

Office of the Chancellor

December 5, 2024

Dear Brother Priests and Lay faithful of our Diocese,

May the Lord give you Peace!

We've been informed recently that the Bishop of our Diocese, The Most Reverend Gregory Bittman, will be undergoing a major surgery on December 18th, 2024 at Vancouver General Hospital. As a Diocesan and Christian community, we are therefore called to join our voices in praying to the Lord for the successful completion of his surgery and that he may respond to God's healing will through the skills of surgeons and medical practitioners who will assist in his operation.

Time and again in the pages of the gospels, we see the Lord at prayer or teaching and telling His disciples to pray. After the Lord's ascension, the Blessed Mother and His disciples participated in the great novena that culminated in the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. In praying we participate in God's unfolding will for the world. It is part of His creative plan that we pray for each other, asking Him for graces and blessings. As His followers this is our vocation too: to pray to God and to live our lives in conformity with our prayers so that we may draw down His blessings upon ourselves and one another.

Because of this particular need and intention, I invite you my dear brothers and sisters in Christ to have a novena of prayers to be offered for our Bishop. **Starting on December 9th**, this year's date for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I ask that the following prayers be said before or after the mass on the weekdays and weekend until December 17th (the ninth day). **And on December 18th**, the day of the Bishop's surgery, that an hour of adoration be offered and observed in the parishes of our Diocese.

As Christians, we are encouraged to be prayerful persons for by prayer we go to the Father with the Son in the Holy Spirit. Through prayer we open our minds and our hearts to His will. We acknowledge our dependence on God, our loving Father. Nothing that we need is too insignificant to pray for. Nor is anything too great that God cannot or will not grant it if we ask.

Thank you for your consideration of this prayer invitation and may God bless our Diocesan family.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,



Fr. Cerlouie F. Jimenez
Chancellor of the Diocese of Nelson

Prayer for Bishop Gregory.

Lord Jesus Christ you bore our sufferings and carried our sorrows in order to show us clearly the value of human weakness and patience; graciously hear our prayer for the sick especially for your servant and our Bishop Gregory. Touch his mind and heart and fill him with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Free him from anxiety, guilt and distress. Help him to understand that he is united with you in your sufferings that he may turn to you in faith and love and receive your peace, healing and joy for you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... and Glory be...

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on us.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us.

Our Lady Help of the sick, Pray for us.

Saint Joseph, Pray for us.

Saint Gregory the great, Pray for us.

Let us Pray:

God of compassion, our human weakness lays claim to your strength. We pray that through the skills of surgeons and nurses your healing gifts may be granted to your servant and our bishop Gregory. May your servant and our bishop respond to your healing will, expel all afflictions of mind and body; mercifully restore him to full health and enable him to resume his duties and be reunited with us at your altar of praise. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

(Prayers are adapted from the Prayer for the sick in the Novena of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and from the Pastoral care of the sick; rites of anointing and viaticum)