



St. Peter's Parish

CLINTON – GODERICH – KINGSBRIDGE

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As a welcoming family of faith, we are called by Christ through prayer,
to share the gifts of who we are and what we have in loving service to all.

PASTORAL PLANNING FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

Sunday, April 5, 2009
Palm Sunday

To all the parishioners of St Peter's Parish,

INTRODUCTION

Five years ago, Bishop Fabbro initiated a Pastoral Plan in response to Pope John Paul II's call for all dioceses in the world to review, renew and re-organize as a way to respond to the present day needs of the faithful. This plan had many components which included the review and renewal of all diocesan offices, a strategic financial plan and parish re-organization. As you know, this included the necessity of closing several parishes in our diocese due to many factors which included church attendance, building conditions, financial viability and a declining number of clergy.

In July 2009, we will celebrate two years as one amalgamated parish family. We all worked very hard to form one parish community that is vibrant, caring and focused on the needs of all the faithful. Through our Stewardship Journey we have rejuvenated present ministries and have created new ones. We are truly embracing the call of Christ to proclaim and live out the Good News each day.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Bishop along with the Diocesan leadership and each deanery continues to plan and respond to the needs of all the faithful in our diocese. There is no question that meeting these needs are extremely challenging.

A week and a half ago I met with our Pastoral Council and Finance Committee to discuss the future journey of our parish family. This meeting was in response to two major issues that will require all of us to reflect, review and plan our future journey. At this meeting, it was decided that these concerns needed to be shared with all parishioners as soon as possible. I want to thank the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee for their commitment, dedication and openness during our discussions and planning.

JUNE 2010 – ONE PRIEST TO SERVE OUR PARISH

In order to properly minister to the needs of the whole diocese, the Priest Personnel Board is planning to reduce the number of priests serving in our parish to one at the end of June 2010.

This decision will require us to discuss and plan how one priest will be able to serve the needs of the entire parish family. There will certainly need to be some major adjustments in our parish community for this to take place.

**PRELIMINARY CONDITION REPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, KINGSBRIDGE**

As part of the long term planning for our parish, the Finance Committee initiated a preliminary condition report for St. Joseph's Church, Kingsbridge. The on-site review took place at the end of October 2008 with the final report forwarded to the parish office in late February 2009.

The report itself offers a basic overview of the building structure focusing on the general health and safety of occupants using the building. The report is limited in scope but has definitely offered insight to the future needs of the building.

Based on the report, the church structure itself is intact and stable. There are some major issues with the bell tower (we have been instructed not to ring the bell), and the exterior masonry. There are also concerns regarding roof leaks and the overall roof support structure. The initial and long term building plan will require substantial financial support. With limited resources it will be necessary to discern the most adequate direction for maintaining long term ministry.

MOVING FORWARD – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

How do we plan ahead in light of these major concerns ? Everyone in the parish family is invited for an **Information Session on Monday, April 27, 2009 at the Columbus Centre, Goderich from 7:00 to 9:30 pm.** to discuss the following:

- Review the Priest Personnel Plan
- Review the Preliminary Condition Report for St. Joseph's Church
- Discuss concerns, offer questions and seek input
- Create a Plan of further consultation and reflection

It is very important that everyone is able to attend this meeting so that we can begin the process of trying to plan for next year and long term active ministry in our parish.

Without a doubt, we are facing some major issues. It is my hope that as we work together as one, we first seek the voice and wisdom of God and one another in discerning the future course of our parish. I am truly overwhelmed by the faith, passion and energy of all the parishioners and how we have journeyed together so far !! That same Spirit of unity and cooperation will lead us to face our present challenges and continue to live out the Gospel.

Please mark your calendars for this important meeting as we move ahead in planning for our future. May the Easter glory we are about to celebrate be that guiding light for us !!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. John Jasica - Pastor