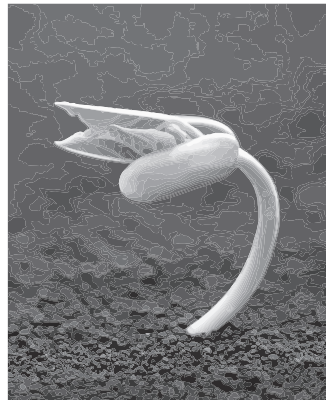


Today's gospel passage comes from a sequence called Mark's 'day of parables'. In the parables we can meet Jesus as an imaginative friend who is explaining his concerns and hopes to us. He tells us of 'the Kingdom', in which Israel's great hopes and all our human longings will be fulfilled. In Jesus' time, expectations were high and false human hopes were widespread. Jesus used figurative language, as more effective than plain language, to engage the people and awaken in them a sense of the mysterious message he brought. As our understanding of the mystery is awakened, so too is our understanding of the Saviour himself, for it is to the realisation of the 'Kingdom' that his whole existence among us is given.



Using many parables, Jesus spoke to the people

Mark begins his 'day of parables' with three 'seed' parables. The familiar parable of the sower is not included in today's passage; it gives us the parable of the seed that grows mysteriously to produce a full harvest, and the parable of the mustard seed, the smallest seed familiar to Palestinian farmers, which can produce a bush ten or twelve feet high. The most striking feature of these parables is the contrast between the tiny seed and what it goes on to produce. The 'Kingdom' Jesus announces is not a worldly triumph (something we need constantly to be reminded of); of its nature it has beginnings which are unimpressive and obscure by human standards. But in the end it initiates the realisation of the final achievement of God. Reference to the sickle and harvest echoes what the prophets had said about the End-time. Mark's audience, who had already seen the Church grow from being a marginal Jewish movement into an international fellowship, would have appreciated the prophetic promise of the original parable of Jesus. The 'birds of the air' may be an echo of this. The seed growing mysteriously has a lesson for every age. The growth of the 'kingdom' is God's work, a work that is vast and mysterious. Vatican II teaches that God's grace is at work in every human existence 'in a way known only to God' (Gaudium et spes, n.22). We must distinguish the Church and the 'Kingdom' – of which the Church is the 'first-fruits' and sign in the world. And even in the Church, as we all recognise, what is important to God is often humble and hidden.

The whole life of Jesus, we can say, is a parable, leading us into the mystery of God's generous and merciful dealings with us. As we come to appreciate the 'Kingdom' Jesus announced, and see him caring for God's people in their needs, we come to know the commitments which shaped his human existence. More than one of the Fathers spoke of Jesus as the 'seed'. In fact, he himself said he was the seed that must fall into the ground and die to produce God's final harvest.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

Today's readings remind us that great things often have small beginnings. If you feel God is calling you to something great as an ordained servant in His church, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

La Maîtrise des Hauts de France – in concert @OLS – July 12, 4pm



Thank you to the families who have said "yes" to our call for billets for members of this world-renowned boys choir. We are still looking for a few more places for the boys and their chaperones to stay on the evenings of July 11 & 12. **Are you able to help by taking in one or two boys or an adult on these two days?** If so, please contact the parish office this week or contact our Music Director, Gordon Mansell at gdmansell@sympatico.ca

Readings ~ Ezekiel 17:22-24 ~ 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 ~ Mark 4:26-34



Mass Intentions This Week – June 15 to 21

Please join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Taylor Whitney	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Frank Brennan	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Ismael Caceres Quispe	Delia Urosevic
Thursday, 9am	✠ Jeremija Urosevic	Delia Urosevic
Friday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Brenda McKay
Saturday, 9am	✠ Jack Killoran	The family
5:15pm	✠ Nick Vescio	The family
Sunday 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Lucille & Barry Fincher	Theresa Darmody
11am	✠ Mike Kalisz	Diana Kalisz
12:30pm	✠ Estrella & Gloria Navarro	The Navarro family

Working wonders with families in our neighbourhoods...

The Smith family came for counselling to deal with the sudden death of their parent. The children's grief was complicated by the fact that they were now residing with their other parent, with whom they had not spent a great deal of time, due to long work hours to provide for the family. As this grief stricken family learned about each other, how to relate, how to trust, how to love and build a new definition of "family", they began to open up to their counsellor and share what their life was like before their parent's tragic death. One child in the family shared that a trusted adult in their life used to be very abusive to them – physically assaulting them, locking them in closets, and making them hurt each other – to name just a few of the milder incidents. That disclosure to the family therapist led to the arrest of that individual and it also resulted in those children no longer feeling afraid of any future victimization. Closer family intimacy, safety, and a brighter future resulted for the Smith Family. **Last year, ShareLife-supported Family Service agencies provided family counselling to over 5,100 people in the Greater Toronto Area.**



ShareLife's campaign continues. Please give generously. You can work wonders!

Our parish goal for 2015 is \$378,000. To date we have received \$253,028. The campaign ends soon but there is still time to donate! Please help us reach our goal! Our final total for 2014 was \$396,453.

Next Weekend Annual Outdoor Mass & Picnic – Saturday, 4pm

This family-friendly parish event will take place at Our Lady of Sorrows School, 32 Montgomery Road. Mass begins at 4pm with a picnic to follow from 5–9pm. Rain or shine!

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 'on hold' for the summer months



Renovation work had limited access to the church hall necessitating a "pause" in this program, normally held during the 9:30am Sunday liturgy. **We expect the program will resume in autumn.**

Social Justice at Our Lady of Sorrows – Call for Volunteers

Following the success of last month's talk by Dr. Rohan Curnow, there's an effort afoot to develop a social justice movement at OLS in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 1932) which talks about "making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them". Email socialjustice@sorrows.ca and volunteer to help shape this effort!

"Christ does not save us by acting a parable of divine love; he acts the parable of divine love by saving us. That is the Christian faith." – Austin Farrer

Presentation on Ministry Work in Guyana – June 17, 2pm

Scarboro Missions, a Roman Catholic mission society involved in volunteer outreach both overseas and in Canada, invites you to an interactive presentation on ministry work in Guyana. Speakers include recently returned Scarboro missionaries. Includes light refreshments. Takes place at Mary Ward Centre, 70 St. Mary St. For more information, call 416-261-7135, ext. 280 or email oneyear@scarboromissions.ca



Natural, Effective, Affordable... For over 30 years



The Creighton Model FertilityCare System & NaProTECHNOLOGY continue to help women and couples better understand and care for their reproductive health. FertilityCare Toronto assists couples in effectively achieving or avoiding pregnancy, as well as diagnose and treat various reproductive and gynaecological issues, including PCOS, endometriosis, PMS, and infertility. A free introductory session will be held at St Christopher's Church in Mississauga on June 18th. Private sessions can also be arranged. For more information or to register, please contact FertilityCare Practitioner Intern Jennifer Medal at jennifer@fertilitycare.ca, visit www.fertilitycare.ca, or call FertilityCare Toronto at 416-465-2868.

Cradle of Hope Charismatic Conference – June 19, 20, 21

'Come as you are' and join Cardinal Collins along with a host of special guest speakers for praise, worship, healing, reconciliation, Mass, workshops and a special Father's Day blessing. Montecassino Banquet Hall, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Downsview. Adults: \$30, Youth: \$15. Meals available for purchase. Email Pauline at pauline.sustano@gmail.com for advance tickets. Visit www.ccrctor.com or call 416-466-0776 for more information.

Appreciation Breakfast – Saturday, June 20, 9:30am–noon

Catholic Family Services of Toronto and New Beginnings invite you to this event at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St., 4th floor. Guest speaker Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Assistant Professor, St. Augustine's Seminary, will address the subject "Influences that Shape our Personalities: Self-Forgiveness and Trying to Understand the Other." Please pre-register by contacting mbeinincasa@cfstoronto.com or by calling 416-921-1163, ext. 2235.

Online Discussion on Henri Nouwen's "Finding My Way Home" – June 20, 2pm

Hosted by the Henri Nouwen Society and led by Ray Glennon, this discussion at (www.wp.henrinouwen.org/rgroup_blog) will explore Nouwen's perspective on aspects of our spiritual life: The Path of Power, The Path of Peace, The Path of Waiting, and The Path of Living and Dying. For info, contact Maureen Wright at mwright@henrinouwen.org

Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide June 23, 1pm



The University of St. Michael's College presents the topic, "How to respond to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide." Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; Larry Worthen, Executive Director, Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada; and Charles Lewis, retired journalist at the National Post, will be speaking on The Supreme Court of Canada's assisted suicide decision. Takes place in Room 100 at Alumni Hall, 121 St. Joseph St. Two sessions are being offered to the public and clergy: 1–3pm and 7–9pm. The sessions will present the same content so you may choose whichever is most convenient. There is no charge to attend the symposium, but you must register online at www.bit.ly/power-to-end-life For more information, contact Matthew Sanders via email at msanders@archtoronto.org or phone 416-934-3400, ext. 640.