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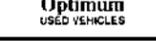
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Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) - rsidowney@gmail.com
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Hot Lunch Program

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Saturday Vigil Music
Sunday Choir & Organist

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St. Mary's Parish Friends
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St. Vincent de Paul Society

Our Parish Schools

St. Mary's Elementary

36 Silverwood Dr., Huntsville, ON, P1H 1N1 705.789.6481
<http://smh.schools.smcdsb.on.ca>

St. Dominic Secondary

955 Cedar Lane, Bracebridge, ON, P1L 0A1 705.646.8772
<http://om.schools.smcdsb.on.ca>

Sunday September 6, 2020
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Trees of Peace

A life time ago, there was a young boy who lived on a small farm, outside a small village. It was an idyllic life, along with his three older brothers, his mother and his father, having everything they needed. One day, while selling some of their produce at the local market, he over heard some people talking about the impending war that was coming their way. He could see in their faces and hear in their voices, fear and trembling. Later at home, he asked his father what was the meaning of war. His father explained it was an act of madness on the part of people. They do not listen to one another, but instead resort to all forms of violence and cruelty against one's neighbor, taking what is not theirs.

He said, "War brings about death and destruction, to people, animals, property and the land. No one ever really wins, but everyone certainly loses much. War always takes away from you what you value most, and there is nothing you can do to bring it back." In the young boy's heart, he hoped and prayed that war would not happen, but it was not to be.

Every able body man and woman who could carry a gun, were called to arms. They were led off to fight and kill their neighbor, who only a few days before had been buying their goods at the market. He saw that same fear and trembling in his parents' faces and voices, as they said goodbye to their sons. He did not know at the time that this would be the last he would ever see his brothers. When their tragic deaths reached his parent's ears, a dark veil of sadness and grief descended upon them. Within a few months, the young boy buried them both, becoming a man at the age of 13. He now understood his father's words that war takes away from you all that you value most, and you can never get it back. Only now he felt the unnerving depth of these words to be an unshakeable darkness.

In time, to honour his brothers' and parents' deaths, he decided to plant a tree for each one of them, forming a circle. As part of his daily routine, he tended to them, watering and feeding them. In the evening, he would sit in the middle, and share with them what had happened that day. Finally good fortune visited him and both countries, with the declaration of a truce. The war had ended. Slowly life returned to some semblance of normalcy. Weekly he would venture into the village and there he heard of others who had suffered similar losses. So, it occurred to him to plant a tree to honour those who had died. He did not necessarily know them personally, but he did have an affinity for their pain. Over time, people from near by villages and towns came to his farm and asked if they could also plant a tree in memory of a loved one. There were even those who had been their enemy during the war who came to his farm, and asked if they could plant a tree. The young boy was pleased with this. He thought to himself, all these trees are unique and are not in conflict with one another, but are willing and able to grow up next to one another, in peace. As the years passed, the farm had become a forest, providing food and shelter for all kinds of life. Peace, he thought was here at last to stay. But it was not to be.

Rumours of war between these two countries, was about to break out again. Now a young man, with a wife and small daughter, he refused to accept this horror again. So he pleaded with those in power, to send a representative from the two countries to visit his small farm. To his surprise, they accepted. Upon their arrival, he took them through the entire forest, and explained the purpose of the trees. Though there were thousands, upon thousands of trees, each one was planted in memory of a loved one. He was able to identify who the tree was planted for by name. He urged them to consider that it had taken many years for these trees to grow. That they had become food for him and others, shelter for birds, and that animals had come to the area, as a sanctuary and a place of peace.

Finally he said to them, "these trees are a legacy to those men, women and children who did not have a chance to grow up and to live a full life. If you start another war, this will all be wiped out, and you will be betraying their memory. And for what?"

The two men left in silence. The young man was hopeful. For many months, all that was heard was the birds and the rustling of leaves in the wind. But one day he heard a rumbling in the distancing. At first he thought it was thunder, but there were no clouds in the sky. He then recalled this sound from his youth and knew that something quite unnatural was coming this way. So he walked through the forest, apologizing to each and every tree, for their lives were about to be cut short. In his naivete he thought that by planting life, he could keep the death and destruction of war away.

So, in the evening, along with his wife and daughter, they came and sat in the middle of the cluster of trees that were his family. They were now in the midst of a great forest that had grown up all around them, strong and true. This forest had become as much a part of his family as had his wife and child And he wept for them all.

SVDP SOCIETY

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The members of the St. Vincent de Paul group here in our parish, thank you for your continued **Food Pantry Donations!** At this time we are in need of **Jam, Cookies and Pasta Sauce.** Thank you.



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2020

“O that today that you would listen to the voice of the Lord. Do not harden your hearts!” Ps 95

“In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” 2 Cor. 5.19

Early Autumn in Algonquin Park



Winter is coming, it is a sign of change. Let us welcome it like an old friend coming home. Peace

“People do not resist change, They resist being changed.”
Peter Senge

“There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.”

Niccolo Machiavelli

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”

Norman Vincent Peale

Next Sunday September 13, 2020 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“There must be no limits to your goodness, as your heavenly Father’s goodness knows no bounds.” Matthew 5.48 (REB)

YOUR STORY / OUR STORIES - Living in a COVID-19 World

What truly makes a family or a community for that matter, is that we intentionally take the time to create opportunities where we can share our stories, reflect on our common experiences, and express our highs and lows with one another, in a setting where it is all received through respect and honour. Over the past number of months we have collectively experienced something quite unfamiliar to us all. We were asked to radically change our style of living, something we would not have readily chosen. For that reason, most of us were ill prepared to change and to adapt to a new way of living. But we did, we have, and to a certain extent, we still are. I invite you to please send me a short reflection as to what you, your family or someone else you care for, experienced during the COVID-19 that reshaped your world. I would like to put them in our bulletin. There will be some stories that will make us cry, and others help us to laugh. How you coped, or how it took the stuffing out of you. When we share our stories we are not alone, and hopefully we are now stronger and better for it. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please indicate so.

You may send your reflection to me, at

Frpaulhogan@peterboroughdiocese.org. Thank you.

Patience in Sickness

Lord Jesus Christ, by your patience in suffering you hallowed earthly pain and gave us the example of obedience to your Father's will. Be near me in my time of weakness and pain; sustain me by your grace, that my strength and courage may not fail; heal me according to your will; and help me always to believe that what happens to me here is of little account if you hold me in eternal life, my Lord and my God.

Amen.

Parish Meetings and Gatherings

- Every Third Tuesday of the Month there will be a Food Collection for St. Vincent de Paul. It will be at the Garage next to the St. Vincent de Paul office, running from 9:30am until 12noon. We **will begin Tuesday, September 15th.** Thank you for ongoing and continual support of this ministry.
- St. Vincent de Paul Monthly meeting, Tuesday Sept. 8th, 6:30pm, Parish Hall
- C.W.L. General Meeting, Monday, Sept. 14th, 9:30am, following the morning mass, in Parish Hall.

A COVID 19 Story Experiencing the feelings of COVID

The leaves are turning this splendid mellow green and then they will turn splendidly into their palette of colours as the season once again changes. Coffee and quiet are lovely this morning.

The train is coming down the track and has reached the top of the hill. Slowly, but surely it creaks to a crawl and then stops, taking a big huge breath before starting it’s descent once again but this time it is coming full force and to stop it would be almost impossible. It’s here. Time stands still while the world which is isolated from me, scurries and worries and works to try and slow down the progression of the virus. Many recover and many have died. It seems surreal somehow, but it is obviously not going away any time soon.

I turn off the TV, I listen to beautiful music, commune with nature on many walks with my golden retriever, talk to friends, reach out to some people I hardly know and help others when possible, but in the silence there is a voice that is there. Always present and ever so quiet. I listen more intently now, the voice comes through a sense of wonder, a sense of knowing that we are going to get through this period in history and come out the other side. Changed, never the same, just as it is always in life as we are certain that we are still breathing and in essence to me, the breath and my faith in God are my constants. The voice and grace and trust comes through silence and prayer and observing the wonder of nature all around me. Teaching me that there is life, and there is death, and there can be such beauty from the ashes. I feel blessed to be able to go back to church and see familiar yet covered up faces knowing that they have come like myself to worship, to give thanks and to hear the word of God through the words spoken by Deacon Jan and Fr. Paul and to see the smiling eyes of God as I am handed The Host and then, I reverently consume, reminding myself of what has been sacrificed for us.

It is wonderful, it is a mystery, it hangs delicately in the balance as we learn to live in the present moment and know that by the Grace of God go you and I. I am so grateful and humbled to know God and have Faith. Thanks be to God for everything in my life.

I hear the voice of my grand-mother who always told me when I was worried as a young person to “ Let Go and Let God “... When I feel anxious, I hear her, then I take a few deep breaths and just know that He has got this !

Peace - Kathleen (Kay) Miller

Parish Pastoral News

The weekend of September 12th/13th will be the **Good Friday Collection**, also called *the Pontifical Collection*.

First Communion Celebration
Sunday September 27th, 2PM

Confirmation Celebration
Sunday October 4th, 2PM

Through our generosity as a parish, we collected \$2,739.50 which will go towards assisting the good people of Beirut in rebuilding their lives. Thank you!

August 29th/30th

Weekend Offertory

\$3,376.00

Collection for Beirut \$2,739.50

AMAZINGLY generous!

Thank you for your continued kindness and participation in your parish church, through time, talent and treasure.

Pax Christi

Mass Schedule Week of September 7th - 13th

Monday 9:00AM	September 7th +Joy Dignard
Tuesday 9:00AM	September 8th <i>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> + Glen Murdy
Wednesday 11:00AM 12:00Noon*	September 9th Adoration SI of Thanksgiving
Thursday 9:00AM	September 10th +Amado Villadar Sr.
Saturday 4:00PM	September 12th +Rosemary Piacentini
Sunday 9:00AM	September 13th +Karl & Anna Fleischmann
11:00AM (B)	People of the Parish
*Wednesday Mass / Sunday Obligation (B) Baysville	

Confessions Sat. 3:15pm - 3:45pm or by request.

We Remember
our Faithful Departed
&

We join our prayers with those who are ill at this time ...

Rebecca Muzzi, Ian Bruce, Joe Hanrath, Pamela Festing, David Phillips, Connie Gregory, John Schreurs, Robert Foley, Steven Knox, Claudette Mainville, Michael Brown, Ruth Anne Foley, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez, Patricia Quinn

And for those who we hold in the silence of our hearts.

If there is someone you would like added to this list, please contact the office.

The Kingdom of God, is not some utopian society that is to come to us from above, we being the fortunate ones to receive it without ever having to lift a finger. It is in fact the will of God that we allow to be incarnated in our daily living, as we encounter the Christ before us and within us. It is always discerned and discovered in communion with others, with Christ who calls us together and in turn binds our hearts and minds to His, and to one another. The Kingdom of God then is our choosing to become the unfolding and revealing of God’s will, here and now, in and through each and everyone of us, so that this world may be transformed into a society of good will, justice and peace for all.

This Kingdom can never be that of individuals or those seeking isolation, desiring to hide away from the world. Rather, the Kingdom of God compels us to be in the heart of the world where it is most difficult, challenging, and ugly beyond imagination, so that God’s Spirit working within us can enable us to see that the way to peace, harmony and beauty, is to become at home with being in the midst of this chaos. This chaos may be found everywhere, and not necessarily only in the slums or in war torn nations, but will be found where two or more gather in the common ordinariness of life. Below I present to you two quotes by Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach, the 29th Superior General of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). It is my hope that his words may further stir up in you, and all of us, a deeper desire to become God’s will in the world.

“Solidarity is learned through 'contact' rather than 'concepts.' Students in the course of their formation, must let the gritty reality of this world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering and engage it constructively. They should learn to perceive, think, judge, choose and act for the rights of others, especially the disadvantaged and the oppressed.

When the heart is touched by direct experience, the mind may be challenged to change. Personal involvement with innocent suffering, with the injustice others suffer, is the catalyst for solidarity which then gives rise to intellectual inquiry and moral reflection. We must have the courage - and teach our students the courage - to be bearers to the world of this transforming love, co-creators of a more deeply human world, collaborators with Christ in the building of God's Kingdom.” pah

Ministry Schedule - Weekend of September 12th/13th

	Sat. 4pm	Sun. 9:00am	Sun 11am (B)
Readers	Michelle Haskin	Gisele Neigel	Bob Lacroix
Ushers	Walter Gryz Jim Walters Tracy Shisko Anna Maria Ertler Ben Boivin	Al Cormier Mary Kudryk Al Kudryk Helmy Aben/Natasha Porlier Walter Gryz	Jean MacInnis John MacInnis Hugh Knox Linda Lacroix
Sanitizers	Schedule Provided	Schedule Provided	Schedule Provided
	Tuesday Sept. 8th	Counters: Mary Kudryk and Sandra Cochrane	