extended the dispensation from the Sunday obligation up to and including Easter Sunday. It also includes the solemnities of the Nativity of the Lord (December 25) and Mary, Mother of God on the octave day of Christmas (January 1).

HAPPY RETIREMENT MICHELLE!

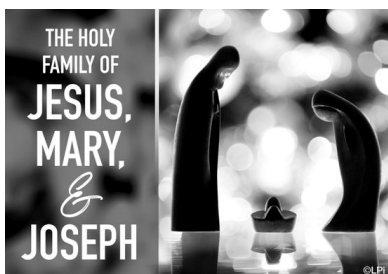


I want to congratulate Michelle on her decision to retire after 24.5 years of working for the Church. Michelle has been the front line worker for our Parish in greeting and taking care of the needs of parishioners. I have always considered the role of Secretary/Receptionist to be the most important job in a Parish. She has been the face of the Church for most people who come to the Church Office for their need. Michelle has always been a person who extended compassion, advice, understanding and information for all who came to seek fulfillment of their need.

To make this decision I extend congratulations to Michelle. I know that it is not an easy one to move forward on because there is always a doubt or two if you're making the right decision. Trust me Michelle - you might have a doubt or two but when it comes to the actual living out of the decision - you will be thankful you did it.

I will miss you - as all of us will. Your chair will be empty but your presence and the way you filled your position will be a standard that will be a standard to live up to. Once again I offer you Michelle my thanks and congratulations for all you have done for our Parish.

Fr. Jim



DEACON'S PEN

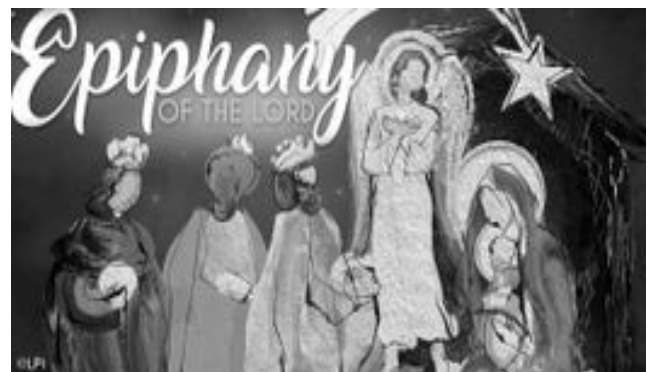
We celebrate the feast of the Holy Family and the Epiphany in these special two weeks. Family, the most important human group in our world, needs to be celebrated, lived, prayed for and blessed by God's people. The Epiphany celebrates that Jesus was not only human, but, the son of God.

How fitting immediately after the birth of Jesus do we celebrate the Holy Family. They are the example of a perfect family. Family is the basic of all basic units that gives life to humans. It should denote love, birth, safety, training, eating, fun and any number of other good things that we can experience in this earthly world.

Mary and Joseph came together and developed positively with their best human effort, understanding, patience, immense faith in God and love. They were poor; they had nothing; they had to give birth in a stable surrounded by God's creatures, visited by simple workers, shepherds. Could we envision ourselves giving birth to a child in a barn - we have hospitals and special care units? But there are others of our human kind who don't have this luxury, and give birth in tents, under trees, starving in deserts.

And then the importance of Jesus' birth is celebrated with the Epiphany; the baby Jesus is visited by three kings, an indication of the significance of Jesus. While Jesus, himself, did not consider that he was special; God the son coming to earth had to be celebrated; he was not just any baby; his birth was recognized by kings from afar. During these Sundays we must thank God for His gift of the holy family, giving us Jesus and celebrate Jesus' great importance in our human lives and, then thank God for our good fortunes. Pray for those who do not have the great living conditions that we experience.

Deacon Chris





New Year Prayer

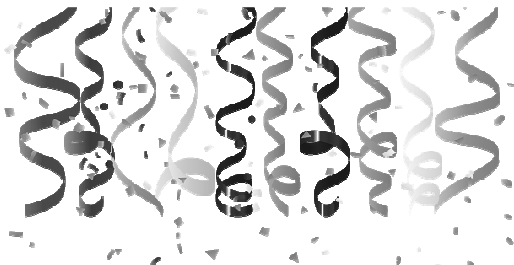
God, thank you for a new year.

*May everyone in our family
be willing to begin anew with a clean slate.*

*We know that You
are always ready to forgive us.*

*Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves
and to forgive one another.*

*As we begin a new year,
Help us to live in the goodness
that comes from doing what You want us to do.
Help us to put aside anxiety about the future
and the past, so that we might live in peace
with You now, one day at a time.
Amen.*



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Eloise & Jerome Lozon who celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary December 30.



Congratulations to

Maximus Golas, Mila Golas, Rhetter McColl,
Aleksandar Hutcheson, Brynn Bennett,
Douglas Walzack, Daytona Couture,
Aubrie Alliet-Day and Ryder Greason-Alliet

who joined our parish family through the
Sacrament of Baptism
during the month of December.

May they always live out their call to discipleship.



Congratulations to

John Boogaart & Yvonne Daudlin

who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage
during the month of December.

*May God continue to bless them
In their married life.*



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**St. Ursula
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Meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm
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Holy Family Sunday - December 27, 2020



YOUR HOLY FAMILY

BY DOBIE MOSER

The Holy Family inspires trust, courage, and obedience on the path to holiness

Married couples often look back at their wedding day and the beginning of their families with a wide range of emotions and memories. As a married man myself, I remember the power of love growing in our hearts. ... Could it be any greater, or bring more joy? Yes.

The Christian community joined with family and friends to offer encouragement and support for our new lives together. ... Would we really need them after all? Yes.

The sacramental vows pledged to one another, spoken in Catholic churches all over the world: "I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life. ..." Would all those times come in our marriage and family? Yes.

One common trait of newly married couples is that they don't know what they don't know. When we start out, we are unaware of what awaits us around life's corners. This opens the door to a lifelong adventure of discovery, both of ourselves and our spouses—and when they arrive on the scene, our children. With the best of intentions, we deeply desire to love one another, only to be humbled along the way when we discover that we do not fully know how to love another person. We learn that the problem with love is that there are so many bad forms of it, and we realize that we too are guilty of not loving well more often than we would like to admit. This essential life lesson leads us to search and hunger for an authentic love that guides and teaches us how to love. Only in Jesus Christ and through the Christian community can we discover and share that authentic love.

The Holy Family

While sentimental pictures of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus are heartwarming, such pictures belie the surprises, adventure, hardship, and humility that the Holy Family experienced. When Joseph learned that Mary was with child, his immediate reaction was to craft a quick exit plan. Building on that surprise, Joseph was

then visited in a dream by an angel who spoke these words: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21).

The adventures of the Holy Family continued with road trips, Jesus getting lost in the temple, and the wedding feast of Cana. These experiences and many more paint a picture of a Holy Family who, like us, didn't know what they were getting into and had no idea what awaited their family.

As Christians struggling to live as holy families, we too must humbly pray to God and try to be obedient to wherever God leads, all the while trusting that God's love and mercy is the source of our life and our salvation.

Years later, when Jesus went to the cross at Calvary, one wonders what might have been in Mary's heart? Could salvation be accomplished in any other way than by the suffering and death of her only son? Losing a child is a heartbreak that no parent would choose to endure if there were any other options.

Holy Family Wannabes

Like Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, our attempts to live as a holy family are fraught with surprises, adventures, and being humbled in ways we never imagined. When we think of being a holy family, we quickly go to that list in our heads that indicates how unqualified we feel. Most of us do not have angels speaking to us in our dreams and delivering specific messages the way Joseph did. Yet Joseph's role and his response offer helpful markers that can speak to our struggles to live as holy families now.

Joseph was a man of prayer who accepted God's answers with obedience, trust, and humility. Note that this did not always mean that Joseph understood when events took his family to unexpected and at times dark places. He had the courage to trust God and take the next step, wherever it might lead.

Joseph humbly accepted God's will and obeyed by following wherever it led. Joseph's humility and trust in God placed him fully in God's hands while not fully knowing what that would mean for him and for his family.

As Christians struggling to live as holy families, we too must humbly pray to God and try to be obedient to wherever God leads, all the while trusting that

God's love and mercy is the source of our life and our salvation.

Perhaps most difficult in our quest to live as holy families is seeing our brokenness, vulnerability, and suffering as necessary in order to discover how to love, how to live, and how to follow the path of Jesus. Many parents find themselves dealing with situations and sufferings in life that they never imagined would be part of their story and experience.

In the Broadway musical Hamilton, Alexander and Eliza Hamilton lose their firstborn son, Phillip, when he is killed in a duel at the age of 19. In the song, "It's Quiet Uptown," they lament their loss with these words:

*There are moments that the words don't reach;
There is suffering too terrible to name.
You hold your child as tight as you can,
and push away the unimaginable.
The moments when you're in so deep,
it feels easier to just swim down.
The Hamiltons move uptown,
and learn to live with the unimaginable.*

Our holy families might experience physical illness, addictions, work or financial issues, infertility, poverty, the suffering of family members, mental illness, depression—suffering comes in all shapes and sizes. As Christians, we prayerfully trust and hope that our suffering will be redemptive, meaningful, and life-giving, even though it rarely feels that way when we are in the throes of it.

Yet, like Joseph and Mary, we are challenged to go places we never expected and do things we might never have chosen to do, trusting and obeying that God is in control in ways that we are not. When we embrace the crosses of our life experience, the unimaginable becomes the redeemable, giving our lives meaning and showing us the mystery of God's love. We then can become more compassionate Christians who walk with others as they endure suffering on their own path of holiness. Your family is a holy family, because God's love and presence shines through you and each of your family members.

A Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection, and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready

comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Dobie Moser, DMin, directs Youth and Young Adult Ministry and CYO for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Cleveland. An author, trainer, and holy family wannabe with his wife, Lisa, and their seven children, Dobie serves on the team for StrongCatholicFamilies.org.

Celebrating the Holy Family -Activities for Families

- Write family letters: Use the Feast of the Holy Family as an opportunity to say thank you to your children, parents, and grandparents. Write letters to each other and, as a family, write letters to the members of your extended family. Add little notes of affirmation affirming something that you see in them is a blessing to you or others such as their unending smile and joy etc.
- Consecrate your own family to the Holy Family: Talk about how you would like to become more like the Holy Family, and keep these intentions in mind while you pray a prayer of consecration together. Variations of this prayer can be found on the internet.
- Holy Family crafts: If you have younger children, consider doing one of these crafts to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family: Holy Family scrapbook; Holy Family tree; Holy Family nativity set; Holy Family paper-bag puppets.
- Other Resources: check out the following Catholic family-friendly websites: catholicicing.com; catholicmom.com; catholicculture.org; catechist.com/blog. Resources above taken from: <http://www.catechist.com/blog/archives/1534-20131209.html>

Let the miracle of Christmas
fill your hearts with warmth
and love.

JANUARY 3, 2021 - FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Dec 28 1 John 1: 5, 2: 2. Matthew 2: 13-18
Dec 29 1 John 2: 3-11. Luke 2: 22-35
Dec 30 1 John 2: 12-17. Luke 2: 36-40
Dec 31 1 John 2: 18-21. John 1: 1-18
Dec 1 Numbers 6: 22-27. Galatians 4: 4-7
Dec 2 1 John 2: 22-28. John 1: 19-28

Jan 4 1 John 3: 22 - 4: 6. Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25
Jan 5 1 John 4: 7-10. Mark 6: 34-44
Jan 6 1 John 4: 11-18. Mark 6: 45-52
Jan 7 1 John 4: 19 - 5: 4. Luke 4: 14-22a
Jan 8 1 John 5: 5-13. Luke 5: 12-16
Jan 9 1 John 5: 14-21. John 3: 22-30

HOLY FAMILY Compassion

- Reading I** Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14
(duties toward parents)
- Reading II** Colossians 3: 12-21 (the practice of virtues; the Christian family)
- Gospel** Luke 2: 22-40 (circumcision of Jesus; presentation in the temple)

Key Passage As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. (Colossians 3: 12)

Adult How do your family members know that you are a compassionate person?

Child What family member needs your compassion and kindness right now?

EPIPHANY Unexpected gifts

- Reading I** Isaiah 30: 1-6
(glory of the new Zion)
- Reading II** Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6
(commission to preach God's plan)
- Gospel** Matthew 2: 1-13
(the visit of the magi)

Key Passage On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother. (Matthew 2: 10)

Adult When have you found the presence of Christ in an unexpected place?

Child Where and in whom will you look for Jesus this week?

CHURCH CHUCKLE



"I expect you to bring back four children and eight gloves."

HOW TO DONATE TO THE CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY

As we are all forced to slow down in our current world, unfortunately some things continue along, such as our household bills and expenses. The same goes for our parishes as well, that operate mainly on donations received at Mass. If you normally donate with your offertory envelope when you attend Mass, there are some other options—including a new, easy, online option.

E-TRANSFER

Using your online banking website or app, add the parish you wish to donate to using the parish email address:

Blessed Sacrament - bsacramentparish@dol.ca

Our Lady of Victory - ourladyv@dol.ca

St. Agnes - stagnes@dol.ca

St. Joseph - stjoseph@dol.ca

St. Ursula - stursula@dol.ca

Create the e-transfer and in the comment/note area, please indicate your envelope number or your address and which fund you are donating to, such as Sunday Offertory, Easter, Building, Share Lent etc.

No password is needed as the parishes are set up for autodeposit.

CHEQUE

If you do not use online banking, you can mail a cheque to the office. Please make your cheque payable to the particular parish and on the memo line, indicate which fund you are donating to. Please mail it to:

St. Agnes Parish

52 Croydon St.

Chatham ON N7L 1L3

Attention: "Name of parish you are donating to"

PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit)

If you wish to set up PAD, you won't have to worry about remembering to bring your envelope to Mass or be concerned that you can't donate because you can't attend Mass, such as our current situation.

There is a form available on the website (www.ccfp.dol.ca/how-to-donate or click Giving/How to Donate on the top menu). You can print off the form and fill it out and either scan the form and a void cheque and email it (using the email addresses above), or mail the form and void cheque to the office (using the address indicated above). Please note for this method, the form must be received before the 15th of the month in order to take effect the next month.



We have a new way to make your donations to the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes! Parishioners and visitors can make donations online using a computer, laptop, tablet or any mobile device, using your Visa and Mastercard (credit card, as well as Visa and Mastercard debit cards) for any type of donation. This includes both one-time donations and recurring donations. We have been working with a team of experts from Plently Inc. to develop this capability.

Getting Started Is Easy

•Using your **mobile device's camera**, scan the QR code (see codes below with the particular parish name you wish to donate to), and simply follow the instructions on the screen to make your donation. If you have an older Android smartphone, you may have to install a scanning app – newer androids and all iPhones will scan without the scanning app. You will quickly be directed to the web application.

OR

•On your **computer or electronic device**, go to Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes website: www.ccfp.dol.ca, then choose the **How to Donate** button on the home screen, or on the top menu, click **Giving/How to Donate**, and follow the instructions for the particular parish you wish to donate to.

You will have the option to choose where your donation will go, such as Regular Sunday Offertory, Christmas, Building etc. You can also add a comment. Any funds donated through Plently will be part of your annual tax receipt from the parish.

There is no fee to make your donation using this service. Plently Inc. runs on Amazon Web services and meets strict Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DDS) for service providers.

This option is currently not available for Our Lady of Victory Parish.



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH



ST. AGNES PARISH



ST. JOSEPH PARISH



ST. URSULA PARISH

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions
for the week of December 28 - 30

Please note these Mass Intentions will be celebrated privately on the specified date by our priests.

Monday, Dec 28 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

Tuesday, Dec 29 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Andy O'Neil ~ Anna Schneider
~ Maria Gloria Oliveira

Tuesday, Dec 29 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Giovanni Ruggiero ~ Henry O'Neill
~ Intentions of Tony Plcard

Wednesday, Dec 30 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Mary Pear

Wednesday, Dec 30- St. Joseph intentions
~ In thanksgiving to St. Anthony

Wednesday, Dec 30 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Intentions of Peter Zalewska

*To Everything there is a Season...
"a time to be healed..."*

Please pray for those from our parish family
who are currently sick.

"a time to die...."

Please remember in your prayers all deceased
relatives and parishioners especially Ken Mitivier and
Angelique Rupert.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR
December 27

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan
ministers: Mrs. Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister; Rev.
Martin (Sam) Johnston; Deacon Tim Raaymakers;
Rev. James Roche; Institute of Secular Missionaries;
Sisters of Service; Deacon Rudolph (Rudy) Pflanzner.

January 3

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan
ministers: Rev. Canon Mitchel Kaminski; Rev. Frank
Leslie; Deacon Gaston Mabaya; Deacon Gary
Flewelling; Rev. Lawrence Pare; Rev. Michael
O'Brien; Sister Marija Ivic, S.F.B.Z., Pastoral
Minister.

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions
for the week of January 4 - 9

Please note these Mass Intentions will be celebrated privately on the specified date by our priests.

Monday, Jan 4 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

Tuesday, Jan 5 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Intentions of St. Agnes St. Vincent de Paul
~ Maria dos Santos ~ Francis Kaufman

Tuesday, Jan 5 - St. Ursula intentions
~ George Aitken ~ Sam Houston
~ Irene Van Raemdonck

Wednesday, Jan 6 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Dorothy Blommestyn

Wednesday, Jan 6- St. Joseph intentions
~ People of the parish

Wednesday, Jan 6 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Marianna Bilski

Thursday, Jan 7 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Edward Daudlin
~ Dora Bechard & Paul Kloostra
~ Intentions of Blessed Sacrament St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday, Jan 7 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Tony Ferrara ~ Phil Carruthers ~ Kay O'Hara

Friday, Jan 8 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Shay Harwood

Friday, Jan 8 - St. Joseph intentions
~ People of the parish

Saturday, Jan 9 - Our Lady of Victory
~ People of the parish



Bishop Fabbro's 2020 Christmas Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas will be different this year. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we will not be able to enjoy all the usual festivities: gatherings with family members who are far from us, concerts and pageants, and parties with friends and coworkers.

As we experience the government restrictions during this pandemic, we find inspiration in the example of Mary and Joseph. They respected the Emperor's decree and made the difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. Mary was expecting a child. There was no place for them in the inn. They were away from home and family, isolated from everything that was familiar, but the promise of a child was fulfilled - a child who was Emmanuel, God-with-us. So much was taken away, yet so much more was given.

By his coming among us in such humble circumstances, Jesus blesses every home and family. Confident that he is with us in all things, we can celebrate his birth simply and genuinely in our homes - putting up the crib, telling the Nativity story, exchanging gifts, eating and praying together. Practices such as these build strong families of faith.

Yes, Christmas will be different this year, but it can be an especially graced time - an opportunity to enter into the mystery at the heart of this holy season. Christmas without the usual extravagance and busyness. Christmas as it is meant to be.

On December 8, Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph, which extends until December 8, 2021. "Joseph's attitude," the pope writes, "encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (1 Cor 1:27). He is the 'Father of orphans and protector of widows' (Ps 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst."

Christmas has always been a special time for us, and for our parishes, to help the poor on our streets, the working poor struggling to make ends meet, single mothers, refugees, and those who are isolated, marginalized and vulnerable. When we love "the stranger in our midst", we encounter Jesus and discover the true gift of Christmas.

I thank you for your continued support of our parishes this past year, and I extend my special thanks to our parish teams and volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure the faithful can safely access our churches and celebrate the sacraments.

During this holy season, I want to assure you that you will be in my thoughts and prayers. May it be a blessed time for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London



The Diocese of London: *being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus.*