

Blessings

IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL

The pandemic hasn't halted the good work of the Church. The Stewardship and Development Office asked for examples, and parishes provided a wealth of them. A few are here, and more are to come! [See the previous fliers at hamiltondiocese.com/news](https://www.hamiltondiocese.com/news).

ST. JOSEPH, ACTON

Within the first week of the church closure, St. Joseph Parish in Acton initiated a Facebook Group to live-stream Mass. The group grew to 270 members who communicate with one another. By the end of the second week, the parish had a new website: www.stjosephprayforus.ca. It has also been a wonderful communication tool.

An Easter outreach project brought "Palm Paks" to the doorsteps of 80 parishioners' homes. Enclosed were palms; a letter of encouragement; a spiritual exercise; a summary of the Pope's Easter message; spiritual medals and magazines; a Divine Mercy handout; a CD or book from the Augustine Institute; a 33 Days to Morning Glory guide (for dedicating oneself to Mary); and spiritual coloring books if the home had children. Similar packets were delivered in May, with the items focused on Our Blessed Mother. Pentecost was the focus of a June project.

ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION, CAMBRIDGE

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has been supported by the parish community financially and by food donations. The Society has adapted to the pandemic and continues to operate.

FROM A PASTOR

During April in this pastor's parish, the weekly offertory was higher than any month prior to the virus closing the churches, and parishioners continue to be generous.

BLESSED SACRAMENT IN GUELPH A 'DESTINATION' FOR ADORERS

The Blessed Sacrament placed in the window of the Holy Rosary office in Guelph has become a "huge inspiration" to the parish and the neighbourhood, said Fr. Vernon Boyd, the parish's pastor. It has produced a hub of activity in the parking lot as parishioners and others come by at all hours of the day and night to pray in their cars before the Blessed Sacrament, which is surrounded by flowers and light. Fr. Boyd put it this way:

"I never thought in my wildest dreams that such a devotion would mean so much to people in the parish. It has also been a strong witness to people in the neighbourhood seeing the number of cars parking so people can pray (of course, in isolation). Many people make the church a destination point on their walk and pray and even kneel in front of the Blessed Sacrament. A very moving sight to see. People all the way from Toronto come to pray in front of it in their cars."

Fr. Boyd also noted these other inspirational happenings at Holy Rosary:

- The parish has a food pantry, and people have stocked it "to the ceiling" with food.
- A Care for Neighbours team checks on people who have called the parish for help with groceries.
- People drop off prayer requests and Mass intentions in Fr. Boyd's mailbox. "I get letters, offerings, donations every day," he said.



DIocese of HAMILTON