

## Saint Patrick's Basilica

454 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, Montréal, Québec H2Z 1A7

Tel : 514-866-7379 • Fax 514-954-1218

info@stpatricksmtl.ca - www.stpatricksmtl.ca

Dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Patrick's,

I am writing this letter to you from our beautiful Lady Chapel where Fr. Robert, Fr. Timothy and I concelebrate a private daily mass for the intentions of the day as well as for all of you, our friends and parishioners.

It is certainly a difficult time, a time for reflection, indeed a "jamais vu" in our generation. Since the Governments and the Archdiocese of Montreal, for the health of our communities, have ordered the closing of all Churches and Oratories, our communal prayer life such as daily Mass or visits to the Blessed Sacrament is certainly changed.

We priests of the parish share your pain as we look out onto the vast and empty Basilica. But remember, we will be with one another again once this has passed.

It is a time to pray from the heart in our solitude, remembering that Jesus has told us, "Be not afraid, for I am with you till the end of time."

Where is God in all of this, I cannot say. But one thing I know through faith is that Jesus suffered and died not only for us, but with us. He understands our suffering in solitude as he hung on the cross.

My friends, as the Prayer of our Patron, St. Patrick, called the Breastplate, says, "He is with you and in you."

May you be comforted in this time of trial.

May the Lord be with you, show His face to you and give you His peace.

Your Pastor,



Msgr. Francis John Coyle CSS

