

St. Peter's Parish
615 Connolly Street, Thunder Bay, ON. P7C 2R4

March 25, 2020

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

May I share with you some of my thoughts as we face a moment of crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic!

Though we are saddened by the affliction caused by the spread of COVID-19 virus, and though there is some kind of uncertainty in our hearts during this time, as believers we have every confidence that God will not abandon us during our difficult time.

I was inspired by the words of Evangelist St. John (9: 1, Last Sunday's gospel) *“As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.* St. John says that the man born blind draws the attention of the Lord. When Jesus walked along with his disciples, he saw so many people around him, but the blind man drew his attention. Christ the Lord saw his affliction and sorrow. He had compassion for him. He voluntarily came forward to heal him of his blindness; and he did heal him.

Maybe we can associate the context of the miracle with our suffering at this particular moment. We are sure that God knows our trouble and anxiety. We are sure that God sees our affliction. As God had mercy upon the man born blind, God will have mercy upon us. God will bring us healing and deliverance. God will soon bring the COVID-19 pandemic to a closure.

These days, though we are unable to come to the house of God for prayer and worship, let us feel the presence of God wherever we are. Let us find God among our family members. Besides other activities, let us spend some time with God in prayer. As we are preparing our hearts for the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, let us earnestly pray that God who raised Jesus from the dead will deliver us from the power of darkness.

When we spend time with God in prayer, let us remember our brothers and sisters of St. Peter's Parish, and remember everyone who suffers due to COVID-19 pandemic. May the God of promise and deliverance lead us through the Light of Christ!

With prayer

Sincerely,

Fr. Joseph Arockiam
Parish Priest
St. Peter's Parish