



Parish Week

Sunday,
29 March 2020

Saturday, 28 Mar.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Sylvie Watters (Joyce Durban)
4.00 pm St. M.G. Sch. 1st Com. Family Inst. – *to be resch.*
5.00 pm Mass: † Lalita D'Souza (Joseph)

SUNDAY, 29 MAR. / LENT 5-A / SHARE LIFE SUNDAY

■ Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo

■ 2nd Collection: ShareLife

- 9.00 am Mass: † Felice Vighali (family)
10.30 am Mass: † Theo Secco & Dagmar Timmins (Louis & Sandra)
11.30 am Catholic Women's League
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Philomena Chen (friends)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 30 Mar.

- 8.00 am Mass: Pro Populo
6.00 pm St. M.G. Sch. 1st Com. Family Inst. – *to be resch.*
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Tuesday, 31 Mar.

- 8.00 am Mass: Pro Populo
12.30 pm St. M.G. School Mass – *to be resch.*
7.00 pm Mass: † Joseph Antaniapillai (Sasi Pathmanathan)

Wednesday, 1 Apr.

- 8.00 am Mass: Pro Populo
9.10 am St. Albert Sch. Confirmation Inst. #3 – *to be resch.*
7.00 pm Mass: † Michael Dennis Solomon (Anne-Marie)
7.30 pm Lenten Day of Confession (*to 9 pm*)

Thursday, 2 Apr. / St. Francis of Paola, hermit

- 8.00 am Mass: Pro Populo
9.10 am St. M.G. Sch. Confirmation Inst. #3 – *to be resch.*
7.00 pm Mass: † Susan Aplacador Rado (Romel)

Friday, 3 Apr.

- 8.00 am Mass: Pro Populo
6.00 pm Mass: Holy Hour
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Anita Dias (friends)
7.30 pm Stations of the Cross (Knights of Columbus)

Saturday, 4 Apr. / St. Isidore, bishop & martyr

- 8.00 am Mass: † Gabriel, Francis & Christy Andreas (Antania Ambrose)
5.00 pm Mass: † Jacob Diaz (mother)

SUNDAY, 5 APR. / PALM SUNDAY

- 9.00 am Mass: † Agapet Fernandez (Mary)
10.30 am Mass: Int. Jerry Koenig on his Birthday (Tina)
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Aurelia Adriano (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

The parish Priests are celebrating private Masses daily during the current *Covid 19 shutdown*, honouring the Intentions requested by our Parishioners.

Focus on the Word

5th Sunday of Lent, Year A

Ezekiel 37.12-14; Romans 8.8-11; John 11.1-45

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Amen.

Pray for the Deceased

Daniel Cinco

The 42 victims of the landslide in Cameroon



Stations of the Cross

Facilitators: April 3 - Knights of Columbus; 10 - Lectors

During the current *Covid 19 shutdown*, parishioners are welcome to pray the **Stations of the Cross** and **Rosary** privately.

ShareLife 2020

Living the Gospel!

5th Sunday of Lent, 29 March

*Living the Gospel locally
and around the world*



"Last year, your generosity to ShareLife made a difference in the lives of over 140,000 people locally and countless more around the world. Thank you for helping so many people experience God's love and compassion."

– Cardinal Thomas Collins

Today is *ShareLife Sunday*. Thank you for your generosity. Please give generously. *You can work wonders!*

Our parish will be prepared to resume plans for our 2020 *ShareLife* Campaign when the current *Covid 19 shutdown* ends.

Sacramental Preparation

All Sacramental Preparation meetings and instructions will be rescheduled after the current *Covid 19 shutdown* ends.

Sunday Mass Slips

During the current *Covid 19 shutdown*, students must hold on to their slips, as presentations cannot take place.

COMING UP

35L20

This year, the HOLY WEEK liturgies will follow a plan prepared by the office of **Cardinal Collins**, Archbishop of Toronto.

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For the *Prayer to St. Michael*, and more information on parish activities, see pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.

Stewardship Message for Parishioners



Dear Parishioners,

We hope and pray that you are staying healthy – both physically and spiritually. Please let us know if the parish can help you during these difficult times.

We are all aware that our parish relies on the support of our parishioners to function. Parish salaries, programs and ongoing operating costs (heating, water, electricity, etc.) are all funded through the generosity of our parish community. Without the weekly offertory collection during this COVID 19 crisis, the parish needs to have practical ways for its members to maintain operations.

In response to many requests received from parishioners, the Archdiocese has identified ways that we can continue to support our parish.

Here are the ways that you can continue to support our parish at this time:

- Hold on to your regular weekly offertory contribution until the parish office can re-open.
- Contribute to our parish offertory by credit card. See the link for this in this letter on our website. You will then be able to select our parish in the drop-down menu. You can make a one time or recurring contribution to our parish offertory or other special funds.
- Contribute through *pre-authorized giving*. See the link for this in the letter on our website for more information on pre-authorized giving. You can click in the letter our website to download an enrollment form which can be printed and completed. Return the completed form and a voided cheque to your parish office. Or e-mail the form and a scanned copy or photo of a voided cheque to development@archtoronto.org for processing. Contributions are withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month.
- You can contribute to the offertory via online banking. To do this, the archdiocese will need to send you a unique account number. Please send an e-mail to campaign@archtoronto.org. In your email message provide:

☐ Your name ☐ Address ☐ Parish name ☐ Municipality

You will be emailed account information which you can use to set up the Archdiocese of Toronto as a payee in your on-line banking. Your gift will be forwarded to our parish. You can make a one time or recurring gift to our parish Offertory.

If you have any questions, please contact the Development Office at the Archdiocese of Toronto:

Phone: 416-934-3400, ext. 540, or email: development@archtoronto.org.

Thank you for your many contributions to our parish. We miss seeing all of you at Mass, and we pray daily that we will be able to gather together again soon.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Edwin Galea, *pastor*;

Fr. Elias Chachati, *associate pastor*;

Rev. Mr. Ramon Villardo, *deacon*





Extraordinary **Urbi et Orbi** Blessing from Pope Francis 1.00 pm ET, 27 March 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **Pope Francis** will offer an extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing on Friday, 27 March 27, 2020 at 1 pm Eastern Time (6 pm Rome time). All those who are present for the blessing via TV, radio or the internet, and who are truly sorry for their sins, can receive a Plenary Indulgence.

The *Urbi et Orbi* blessing (which means “to the city of Rome and to the world”) is performed from the balcony to St. Peter Square when a new Pope is elected, and on Christmas and Easter. At this time, St. Peter Square is empty as Italy is in lockdown because of coronavirus.

Vatican News reports that the ceremony will:

“Consist in readings from the Scriptures, prayers of supplication, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It will conclude with **Pope Francis** giving this special *Urbi et Orbi* blessing.” Catholics in Toronto can watch the *Urbi et Orbi* blessing live on SALT+LIGHT TV on Friday at 1 pm Eastern Time

Pope Francis composes a prayer to OUR LADY, HEALTH OF THE SICK, imploping her protection during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus’ pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father’s will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection,
O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas,
for we are put to the test; and deliver us from every
danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.



Special Protocol for Holy Week 2020

A Decree entitled “In time of Covid-19,” (II) has been issued by the CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS on 25 March 2020. The new document updates an earlier decree, dated 19 March 2020. It contains responses to questions it has received regarding the celebration of the Easter Liturgy. Both Decrees are issued “by mandate of the Supreme Pontiff, for the year 2020 only.”

Since numerous countries have banned public Church services due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Vatican has specified what will happen in parishes throughout the world during Holy Week this year.

Since “the date of Easter cannot be transferred,” explained **Cardinal Robert Sarah**, “in the countries which have been struck by the disease and where restrictions around the assembly and movement of people have been imposed, Bishops and Priests may celebrate the rites of Holy Week without the presence of the people and in a suitable place, avoiding concelebration, and omitting the sign of peace.”

For Palm Sunday, the Decree states that the liturgy “is to be celebrated within sacred buildings.” Normally, a procession takes place before Mass, which involves all faithful attending Mass.

The Chrism Mass, which is celebrated by each diocesan Bishop on the morning of Holy Thursday, may be moved this year.

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday will not end with a procession. The Blessed Sacrament, which would otherwise be moved to a different place, “is to be kept in the Tabernacle.”

The ceremonial washing of the feet is to be omitted.”

Normally, no private Masses may be said during the *Triduum*, the last three days preceding Easter. This year, “the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place on Holy Thursday, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all Priests.”

On Good Friday, a part of the liturgy is the *universal prayer*, where the Priest prays for certain intentions. This year, “Bishops will arrange to have a special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick and the dead.” The Veneration of the Cross “shall be limited solely to the celebrant.”

The Easter Vigil, celebrating Christ’s resurrection, is to be celebrated “only in Cathedral and parish churches.” The Liturgy of Baptism, a major part of the Vigil, is to be reduced to only the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Holy Week 2020

Specific Procedures for the Archdiocese of Toronto

25 March 2020

A Summary of the Guidelines for the Celebration of the Holy Week Liturgies, issued by **Cardinal Collins**

Dear Father, In this time of tribulation, we as priests of Jesus Christ, are all the more called to deepen our exercise of this sacred ministry to the glory of God and the service of His people. Each day we do this through the celebration of the Eucharist even when it is not possible for the people to be present. We also do this through the *Liturgy of Hours* in which we pray for God's people as their priests, and I strongly encourage every priest to spend at least an hour before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer for the people.

We are nearing the most sacred time of the year. It is essential that, in every parish in the diocese, the ceremonies of **Holy Week** and **Easter** proceed even though adapted to the restrictions required at this time.

Due to the current pandemic, the liturgical celebration of the paschal mysteries of Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter will be celebrated without the physical participation of the faithful. The following instruction outlines how these liturgies are to be celebrated in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael, and in all parish churches throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Palm Sunday – 5 April 2020

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael:

- The liturgy of Palm Sunday will begin at 10:00 am, and will be livestreamed so that the faithful may prayerfully unite themselves in their homes to the celebration of the liturgy.
- The liturgy will commence with the blessing of palms, the proclamation of the Gospel and the Solemn Entrance, but without the procession of palms. Blessed palms will be distributed at a later date.
- Present at the liturgy will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.

At Parish Churches:

- The pastor accompanied by his Associate will begin the liturgy of Palm Sunday with the blessing of palms, the proclamation of the Gospel and Solemn Entrance, but without the procession of palms. Blessed palms will be distributed at a later date.

The Mass of Chrism – 7 April 2020

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael:

- The Mass of Chrism will begin at 10:00 am, and will be livestreamed so that the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the archdiocese will have an opportunity to prayerfully unite themselves in their homes to the celebration of the liturgy.
- Present at the liturgy will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- The liturgy will include the blessing of Holy Oils, which will be distributed at a later date.

The Mass of The Lord's Supper – Holy Thursday, 9 April 2020

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael:

- The Mass of the Lord's Supper will begin at 7:00 pm, and will be livestreamed so that the faithful may prayerfully unite themselves in their homes to the celebration of the liturgy.
- Present at the liturgy will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- The washing of feet will be omitted.
- At the end of the Holy Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the tabernacle. There will not be a procession to a special place of reposition.

At Parish Churches:

- The Pastor accompanied by his Associate will begin the Mass of the Lord's Supper.
- The washing of feet will be omitted.
- At the end of the Holy Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the Tabernacle.

The Solemn Liturgy of The Lord's Passion – Good Friday, 10 April 2020

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael:

- The Good Friday Passion of the Lord will begin at 3:00 pm, and will be livestreamed so that the faithful may prayerfully unite themselves in their homes to the celebration of the liturgy.
- Following the special Decree of 19, special prayers will be said "for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed."

At Parish Churches:

- At 3:00 pm, the Pastor accompanied by his Associate will begin the Liturgy for Good Friday. • Special prayers are to be said "for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed."

The Easter Vigil Liturgy

– Holy Saturday, 11 April 2020

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael

- The Easter Vigil will begin at 7:00 pm, and will be livestreamed so that the faithful may prayerfully unite themselves in their homes to the celebration of the liturgy.
- Present at the liturgy of the Vigil will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- At the beginning of the Vigil, the lighting of the fire is omitted. The Paschal Candle is lit in the Sanctuary. The procession with the Paschal Candle is omitted. The Exsultet then follows immediately, and the Vigil proceeds in the usual way.
- The renewal of Baptismal Promises replaces the Liturgy of Baptism.
- The rite of Baptism and the Reception of Baptized Christians is to be deferred to a later time.

At Parish Churches

- The Pastor accompanied by his Associate will begin the Easter Vigil Liturgy.
- The lighting of the fire is omitted, and the Paschal Candle is lit in the sanctuary, without the procession. The Exsultet then follows immediately, and the Vigil proceeds in the usual way.
- The renewal of Baptismal Promises replaces the Liturgy of Baptism.
- The rite of Baptism and the Reception of Baptized Christians is to be deferred to a later time.

Easter Sunday – 12 April 2020

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael

- The Mass for Easter Sunday will begin at 10:00 am, and will be livestreamed so that the faithful may prayerfully unite themselves in their homes to the celebration of the liturgy.
- Present at the Mass will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- Special prayers will be said for those affected by the current pandemic, for our religious and government leaders, and for the dead.

At Parish Churches

- The Pastor accompanied by his Associate will celebrate the Mass of Easter Sunday.

Special prayers are to be said for those affected by the current pandemic, for our religious and government leaders, and for the dead.

Reconciliation

Preparation for the sacred time of Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter Sacrament of Reconciliation:

The only ordinary way of attaining forgiveness for sins is participating in individual and integral Confession and receiving Absolution.

If a person is unable to meet a Priest for the Sacrament during the current pandemic, it will suffice for the moment to pray the *Act of Contrition* as best as one can, intending it truthfully, and to commit to participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible when conditions allow. There will be no permission granted for General Absolution.

Resources

Consecration to the Sacred Heart

On 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation, 24 nations were consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The consecration was initiated by the bishops of Portugal in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Besides Portugal, the 23 other countries were Albania, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Slovakia, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Kenya, the Dominican Republic, Romania, Spain, Tanzania, East Timor, and Zimbabwe.

Spiritual Communion

WHAT IS IT?

Spiritual Communion is a way to be united with Christ when we cannot physically receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. It can be made at home or in church, in front of the Blessed Sacrament or not.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Following these guidelines:

Start with the Sign of the Cross.

Read and reflect on the readings from Mass that day.

Have a real desire to be united with Christ.

Acknowledge your sins and ask for forgiveness.

Receive Christ in your soul and pray (see below)

St. Alphonsus Liguori's Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Special Good Friday intercession prayer

On Good Friday, a part of the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is the *universal prayer*, where the Priest prays explicitly for certain predetermined intentions, for instance for the whole hierarchy of the Church.

This year, "Bishops will arrange to have a special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick and the dead."

The German bishops already published a new prayer.

Fürbitte

Für andere zu beten legt sich in Zeiten einer Pandemie nahe. Hier finden Sie ein Beispiel für fürbittendes Gebet. Die Fürbitte kann im Gottesdienst verwendet oder als Gebetszettel aufgelegt werden.

Beten wir für alle Menschen, die am Corona-Virus erkrankt sind,
für alle, die Angst haben vor einer Infektion,
für alle, die sich nicht frei bewegen können,
für die Ärztinnen und Pfleger, die sich um die Kranken kümmern,
für die Forschenden, die nach Schutz und Heilmitteln suchen,
dass Gott unserer Welt in dieser Krise seinen Segen erhalte.

(*Stilles Gebet*)

Allmächtiger Gott, du bist uns Zuflucht und Stärke, viele Generationen vor uns haben dich als mächtig erfahren, als Helfer in allen Nöten.

Steh allen bei, die von dieser Krise betroffen sind, und stärke in uns den Glauben, dass du dich um jede und jeden von uns sorgst.
Darum bitten wir durch Christus, unseren Herrn.

The first part reads, "Let us also pray for all those who are seriously ill during these weeks; for those who live in fear and care for one another; for those who care for the sick in medicine and nursing; for researchers who are seeking protection and remedies; and for those who have to make decisions and are working for society, but also for the many whom death has ripped out of life."

After silent prayer, the second part continues,

"Almighty God, you are our refuge and strength; many generations have experienced you as powerful, as a helper in all needs. Stand by all who are affected by this crisis and strengthen in us the faith that you hold all people in your good hands. But accept the deceased into your kingdom, where they are safe with you,"

Remember our SHARELIFE Agencies at this critical time

Community / Family Services

Catholic Community Services of York Region, Catholic Cross-cultural Services, Catholic Family Services of Durham, Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin, Catholic Family Services of Simcoe Country, Catholic Family Services of Toronto, *FertilityCare* Toronto, Natural Family Planning Association

People with Special Needs

Mary Centre, *Our Place* Community of Hope, Saint Elizabeth Health Care, St. Bernadette's Family, Resources Centre, St. Michael's Homes / Matt Talbot Houses, *Silent Voice* Canada (*ministry to the deaf*)

Children and Youth

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Catholic Settlement House Day Nursery, *Covenant House*, Sancta Maria House

Young Parents

Rosalie Hall, Rose of Durham, Rose of Sharon, *Vita* Centre

Seniors

Les Centres d'Accueil Heritage, Loyola Arrupe Centre, Providence Healthcare, Society of Sharing

Affiliated Organizations

Camp Ozanam (*Society of St. Vincent de Paul*), Good Shepherd Ministries, Birthright International



Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Stations of the Cross for Private Use

Used by the Franciscans.

First Station

Jesus Condemned to Death

O Jesus! Sso meek and uncomplaining, teach me resignation in trials.

Second Station

Jesus Carries His Cross

My Jesus, this Cross should be mine, not Thine; my sins crucified Thee.

Third Station

Our Lord Falls the First Time

O Jesus! By this fall, never let me fall into mortal sin.

Fourth Station

Jesus Meets His Mother

O Jesus! may no human tie, however dear, keep me from following the road of the Cross.

Fifth Station

Simon the Cyrenean Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Simon unwillingly assisted Thee; may I with patience suffer all for Thee.

Sixth Station

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

O Jesus! Thou didst imprint Thy sacred features upon Veronica's veil; stamp them also indelibly upon my heart.

Seventh Station

The Second Fall of Jesus

By Thy second fall, preserve me, dear Lord, from relapse into sin.

Eighth Station

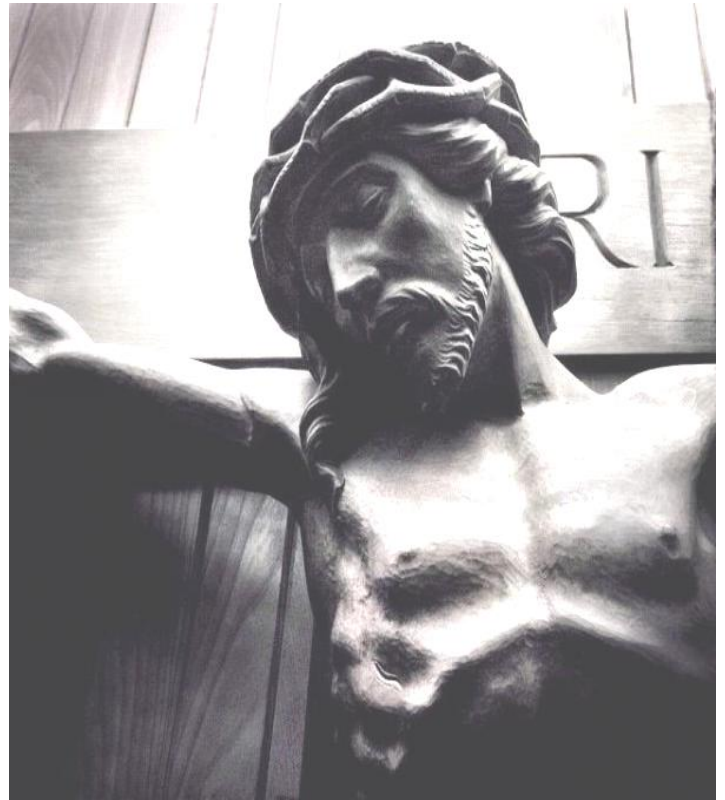
Jesus Consoles the Women of Jerusalem

My greatest consolation would be to hear You say: "Your sins are forgiven, for you have loved much."

Ninth Station

Third Fall of Jesus

O Jesus! when weary upon life's long journey, be Thou my strength and my perseverance.



Tenth Station

Jesus Stripped of His Garments

My soul has been robbed of its robe of innocence; clothe me, dear Jesus, with the garb of penance and contrition.

Eleventh Station

Jesus Nailed to the Cross

Thou didst forgive Thy enemies; my God, teach me to forgive injuries and FORGET them.

Twelfth Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Thou art dying, my Jesus, but Thy Sacred Heart still throbs with love for Thy sinful children.

Thirteenth Station

Jesus Taken Down from the Cross

Receive me into thy arms, O Sorrowful Mother; and obtain for me perfect contrition for my sins.

Fourteenth Station

Jesus Laid in the Sepulchre

When I receive Thee into my heart in Holy Communion, O Jesus, make it a fit abiding place for Thy adorable Body. Amen.

Brother Richard Hendrick is a Capuchin Franciscan priest-friar living in Ireland where, for over 20 years, he has worked to bring the insights of contemplative spirituality and modern mindfulness theory to greater public awareness, as a form of resilience in times of stress.

He has penned a poem about coronavirus.

Lockdown

by Brother Richard

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise, you can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no longer thick with fumes but blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel
in the West of Ireland
is offering free meals and delivery
to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elderly may have someone
to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and
Temples are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.
All over the world people are slowing down
and reflecting



All over the world people are looking at their
neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a
new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters...

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the
soul.

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live
now.

Today, breathe, listen....

Behind the factory noises of your panic,

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing, Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

Light in a Doctor's Darkest Nightmare

Never in my darkest nightmares did I imagine that I would see and experience what has been going on in Italy in our hospital the past three weeks. The nightmare flows, and the river gets bigger and bigger. At first, a few patients came, then dozens, and then hundreds. Now, we are no longer doctors, but sorters who decide who should live and who should be sent home to die, though all these patients paid Italian health taxes throughout their lives.

Until two weeks ago, my colleagues and I were atheists. It was normal because we are doctors. We learned that science excludes the presence of God. I laughed at my parents going to church.

Nine days ago, a 75-year-old parish Priest was admitted into the hospital. He was a kind man. He had serious breathing problems. He had a Bible with him and impressed us by how he read it to the dying as he held their hand. We doctors were all tired, discouraged, psychologically and physically finished. When we had time, we listened to him.

We have reached our limits. We can do no more. People are dying every day. We are exhausted. We have two colleagues who have died, and others that have been infected. We realized that we needed to start asking God for help. We do this when we have a few free minutes. When we talk to each other, we cannot believe that, though we were once fierce atheists, we are now daily in search of peace, asking the Lord to help us continue so that we can take care of the sick.

Yesterday, the 75-year-old Priest died. Despite having had over 120 deaths here in 3 weeks, we were destroyed. He had managed, despite his condition and our difficulties, to bring us a *Peace* that we no longer had hoped to find. The Priest went to the Lord, and soon we will follow him if matters continue like this.

I haven't been home for 6 days. I don't know when I ate last. I realize my worthlessness on this earth. I want to use my last breath to help others. I am happy to have returned to God while I am surrounded by the suffering and death of my fellow men.

Dr. Julian Urban, *Lombardy, Italy*

Dr. Urban is a 38 year old medical doctor in Lombardy. Report submitted by Julian Jansen, journalist, South Africa.