

St. Joseph's Parish

760 St. David Street North, Fergus, Ontario N1M 2K9
Tel: 519-843-2006 Email: stjosephfergus@hamiltondiocese.com
Web Page: www.stjosephfergus.org



PASTOR: Fr. Robert Héту, P.P.

SECRETARY: Mrs. Lori Cipparrone

CUSTODIAN: Mr. Richard Kocyla

SACRISTANS: Brigitte Quinke & Catherine Cyr.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parish Secretary will be available
Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fri 9:00 a.m. - noon

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS

All week 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the chapel all day

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

If you know of a parishioner sick at home or in hospital, please contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are normally celebrated on the 1st Sunday of the month at 1:00pm (max. four families). They are also normally celebrated on the third Saturday of the month at the 5pm mass and/or the third Sunday at the 11am Mass (one family per Mass only). Baptisms are not done during Lent. Parents are required to attend a Baptismal Prep class. For more information, please contact Fr. Robert to set up a meeting.

PRIESTHOOD/RELIGIOUS LIFE

If you think God may be calling you to the vocation of Priesthood or Religious Life, please feel free to speak with Fr. Robert Héту or contact our Diocesan Vocation Director at 1-905-528-7988.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The Diocese of Hamilton requires one year notice before a marriage date can be set.
A Marriage Preparation Weekend is also required.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From the Pastor's Desk

Fr. Robert Héту

Today's readings tell us how the early Church accepted the challenge of keeping the memory of Jesus alive by remaining a dynamic Christian community, bearing witness to Jesus by their unity, fidelity in worship and spirit of loving and humble service.

In today's Gospel, Jesus consoles his apostles who are sad and disheartened at the prospect of his arrest and crucifixion by assuring them that he is going to prepare an everlasting accommodation for them in his Father's house in heaven. He gives them the assurance that he will come back to take them to their heavenly "dwelling places." It is then that Thomas says, "Lord we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus response with, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

We accept Jesus as "the Way" by walking the narrow way of loving, humble and sacrificial service. We accept Jesus "the Truth" by learning and practising what he taught as given in the Bible and in the teachings of the Church. We share "the Life" of God by making use of the means Jesus established in the Church; by actively participating in the Eucharistic celebration and properly receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion; by the worthy reception of the other Sacraments; by the meditative and daily reading of the Word of God; by allowing the Holy Spirit living in the Church and within us to guide and strengthen us; by communicating with God the source of life, in personal and family prayers.

To be fully alive is to be fully in God. The venerated Thomas à Kempis author of the fame *The Imitation of Christ* wrote, "Without the Way, there is no going. Without the Truth, there is no knowing. Without the Life, there is no living." So, let us go. Let us know. Let us live. For Jesus truly is "the Way, and the Truth, and the Life."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "You cannot unsay a cruel word." ~ Advice From An Old Farmer

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: "I just told the school kids that I'm older than Google. They laughed and think I'm joking."



Welcome To

St. Joseph's Parish

We extend a warm welcome to all.
We pray that you feel at home.
Please introduce yourself and
consider becoming a member of
our faith family.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

7:00pm **Gloria Clark** – Michael Clark

**Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women
& Girls** – The Catholic Women's League

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

8:30am **Joyce Claudette Janger**

Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:30am **Intentions of Mark MacIntyre**

Friday, May 8, 2026

8:30am **Intentions of Cecilia Piller** – Pat Ogborn

Saturday, May 9, 2026

5:00pm **Jean Martin**

Sunday, May 10, 2026

9:00am **Intentions of Parishioners of St. Joseph
Parish**

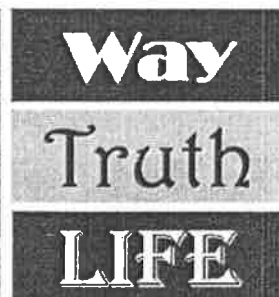
11:00am **Intentions of Fr. Robert Héту on his 40th
Anniversary of Ordination**

Contributions for April 26, 2026

Regular Collection	\$ 1,653.85
Needs of the Holy Land	\$ 20.00
Easter Offering	\$ 55.00
Indigenous Reconciliation	\$ 95.00
Building Fund	\$ 770.40
Electronic Donations	\$ 2,817.92
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,016.45

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2026

"The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these..." Are you willing to do the work of the Lord as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If God is calling you, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905 528 7988.
mail vocations@hamiltondiocese.com



May- The Month Dedicated to Our Lady

On May 13 1917, Our Lady appeared to three children in Fatima. She asked that the rosary be prayed daily for peace in the World. The rosary is prayed in our parish about 25 minutes before the weekend masses start. Friday morning the rosary is prayed following the morning mass. Join fellow parishioners to pray the rosary if you are able.

Knights of Columbus Chicken BBQ

The Knights of Columbus are having their 2nd annual Chicken BBQ on May 23rd in the parish hall starting at 6:00pm. Tickets are now on sale after each mass. For \$20, you get a half chicken dinner, which includes BBQ chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, vegetable, bun and dessert. Eat in or take out. Take out containers will be supplied, but you can help the environment by bringing your own takeout containers. Tickets are now on sale after each mass, or by calling the parish office. **Final ticket sales are May 17th after the 11am mass**

St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League Scholarship

Application forms for our CWL Scholarship are available on the CWL table in the Narthex, for students graduating from Grade 12 and intending to pursue ongoing education in September 2026. Applications are due by May 31st. They can be left at the office or drop in the collection basket in an envelope marked CWL.

Guelph Walking Pilgrimage To Midland: Aug 1-8

WALKING PILGRIMAGE IS ABOUT:

- V nourishing your spirituality
- V enjoying the great outdoors
- V getting great exercise: 20+km per day
- V having fun and enjoying good company

Those who walk the Guelph-to-Midland pilgrimage find it to be a unique and grace-filled experience. For eight days pilgrims pray, sing, laugh, and share stories with others as they journey. Join us, as we cast off routine for eight days and acquiesce to a community of higher purpose. **Participate for 1 day, a weekend or the full 8 days!** Cost \$400 for 8 days or \$75 per day. We carry your gear, provide 3 meals and snacks daily, and cover entry and camping fees. You bring your tent, chair and personal gear/clothing in a duffle bag. To register or for more information go to www.ignatiusguelph.ca (under programs - Guelph Walking Pilgrimage) **NOTE registration deadline June 30, 2026.**

Help Not Harm Campaign

The *Help Not Harm* campaign is intended to stress the concern that euthanasia and assisted suicide are contrary to the dignity of the human person. Bill C-218 currently before parliament seeks to restrict the expansion of MAiD for those who suffer from mental illness. Enclosed you will find three letters being shared for your information:

1. **A letter from Bishop Joseph Dabrowski**, inviting the faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton to participate in the *Help Not Harm* campaign and to support initiatives that uphold the dignity of human life and provide compassionate care for those who are suffering.
2. **A letter from Cardinal Leo**, addressed to the Prime Minister of Canada, expressing concern regarding current federal legislation and broader developments related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).
3. **A similar letter from Cardinal Leo**, addressed to Members of Parliament, outlining these same concerns and encouraging careful consideration of the moral, social, and pastoral implications of existing and proposed legislation.

These letters align with the ongoing *Help Not Harm* campaign, which encourages Canadians to engage respectfully and constructively with their elected representatives on matters affecting vulnerable persons. Faithful across Canada are invited to visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca, where they may easily contact their Member of Parliament to express support for legislation that promotes care, recovery, and protection for those experiencing profound suffering.

Upcoming Events

May 3	Knights of Columbus Breakfast
May 9	Mother's Day Tea 1pm
May 10	Fr. Robert's 40 th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration after each Mass
May 12	Knights Executive Meeting 7:30pm
May 13	Caressant Care Mass 10:30
May 23	Knights of Columbus Chicken BBQ 6pm
May 24	Confirmation with Mass, 2pm



The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Sent via e-mail

20 April 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

I am mindful of the many sacrifices made to lead our country. Know of my prayers for you and your family. As the Archbishop of Toronto, providing spiritual leadership for close to two million Catholics, I write to you keenly aware of our collective obligation to safeguard the dignity of every human life and to serve the common good.

As you know, our Catholic faith opposes the taking of any human life and it is with great disappointment and anguish that we have seen our country expand Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) at a rapid and alarming rate since legislation was passed in 2016, despite the commitments made and the safeguards promised. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are indeed contrary to the dignity of the human person.

You are certainly aware that many Canadians are increasingly troubled by the speed and scope of these developments, and by the inevitable harmful effects on vulnerable individuals who may feel pressure — whether subtle or overt — during moments of profound suffering, isolation, or despair, to seek assisted death.

A society is rightly judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable members. There is growing anxiety that the normalization and expansion of assisted suicide risks undermining a culture of compassion, weakening investments in palliative support, and diminishing the collective commitment to accompany those suffering.

Before Parliament at present is a Private Members' Bill, C-218 – An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying) that would restrict the expansion of MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. As Parliament considers Bill C-218, I respectfully urge you to allow a free vote among Members of Parliament within the Liberal Party of Canada. This legislation raises profound questions of conscience that transcend partisan alignment and touch on deeply held moral, ethical, and spiritual convictions. I ask you to choose life and not death; to help build a civilization that cares for those suffering and does not eliminate them, but instead surrounds them with dignity, compassion, and love.

I would also urge you and the Minister of Justice to consider measures that restrict any further expansion of assisted suicide in our country and instead prioritize investments in palliative care, mental health support and resources for those who are increasingly marginalized and isolated, especially seniors and Canadians living with disabilities.

I remain available to speak with you directly on this or any other matter in the days ahead and reiterate my prayers for you and for all who serve in public office. May you be guided by wisdom, courage, and a steadfast commitment to the common good.

Yours Sincerely,

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

cc. Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice, Attorney General of Canada



Communication to all Members of Parliament in the Archdiocese of Toronto

20 April 2026

Dear Member of Parliament,

Be assured of my prayers for you and your family, mindful of the many sacrifices made to serve your constituents and our country. As Archbishop of Toronto, I serve as the spiritual leader for close to two million Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, an area that includes your constituency.

I am deeply concerned about the rapid expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada. As you likely know, our Catholic faith opposes the taking of any human life, and it is tragic that MAiD has expanded at an alarming pace since legislation was passed in 2016. Many Canadians are increasingly uneasy about the speed and scope of these developments, particularly the inevitable harmful effects on vulnerable individuals who may feel pressured to seek assisted death — whether subtle or overt — during moments of profound suffering, isolation or despair.

A society is rightly judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable members. There is growing anxiety that the normalization and expansion of assisted suicide risks undermining a culture of compassion, weakening funding for palliative support, and diminishing the collective commitment to accompany those who are suffering. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are indeed contrary to the dignity of the human person. As a civilized and caring country, we are called to protect those experiencing mental illness, not hasten death.

Currently before Parliament is Private Members' Bill C-218 – *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)* – which would restrict the expansion of MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. As you consider this legislation, I respectfully urge you to vote according to your conscience. This bill raises profound questions of moral and ethical principles that transcend party lines and touch on deeply held convictions regarding the sanctity of life.

I also encourage you to advocate for policies that prioritize investments in palliative care, mental health supports, and resources for individuals who are increasingly marginalized or isolated, particularly seniors and Canadians living with disabilities, rather than efforts to further expand access to assisted suicide. I ask you to choose life and not death; to vote in favour of Bill C-218 and to help build a civilization that cares for those suffering and does not eliminate them, but instead surrounds them with dignity, compassion, and love.

I reiterate my prayers for you and all who serve in public office, that your decisions may be guided by wisdom, courage, and a steadfast commitment to the common good.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Cardinal Leo".

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

April 27, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you!

“In him was life, and the life was the light of all people” (John 1:4)

As we journey through this Easter season, we are reminded in a profound way that the life revealed in Jesus Christ—through His death on the cross and His resurrection—is a light that no darkness can overcome. In this light, we bear witness to the sanctity of every human life, a cornerstone of our Catholic faith, especially in our care for those who are most vulnerable.

I stand together with Cardinal Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, in my deep concern with the rapid expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada. In his recent letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney, he noted that, “euthanasia and assisted suicide are indeed contrary to the dignity of the human person.” I join him and many Canadians who are troubled by the expansion and development of MAiD, especially in its impact on vulnerable individuals who may seek assisted death during moments of suffering, isolation or hopelessness.

In response to these concerns, legislation currently before parliament—Bill C-218, the Right to Recover Act—seeks to restrict the expansion of MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. This moment invites careful reflection on how we, as a society, are called to care for those who are suffering; not by expediting death, but by providing compassionate accompaniment and hope.

The Archdiocese of Toronto has launched a national initiative entitled “Help Not Harm” to raise awareness about these important issues and to encourage respectful engagement with Members of Parliament. Through this campaign, you are able to contact your Member of Parliament in support of Bill C-218 through the HelpNotHarmCanada.ca website. I encourage you to participate in this initiative in the spirit of charity, and concern for the common good.

We must continue to build a society that chooses life, accompanies those most in need, and reflects the compassion of Christ.

Entrusting you to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† *Joseph Dabrowski*, CSMA

Most Rev. Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA
Bishop of Hamilton

/cd

2025 Vocations Prayer Calendar

MAY 2025

“Pray to the Lord of the Harvest”

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Rev. Michael Isabelle <i>International Workers Day</i>	2 Rev. Alberto Ferreira	3 Rev. Gary Schlack
4 Third Sunday of Easter	5 Rev. Michael King	6 Rev. Veselko Kvesic, O.F.M.	7 Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of Zagreb, S.O.C.	8 Rev. Bradley Markus	9 Rev. Khalid Karomi	10 Rev. David Reitzel
11 Fourth Sunday of Easter	12 Rev. Joe S. Selvanayagam	13 Rev. Anton Sebamalai	14 Sisters Servant of Mary Immaculate, S.S.M.I.	15 Rev. Msgr. Earl Talbot	16 Rev. Peter Meyer	17 Rev. Timothy Higgins
<i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations – Mother’s Day</i>	<i>Canada Health Day</i>					
18 Fifth Sunday of Easter	19 Rev. Brian Quigley, M.C.C.J.	20 Rev. Lukasz Kopaniak, S.A.C.	21 Congregation of the Resurrection, C.R.	22 Rev. Rajesh Madtha, O.C.D.	23 Single Catholics	24 Rev. Yonas Okubit Ghebru <i>World Day of Prayer for the Church in China</i>
25 Sixth Sunday of Easter	26 Rev. Melvin Pinto, O.C.D.	27 Rev. George Nowak, C.R.	28 Seminarians	29 Rev. Krzysztof Szkubera, C.R.	30 Rev. Henryk Krajewski, C.R.	31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayer for Vocations

God, the source of creation and love, You invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.

2025 Vocations Prayer Calendar

JUNE 2025

“Pray to the Lord of the Harvest”

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	2 Rev. Sunil D'Souza, O.C.D.	3 Rev. Christopher Tracey	4 Barnabite Fathers, C.R.S.P.	5 Rev. Edward Henhoeffer	6 Catholic Youth	7 Rev. Roque Concepcion
8 <i>Pentecost</i>	9 Rev. Francisco Cruz	10 Rev. Murray McDermott, C.R.	11 Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, R.P.B.	12 Rev. Stefano Lee	13 Rev. Paul Voisin, C.R.	14 Rev. Gianluca Roso, M.C.C.J.
	Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the Church					
15 <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity</i>	16 Rev. Mussie Keflezghi, M.C.C.J.	17 Rev. Domenico Guarino, M.C.C.J.	18 Discalced Carmelite Fathers, O.C.D.	19 Rev. Pawel Szymanowski, C.R.	20 Rev. Toby Collins, C.R.	21 Rev. Raphael Ma, C.R.
22 <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ</i>	23 Rev. Hyunjik (John) Yang	24 <i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>	25 Comboni Missionaries, M.C.C.J.	26 Disabled Persons	27 <i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	28 Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.
	World Day of Prayer for The Sanctification of Priests					
29 <i>Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles</i>	30 Rev. Brendan McGrath					

Prayer for Vocations

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