

Wednesday Weekly

DCESE OF

March 19, 2025

3rd Sunday of Lent March 23, 2025

'Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

-Luke 13:1-9

When Applicable – please ensure that the following items, especially those marked with an *, are in your bulletin and/or are also announced so that the same information is heard across the diocese. Thank you.

Online Broadcast of the Daily / Sunday Masses:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, PG Facebook
- <u>St. Joseph's Parish, Smithers Facebook</u>

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

- <u>Salt & Light</u>
- <u>Vision TV</u>
- <u>EWINTV</u>

Attachments

- 2024-25 Appeal Update March 19, 2025
- Jubilee 2025 Events at St. Mary's Poster
- Photo-Video Release Form
- Belove Springtime Night Poster
- DYC 2025 Poster
- CCCB Letter to the Hon. Pierre Poilievre RE Charitable Status
- CCCB Letter to the Hon. Mark Holland RE MAiD

Called Together Appeal Update

We don't have a lot to report this week, but we do have a bit to share: we have finally crossed 80% of our diocesan goal in donations received! This means that we're able to provide 80% of the funding required for our smaller parishes, missions and ministries throughout the diocese. The appeal year doesn't end until June 30th, so we hope that parishioners will continue to keep all these needs in mind and help support the appeal both financially and in prayer.

Parish rebates toward project goals are now in excess of \$60,000. Nine parishes are currently above their share of the diocesan goal and the excess is being returned to them for the projects they have identified.

A couple of parishes did make some substantial gains over the past two weeks: Sacred Heart Cathedral added more than 31% to their total to reach 132% of their share of the diocesan goal and are nearly at 100% of their total combined goal. Notre Dame Parish in Dawson Creek also had an increase of over 10% to reach 84% of their portion of the diocesan goal. Great work to the parishioners of both parishes! Our Lady of Peace in Chetwynd also had an increase of 3.5% to reach 26% of their goal.

We did receive a few more donations that arrived too late for inclusion in this report but will be added to the next one in two weeks.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to support the appeal, and we ask you to keep the needs of the entire diocese in your prayers.

CCCB Sends Letters to the Hon. Pierre Poilievre and Hon. Mark Holland Regarding Charitable Status and MAiD

On March 10, 2025, the CCCB sent two letters to the federal government. The first, addressed to the Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Conservative Party Leader and Leader of the Official Opposition, was regarding concerns about proposals made by the federal Standing Committee on Finance to change eligibility criteria for charitable status. Such changes would make it so that organizations which support the advancement of religion or pro-life initiatives will no longer be eligible for charitable status.

The second letter, addressed to the Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health, was regarding a recentlyconcluded "national consultation" on expanding Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in view of introducing advance requests.

Both letters can be found attached to the Wednesday Weekly, or via the CCCB website at the following links:

- <u>https://www.cccb.ca/justice-and-peace/citizenship-and-the-common-good/</u> (update to the "What's New" link)
- <u>https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide/</u>

CitizenGo Petition to the Government to Keep Charitable Tax Status for Religious Charities and Organizations

A petition to Finance Minister Leblanc to allow religious charities and organizations to remain eligible for charitable tax status has been started on the CitizenGo platform.

Please consider signing the petition here: <u>https://www.citizengo.org/en-ca/fr/15041-save-our-charities-and-churches</u>

For further reading on the subject, consider these following articles and Cardinal Leo's letter to Minister Leblanc:

- Lifesite News: <u>https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/torontos-cardinal-leo-urges-trudeau-government-not-to-touch-tax-status-of-pro-life-religious-groups/?utm_source=editions_menu&utm_campaign=usa&changed=346093210</u>
- Cardinal Leo's Letter: <u>https://www.archtoronto.org/siteassets/media/archdiocese-of-toronto-main-site/files/archbishop-leo/hon.-dominic-leblanc---february-21-2025.pdf?mkt_tok=OTA3LU9EWS0wNTEAAAGZQodyluM-pyjcMjTKHlgmDVu2MQKuQdm35IXozOk-kLgAdUT4fj-Qte68bziGv1-1uLOBBbM49KgZUWkadO8NmvlfzTo7Hef3kBOCHFTQakBGIcjfM5U</u>
- Western Standard: https://www.westernstandard.news/opinion/baklinski-faith-under-fire-what-it-would-mean-if-ottawa-ended-religious-charitable-tax-exemption/61310?mkt_tok=OTA3LU9EWS0wNTEAAAGZQodylsDTI_rYXtrn-cjjG0XGIVVYYVAVIEv8KpUcUFUTA-_Mf1-A793wpXHMpfVA7b4F0LvWouqfzKaHKpGJ1RezuRuK6jBjLbTlgMuBn3RAlk27oQk

Submit your Photos to the Wednesday Weekly

If you have photos of a parish event, achievement, or ministry in action in your community, consider submitting them to the Wednesday Weekly at <u>reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca</u>. Have a story to tell that goes with it? Let us know and it can be featured in the Quarterly Special Edition (next edition: March 26, 2025).

Please see the attached Photo-Video release form to ensure that proper permissions from the people in the photos have been granted prior to submitting photos. We cannot use photos for which a form has not been signed.

Journey through Lent

The CCCB has released new videos in this year's "Journey through Lent" series, offering reflections on each week's Sunday readings. The videos for the series can be found on the CCCB website here: https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/

Monthly Day of Adoration – April 9, 2025

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to a Personal Date with Jesus on **Wednesday April 9th, 2025** at the Domano Chapel, 6500 Southridge Ave. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 AM and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from <u>8:00 AM to 6:00 PM</u> for a day of silent prayer and adoration.

Please note that <u>we will close the Day at an earlier hour because of the Chrism Mass</u> to be celebrated that same evening [7 PM] at Sacred Heart Cathedral, so that we all may attend this important annual diocesan celebration.

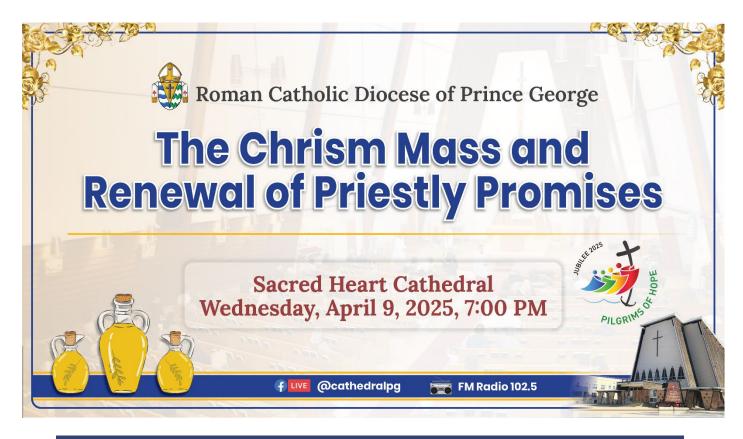
We will pray for the universal Church and the world, for our Priests and Bishop, and for the people and needs of our Diocese. In particular we will also pray for the protection of all human life, for all the sick, for vocations, for Peace in our world, and for the intentions of those participating in the day. Please mark your calendar on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month** for Personal Date with Jesus days.

*Chrism Mass 2025 – April 9, 2025

Clergy, religious and lay faithful from across the diocese will gather with Bishop Stephen Jensen for the annual Chrism Mass at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Chrism Mass will be followed by a reception. Those attending are invited to bring a plate of snacks to share and are asked to put the snack on the designated table in the lower hall before Mass.

Everyone is welcome to join our diocesan community for this important celebration. During the Chrism Mass, the priests of the diocese renew their commitment to priestly ministry. The Oil of the Sick, Oil of the Catechumens, and Sacred Chrism for use in the celebration of sacraments throughout the year are also blessed and consecrated by Bishop Stephen Jensen during the annual Chrism Mass.

For parishes and pastors: the cathedral will prepare number of bottles of holy oils according to the list from last year. If your parish is needing additional set of holy oils, please e-mail <u>secretary@shcpg.ca</u>.



2025 Jubilee Presentations at St. Mary's, Prince George

St. Mary's Parish in Prince George will be holding presentations and talks, followed by Holy Rosary and Confession, on the first Friday of each month during the Jubilee Year. Everyone is invited to attend these presentations. Please see the attached poster for the full schedule of presentations and presenters.

Presentations will also be livestreamed via St. Mary's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@saintmarysprincegeorge5396

Reason to Hope – Lenten Mission at Christ Our Saviour

A Lenten Mission, presented by Rev. Emmanuel Onumadu will take place at Christ Our Saviour from March 27th to March 28th, 2025. It will begin with Holy Mass at 5:30 PM and run until 7:00 PM each day.

All are welcome to participate in this Lenten Mission.



Belove Springtime Night!

Girls in Grade 5 to 8 are invited to a night of fellowship and prayer on April 4th, 2025 at the Domano Renewal Centre from 6 to 8 PM. Please contact <u>beloverevolutionbc@gmail.com</u> if you have any questions.

Rachel's Vineyard Spring Retreats – BC Interior 2025

For Emotional and Spiritual healing, Rachel's vineyard weekend retreats offer a supportive,

non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile

painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

Confidentiality assured.

KELOWNA: weekend April 4 - 6 Contact Vicki at 250-762-2273 www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com

MERRIT: Tues - Thurs May 13 - 15 contact Nancy at 250-267-5081 phone or text Email: rvkamloops@yahoo.ca

PRINCE GEORGE RETREATS STARTING IN 2025 - STAY TUNED For more info: Father Michael at Christ Our Savior email: <u>mebomuche@pgdiocese.ca</u> Or Adele at St Mary's email: <u>rachelsvineyardpg@proton.me</u>

Grief to Grace Retreat



Through a 5-day program facilitated by mental health professionals and centered on Jesus Christ, Grief to Grace helps those who have endured neglect, physical, emotional, sexual, and/or spiritual abuse in their family of origin, their community, from spouses/partners, and/or coworkers or supervisors, find healing and journey to wholeness. The next program in Canada is **May 20- 25 in Kelowna**. For more information please email

grieftogracekelowna@gmail.com or make a confidential call to 250-808-6403.

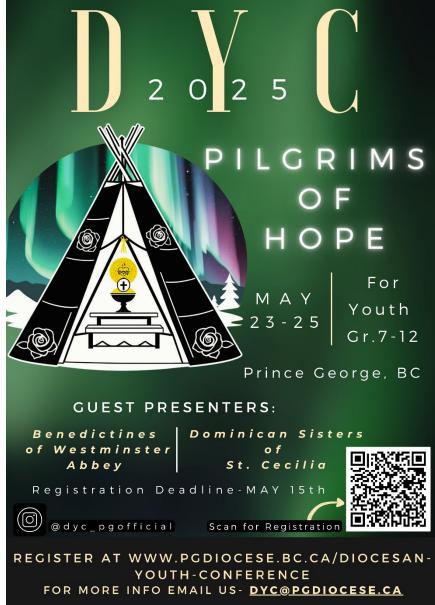
2025 Diocesan Youth Conference – Registration Now Open!

Registration is now open for the annual Diocesan Youth Conference. This year's guest presenters include the Benedictines of Westminster Abbey and the Dominicans of Mary Mother of the Eucharist.

The deadline for registration is May 15, 2025. Scan the poster for registration or register here: https://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca/diocesan-youth-conference/

Advokate Baby Bottle Campaign – May 11th to June 15th, 2025

Advokate Life and Education Services is once again launching its Baby Bottle Campaign in support of its Hope for Women Pregnancy Service Centres. Funds raised from this campaign help the service centres provide pregnancy tests, counselling, referral to community resources, free maternity and baby supplies, postpartum support and so much more.



Parishes wishing to participate can contact <u>bethany@advokate.ca</u> to request baby bottles, as well as download campaign materials from the Google Drive folder here: <u>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zMB2qqQxm8ac5GuwyviceO8Fyt2dZD6A</u>

Individuals wishing to donate virtually can also do so through the Baby Bottle Campaign website here: <u>https://babybottles.ca/</u>

Walk for Life – June 7, 2025

The annual Walk for Life is now open for registration and will take place on June 7, 2025. Those wishing to register or donate can do so here: <u>https://walkforlife.ca/</u>

All funds raised help Advokate continue their mission of creating educated communities where families thrive, and babies' lives are valued and welcomed. Your gift provides tangible support like counselling, ultrasounds, maternity and baby supplies, postpartum care, and so much more to vulnerable women and families facing unplanned pregnancy.

Want to share news in the Wednesday Weekly?

Email <u>reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca</u> 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 <u>reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca</u> 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.