

Our Easter celebration has once again come and gone. Participation in the liturgy has probably been a deeply moving and inspiring experience for many. But now life goes on as before, in a world that does not seem to have been changed. The words of the Preface, 'The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world', don't seem to ring true. As this mood overtakes us, let us recall that the apostles themselves did not find it easy to come to terms with what the Saviour's victory over death meant for them. They had looked forward to sharing with Jesus in his messianic triumph, but now their world seemed to go on as before. It is remarkable that all four gospels tell of the 'doubts' and 'hesitations' of the apostles as they came to faith in the Lord's Resurrection. In today's gospel reading from John these doubts are expressed by Thomas – the stolid realist who objected at the Supper, 'We don't know where you are going; how can we know the way'. Perhaps we shall find the way forward in the faith journey of this Easter season if we reflect upon Jesus' greeting of 'Peace', used twice when he came among the disciples on the evening of his resurrection day, and repeated when he returned to confirm the faith of doubting Thomas. As we look out on today's world, thoughts of the 'peace' the world yearns for are often in our minds. Many times we have been told that we can only be peacemakers if we are at peace in ourselves; and we know from the times we have experienced true peace, that peace is more than the absence of conflict – it is a positive coming together of all that matters in our lives.



Peace be with you

Ultimately, the Risen Lord's gift to the world is the gift of true peace. So, in his first meeting with his disciples he points out the way that leads to the peace he will give to the human family – 'a peace the world cannot give, that is my gift to you' he had told them in John's account of the Supper. The peace Christ brings is found through faith, a faith that is alive to God's active presence in the world in Christ, and is open to learning that God's ways challenge our expectations. 'Happy (blessed with true peace) are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Through the gift of faith, we see beneath the surface of the lives we live and the events unfolding in our world, to accept the 'Lord and God' whose self-giving – forever displayed in the wounds of his risen body – invites us to trust that, in the end, beyond all our expectations, the whole of creation will be gathered into his peace. He announced the forgiveness of sins. Perhaps we baulk at the theme of 'sin' featuring so prominently in this first encounter. 'Sin' is not a fashionable notion today: our 'liberated' culture finds it hard to accept the obvious fact that most of the problems of humanity are caused by the selfish abuse of freedom. It was the world's selfishness that caused his wounds; only his triumph will bring healing the world needs.

Though a new life-force is at work – 'Receive the Holy Spirit' – the world seems to go on as before. Things are not put right all at once, because God respects our human freedom, and calls us to play our part in the final glorious outcome: 'As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you'.

John Thornhill sm
www.themaussseries.com

Thomas believed because he saw Jesus. What will it take for you to respond to God's Call to priesthood or consecrated life?

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Acts 5.12-16 ~ Revelation 1.9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 ~ John 20.19-31

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – April 4-10

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Nick Villani	L. Villani
Tuesday, 9am	... of the Goncalves family	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Walter Kowal	John & Lenore Sheppard
Thursday, 9am	✠ Mary Kay Kelly	Neil & Winn Driscoll
Friday, 9am	... of Mary Garavito	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Maria Bellisario	The family
5:15pm	✠ Anthony Pirri	Lou-Anne Haier & family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Guillermo Bernal	
9am	✠ Stella Maria Dufty	Shamus Stokes
11am	✠ Adam Beldycki	The family
12:30pm	✠ Fr. Charles Vanitem	The Sklar family

Rosary Group – mornings after 9am Mass; Fridays, 2pm, above Running Room
"The family that prays together stays together" –Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. ("The Rosary Priest")

Stretch & Flex – \$10/session – Bring water & a yoga mat – Tues., 6:15–7:30pm
Takes place in the parish hall; moves to 2nd floor, Running Room; 3rd Tues. each month.

Gifts of Securities

If you have stocks or mutual funds that have gone up in value and you don't want to pay the capital gains tax on them, consider using them to make your offertory gift. You can also use securities to consolidate all of your other Church giving as well. If you make an annual gift to ShareLife, for example, we will arrange to have the parish credited with your gift. To learn more, please call the Development Office of the Archdiocese at 416-934-3411 or visit www.archtoronto.org/development

Coming Soon! It's almost time to 'Bundle Up' for St. Vincent de Paul!



Volunteers will assist with the collection & loading of securely tied or sealed bags or boxes of gently used items (think: shoes, clothing, coats, bedding & draperies) on the weekend of April 16/17. Larger items (i.e. furniture & appliances), computer hardware and toys **cannot** be accepted.

SAVE THE DATE! Ministry Day of Reflection – Saturday, September 17

If you are in ministry at OLS (or would like to be) you are invited to attend. Details to follow.

Working wonders in our community...

Terry obtained his Master's Degree in music and philosophy earlier in life and was successful in careers in spirituality with the Carmelites as well as in the hospitality industry. While working, he became addicted to alcohol. Recognizing the seriousness of his problem and in order to return to work successfully, Terry would need to be involved in a long term recovery program. He chose the spiritually enriched program St Michael's Homes offered and as a result, Terry became focused and deeply connected with the staff at St Michael's and was able to continue on the right path. He looks forward to the day soon when he can confidently leave and be successful once again in the hospitality industry, and an inspiration to those around him. **ShareLife funded agencies like St. Michael's Homes helps many men suffering from substance abuse get their lives back on track through life-changing counselling and extensive support. ShareLife's campaign continues! Please give generously. You can work wonders!**



"Ten more commandments": 9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; Sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

COMMUNITY

Assisted Suicide – Protect the vulnerable and those who care for them!

By June 2016, the Government of Canada is expected to pass legislation to legalize assisted suicide. Cardinal Collins encourages Catholics throughout the archdiocese to support the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience by visiting www.CanadiansforConscience.ca today. The coalition represents a group of like-minded partners, including 5,000 doctors across Canada, who are committed to protecting conscience rights for health practitioners and facilities. You can use this website to write directly to your Member of Parliament, respectfully expressing your concerns. Given tight timelines for this legislation, please take action immediately! **Thank you for helping to protect the vulnerable and those who care for them!**

Knowing God Better – Helping Catholics get MORE out of their faith

So many of us are searching for meaning in our ordinary lives, searching for the fullness of life but aware that self-concern seems primary. You are invited to attend this series at St. Gregory's Parish (122 Rathburn Rd.) on 7 consecutive Monday nights, 7–8:30pm, beginning April 4. For more information or to register, call the parish's office at 416-239-4831.

Holy Name of Mary College School – Open House Sat., April 9, 10am–2pm



We invite you to visit us to find out more about our school. Talk to current students, faculty members, school administrators and parents and get a true sense of student life at HNMCS. For more info, visit www.hnmcs.ca or call Giselle Fernandes at 905-891-1890, ext. 103.

Art Show and Sale – Fundraiser for Local Charities – April 9, 10am–4pm

Take this opportunity to discover a wide selection of art at the 19th Annual Art Show and Sale at Kingsway Lambton United Church (85 the Kingsway; corner of Prince Edward and the Kingsway). The \$10 admission price includes a draw for a painting by Lloyd Wilson. View the painting and the work of the 30 other artists at www.kingswaylambton.ca/artshow

Catholic Family Services of Toronto – New Beginnings – Upcoming Events

You are invited to attend the following upcoming inspirational talk which will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St., 4th floor. We gather at 6:30pm. ► **Monday, April 18** – "Living with Loneliness"
ALSO The New Beginnings Spring Retreat, entitled, "Nurturing Seeds of Hope in all the Seasons of Life" will take place on Saturday, April 23 at the Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure, 1300 Leslie Street from 9:30am–3:30pm.



Notre Dame High School – 75th Anniversary Hope to see you there!



- Open House at NDHS (12 Malvern Ave.) – Friday, October 14, 5–10pm
- Mass at Good Shepherd Church (21 Simonston Blvd., Markham) – Saturday, October 15, 2pm
- Banquet at Le Parc (8432 Leslie St., Richmond Hill) – Saturday, October 15 – tickets are \$75 per person.

For more information or to register for the festivities, call 416-419-4055 or email notredamealumnae@rogers.com or visit www.notredamealumnae.com

Bids 'n Bites – Bridge and Luncheon – Wednesday, April 27, noon–3pm

Head on over to Humber Valley United Church (76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke) for a fancy sandwich lunch, card playing (Bridge, Euchre or your game of choice), silent auction and fantastic door prizes. Both ladies and gentlemen are welcome! Grab a deck of cards & round up a few friends for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. Cost is \$25. For tickets, call 416-767-1289. Proceeds will be directed to United Church Women (UCW) supported charities.