



The Roman Catholic
**DIOCESE OF
PRINCE GEORGE**

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

December 16, 2020



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

*“You will conceive in your womb
and bear a son.”*

Luke 1: 26-38

When Applicable—please ensure that the following items are in your bulletin and/or are also announced. This will ensure that the same information is being heard across the diocese. Thank you



Diocesan Pastoral Centre Holiday Hours

Please note that the Diocesan Pastoral Centre will close at noon on December 24th and will reopen on January 4th. Many of us will be monitoring email and checking voice mail through the break and will try to respond to urgent matters as we can.

Please do not leave a message on the general voice mail box for urgent matters, as these will not be checked until January 4th.

Attachments

Appeal 2020-21 Update ♦
Job Posting: Superintendent (CISDV) ♦

Advent resource

<https://www.cccb.ca/liturgy-sacraments/resources-in-english/liturgical-calendar/video-reflections/>

Online and TV Opportunities for the Daily and Sunday Mass:

- [Sacred Heart Cathedral, PG Facebook](#)
- [Annunciation Parish, Prince Rupert Facebook](#)
- [Sacred Heart, Terrace YouTube Channel](#)
- [St. Mary's, Prince George YouTube Channel](#)
- [Church of the Resurrection Website](#)
- [Daily Mass with Bishop Robert Barron](#)

For those with cable or optic TV please check with your provider for the following or go directly to:

- [Salt & Light](#)
- [Vision TV](#)
- [EWTN TV](#)



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

December 16, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Today marks the beginning of the last week of Advent. This season prepares us to celebrate the Lord's first coming and reminds us that "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end" (Nicene Creed).

This year we have special reason to long for the Lord's appearing. 2020 has been a year most of us will be glad to see pass into history. What began as usual in January as a time of planning and hoping for the coming year quickly changed because of the Covid-19 virus.

We have lost on all levels: the deaths of many people have been attributed to the virus, including members of my own extended family. All of us have suffered other effects: physical, psychological, educational, economic and social.

The most serious loss is the disruption of our faith lives. Government-imposed prohibitions on gatherings have taken away the sacramental life from most people. This sense of loss is compounded by apparent inconsistencies in the application of public health directives. Bars and restaurants remain open, while assembling for Mass has been prohibited, despite the fact that parishes have diligently followed the protocols to ensure safe environments.

A recent newspaper editorial summed up the issue: "the underlying concern here is that our public health authorities have elevated secular interests above religious interests of seemingly equal importance. Indeed the latter, if anything, enjoy a higher constitutional standing. Freedom of religion is the first of four fundamental freedoms enumerated in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The right to worship is protected" (*Victoria Times Colonist*, December 5, 2020).

In the face of the problems this virus has caused, the Advent season reminds us of the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). The witness we can give to each other and to the world is the Christian character of our response to the stresses caused by this crisis.

My thanks go to the priests, who continue to serve their people in extraordinary circumstances, to parishioners who help clean our buildings, assist with livestreaming liturgies on Sunday and connect with isolated parishioners via telephone calls. Thanks to the staffs in our Catholic schools for their creative efforts to meet the needs of students and families.

The appearance of new vaccines gives us hope that the acute phase of the pandemic may soon pass. The diocesan website (www.pgdiocese.bc.ca) and Facebook page ("Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince George") are continually updated with information to help you properly inform your conscience about which vaccines are morally acceptable.

As we look forward to a new year, I offer you my prayerful best wishes that God's gifts of charity, peace and hope will fill us as we support one another in dealing with the extraordinary challenges this year has brought.

A blessed Christmas season and New Year!

Bishop Stephen Jensen

Annual Diocesan Appeal Update

I was delighted to see **St. Peter's in Mackenzie** take a big jump to 64% from just under 50% this week. We also saw **Holy Cross in Tumbler Ridge** get a little bit closer to their goal, and **St. Andrew's in Fraser Lake** is now only \$164 away from hitting their target. Well done!

We have been very blessed with generous donors and prayerful support this year. We have also been delighted to have so many people express heartfelt concern for our smaller parishes and missions and their desire to contribute to the work they are doing in these challenging times.

As we pilgrimage with Mary and Joseph to the stable during this time of Advent, we share in many difficulties and trials as they did. In their small community—as husband and wife—they helped one another along the way. May we, too, be a support and strength to each other and continue to prayerfully offer the needs of all of our parish and mission families to the Father.

We will have one more update next week and resume in early January.



2020 Donations and Tax Receipts



Please remember that donations eligible for a 2020 tax receipt must be received by the parish on or before December 31, 2020. The cheques do not have to be deposited in the bank in December.

Donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal that are received on or before December 31, 2020 also are eligible for a tax receipt for 2020. To ensure that they are processed properly and nothing is missed, please send all donations and Appeal forms to the Appeal Office as soon as possible.

Advent Confession Schedule at Sacred Heart Cathedral

THE HOURS OF MERCY AT THE CATHEDRAL

To help us spiritually prepare ourselves this Advent Season, **priests will be available for confessions at Sacred Heart Cathedral every day from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM starting on Wednesday, December 16 to Sunday, December 20.**



If you are not available during those given time above, you may phone the parish office 250-564-5225 to set-up an appointment.

Parishioners can only come for confessions during the times posted above. We will continue to observe physical distancing and we will not allow people to stay inside the church for an extended period of time. The main purpose of visiting the church (*for the scheduled times above*) is only to go to confessions.

Parish Staff Timesheets Due Friday, December 18th

Just a small reminder that we do need to have all parish staff timesheets in to the Finance Office by end-of-day Friday, December 18th in order to meet payroll processing deadlines for payment on the 24th. Unfortunately, any timesheets that are submitted after that will have to be delayed until the first pay period in January, so please make sure they are in on time!



Now is the Time to Act in Defense of Life!



Bill C-7, the federal government's plan to expand assisted suicide in Canada, has already passed second reading in parliament. **Now is the time to contact our Members of Parliament** to make know our concern about this further assault on life. The link contains several links to understand the issue and find your Member.

Click the link: [Stop Bill C-7 from expanding euthanasia in Canada](#)

Employment Opportunity

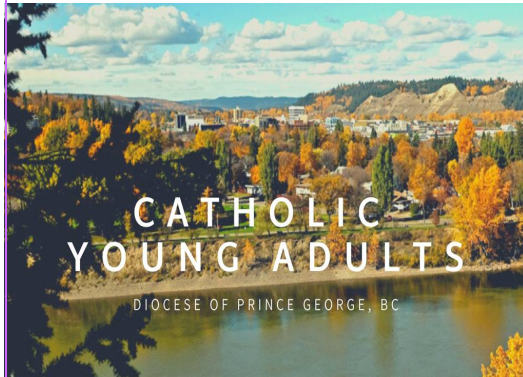
Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria is seeking for Superintendent (please refer to the attached advertisement)

Young Adults

Stay Connected with the Young Adult Community of the PG Diocese!

Stay connected with all things young adult across the Diocese by joining the Catholic Young Adults – Diocese of Prince George, BC Facebook Group! Click the link below to join and keep updated on all that's going on! Catholic Young Adults – Diocese of Prince George, BC:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/453972271386325>



Want to share news in the Wednesday Weekly?

Email reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca by **NOON** on Tuesday. Late entries will be published in the following week's edition. Please send in Word format.

To receive all diocesan news directly in your inbox or on your phone

email reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca OR TEXT "pgd" TO 514-900-0130 to join **Flocknote**. This is an email and text messaging tool created for churches, ministries, teams and other community organizations. It helps to communicate with the people by sending a simple text message. Please join us in keeping up with all the diocesan news.