



## Are You Listening?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**I**f today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (See Psalm 95.) Our psalm prayer invites us to respond to the Word of God. A positive response should be assumed as ordinary: very few among us would deliberately ignore God’s voice. The challenge is not in responding “yes” to the invitation of the Lord but rather in “hearing” his voice.

There are so many voices that daily compete for attention. We seem to be bombarded every waking moment with some kind of noise that demands attention and action. At one time, Neil Diamond might have been able to celebrate the “Beautiful Noise” of the city, but it is far more difficult for us today. Frankly, the noise around us is deafening, and most people long for true silence, a break in the pattern, a vacation from the frantic anxiety that seems to be present.

A wonderful Lenten practice—indeed, a spiritual practice that goes well beyond Lent—is to freely choose to disconnect from distraction. Resist the temptation to plug in the earbuds. Refrain from the distraction of social media content. Leave your cell phone in the living room, go sit in the backyard, and pay attention to nothing. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:11), the psalmist reminds us. Listen for God’s voice, hear his call, and respond to the invitation. ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

The love of God has been  
poured out into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has  
been given to us.

ROMANS 5:5

### Reflect

*Do I need more silence?  
Do I find silence difficult?*



## St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1928.  
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

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PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES  
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



### Mass Schedule

Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.
Filipino Mass – Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2026: 11:00 a.m.
Kids & Youth Ministry	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Children's/Family Mass	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026
Pastoral & Finance Council	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Coffee Social	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Second Collection	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2026

DIocese of Hamilton in Bermuda  
Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak  
[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

#### Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education - Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry



#### Today's Hymns

<b>Entrance:</b>	<b>Shepherd of Souls</b>	<b>#808</b>
<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>Come To the Water</b>	<b>#626</b>
<b>Communion:</b>	<b>Draw Near and Take the Body of The Lord</b>	<b>#454</b>
<b>Recessional:</b>	<b>There's A Wildness in God's Mercy</b>	<b>#712</b>

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May our loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Proclaimer of God's Word**  
**Sacristan**  
**Eucharistic Minister**  
**Collection Counters**  
**Altar Server**  
**Music**

**Carol DeSilva**  
**Stephen Card**  
**Joanne Smith**  
**Simon & Mary Stones**  
**Liam/Seamus Stones**  
**Jane Farge**

Thursday – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Feast of St. Joseph  
**Proclaimer of God's Word** Carol DeSilva

**Prayers:** Please keep our sick and shut-ins in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Maybury.

#### MASS INTENTION:

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March \*David Medeiros and \*Maria Lurdes

#### ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS – 9:00 a.m.	Attendees	Collection
Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>Stations of the Cross</b>	6	-
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March – Regular Donation	52	417.00 20.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$437.00</b>

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information:  
St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 –



#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY at 7:00 p.m.



Today is the second Sunday of the month; therefore, there will be two collections - regular and maintenance.



If you would like to donate towards the Easter Flowers in memory of your loved ones, the envelopes are at the back of the church; please remember to put their names on the envelope. The Intentions will be listed on Easter Sunday.



On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March. Mass at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate The Feast of St. Joseph, followed by a social in the Parish Centre. Our celebrant will be Bishop Wes. If you would like to donate towards the refreshment table, your kindness and "goodies" are always appreciated (and enjoyed!).

#### DIOCESAN LENTEN ALMSGIVING – SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection for The Family Centre on the weekend of the 21st/22nd of March 2026 as part of our Diocesan Lenten Almsgiving. Please see the Bishop's Corner for more details. Envelopes will be available for this collection but if you wish to donate online you may do so to our diocesan account with Butterfield Bank; Account Name: ORCC Special Account, Account Number: 20006060021098100, include "FAMILY CENTRE" in the memo line.

#### DIOCESAN LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Wednesday, 11th March 2026, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church  
Thursday, 12th March 2026, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at St. Theresa's Cathedral  
Domingo, 15 de Março 2026, 15h30 - 17h30, Catedral de Santa Teresa

#### BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

A year ago, I proposed the idea of having a "Diocesan Lenten Almsgiving," and I was grateful to see that this initiative was met with both understanding and generous support from you. It was decided that the donations collected on that occasion (approximately \$5,000) would be sent to Bangladesh to support Fr. Jacob in completing the construction of a church in Dhaka. The work in Dhaka progressed well, and Fr. Jacob was relieved of the responsibilities of overseeing the building project. He came in September 2025 to minister in our Diocese. This year, after consultation, it has been decided that we will show our support for our own Family Centre in Bermuda, "Where Children Come First." The Family Centre is an accredited nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of families in Bermuda. They provide innovative, free-of-charge mental health counselling services for children, teens, and their families, as well as community outreach programmes and advocacy initiatives. The Family Centre is committed to ensuring access to support without barriers. Their holistic, therapeutic approach to care fosters healing, wellness, and empowerment. (<https://tfc.bm>)

On the weekend of the 21st/22nd of March, there will be a Special Collection in our churches as part of our Diocesan Lenten Almsgiving for the Family Centre in Bermuda. You may also donate online to our diocesan account with Butterfield Bank:  
Account Name: ORCC Special Account  
Account Number: 20006060021098100  
Please include "FAMILY CENTRE" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity. Have a restful weekend and a blessed third week of Lent!

Bishop Wes

#### A THIRST FOR LIVING WATER

The 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that God is with us, even when we are tired, unsure, or in need. Each reading shows people who feel empty or thirsty, but God gives them what they truly need. He does not leave them alone. He hears their cries and responds with love and care

The 3rd Sunday of Lent in Year A focuses on themes of faith, conversion, and God's desire to fill us with new life. The readings show us God's response to human needs and how He calls us to turn to Him with open hearts.

- **Spiritual Thirst:** The Israelites thirsted in the desert, and the woman at the well thirsted for something deeper in life. God wants to satisfy our thirst for meaning and truth.
- **God's Faithfulness:** God provides water to the Israelites in the desert and offers living water through Jesus to the Samaritan woman. These stories remind us that God is always faithful, even when we struggle to trust Him.
- **Repentance and Conversion:** The Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus changes her life. Lent is a time to repent and let God transform us just as He transformed her.
- **God's Love for Sinners:** Jesus meets the Samaritan woman where she is, despite her sins and past. God does not turn away from us but invites us to receive His mercy.
- **Jesus, the Living Water:** Jesus speaks of the living water that brings eternal life. He alone can fulfill our deepest longings and give us life that never fades.
- **Witness and Evangelization:** After meeting Jesus, the Samaritan woman goes back to her town and shares her experience. Her witness shows us that sharing our faith can lead others to seek Jesus.
- **Peace Through Reconciliation:** St. Paul writes about the peace we have with God through Jesus. Lent calls us to seek this peace by being reconciled to God and others.

In Lent, the Church invites us to open our hearts to God's love and mercy. The readings this Sunday encourage us to deepen our faith and let God refresh our spirits.

#### REFLECTION:

- What barriers in my life might keep me from loving others as Jesus does?
- How can I reach out to someone who is different from me or who may feel alone?
- In what ways am I thirsting for God's love and presence in my life?
- How can I open my heart to let Jesus change me this Lent?
- How has an encounter with Jesus brought peace or direction to my life?
- What is one way I can share my faith with others this week?
- Who in my life needs to know they are loved by God?
- How do I respond to people who may be judged by others?
- In what ways can I help build unity and understanding in my family or community?
- How does the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A inspire me to grow in my relationship with God?

#### PRAYER

Lord, help us to seek you with open hearts and to welcome your love that brings true life. Teach us to break down barriers and share your peace with others. May we share your love as a source of hope and joy in our communities. Amen.

# Dear Padre,

***When I was young, my parish covered all the statues during part of Lent. What did it mean exactly? Do any churches still do this?***

In 2001, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the practice of veiling statues and crosses during the last two weeks of the season of Lent, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice is optional, at the discretion of the local pastor. According to the Roman Missal, “Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.”

Covering crosses and statues in violet cloth in the final weeks of Lent indicates a shift in the Church’s focus from Jesus in the desert (gospel for the first Sunday of Lent) to Christ during his Passion. Similar to other Lenten disciplines of penance and fasting that align us in solidarity with Christ, the veiling custom is meant to deepen our appreciation for Christ’s ultimate sacrifice. It represents our “fasting” from sacred depictions of the cross on which hung our salvation and from images of the saints, who glorify Christ and in whom he is glorified. This concealment creates an absence to make our hearts grow fonder for the Lord, who “bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). ●



CATHOPIC

*Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>MARCH 9</b>	<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>MARCH 11</b>	<b>MARCH 12</b>	<b>MARCH 13</b>	<b>MARCH 14</b>	<b>MARCH 15</b>
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1–15ab Lk 4:24–30	Dn 3:25, 34–43 Mt 18:21–35	Dt 4:1, 5–9 Mt 5:17–19	Jer 7:23–28 Lk 11:14–23	Hos 14:2–10 Mk 12:28–34	Hos 6:1–6 Lk 18:9–14	1 Sm 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a Eph 5:8–14 Jn 9:1–41 or 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*We feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations!... Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God.*

HOMILY, ROME, AUGUST 3, 2025