

Our faith is grounded in the witness of the apostles. This witness had its origins in an overwhelming experience: a meeting, against all their expectations, with the final achievement in God's work of creation, the greatness of the Risen Lord. The gospel accounts echo this experience. Meditating on them gives us a greater appreciation of this foundation of our faith – the 'teaching of the apostles' that has gathered the Church in faith, since its beginnings in Jerusalem.

John's gospel, as we know, is the product of profound reflection on this gospel tradition. The more we come to know it, the more we recognise how much is implied in its apparently simple narrative (even, it seems, reference to the fact that the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection on 'the first day of the week' had its origin in the generation of the apostles).

It has often been pointed out that our understanding of the Easter Mystery has been shaped by Luke's schema of three distinct events: Resurrection, Ascension (40 days later), Pentecost (10 days later). In John's gospel, the Easter Mystery, is already experienced in all its aspects on Easter Day itself. Meeting Mary of Magdala, Jesus speaks of his imminent 'ascent' to the Father; and when he comes to the apostles place of refuge, on the evening of that same day, the Saviour who had 'emptied himself' becoming as we all are, shows himself already one with the Father in divine greatness and authority, as he bestows 'the Holy Spirit' and commissions the apostles to undertake their great mission – 'As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you'.



Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe

John's narrative tells of the apostles' experience as a passing from apprehension and uncertainty – 'the doors were closed for fear of the Jews' – to the reassurance and joy brought by faith in the Risen Lord. Three times in this narrative he repeats his greeting, 'Peace be with you'. Given the fact that this is their first encounter with the one they had abandoned to his fate, even denied, these words three times repeated are far more than a conventional greeting. They echo down through the ages as words of divine forgiveness and reconciliation for a world whose burdens he has taken upon himself in the terrible drama of the cross. The gospels all speak of the hesitations experienced by the group as they came to terms with their experience, and passed from fear and uncertainty to the joy of believing. In John's narrative, this is all dramatised in the story of Thomas, the outspoken enthusiast, who tells Jesus, 'We do not know where you are going, how we can know the way?' and urges the group, 'Let us go up and die with him!' As in other gospel accounts, Jesus makes it clear that what they have encountered is not a ghostly apparition, but his Incarnate Self: 'Put your finger here, your hand in my side. Doubt no longer but believe'. And so, as John's narrative comes to its climax in Thomas' confession – 'My Lord and my God' – we hear echoes of the gospel's opening, 'The Word became flesh' (1:18), and an echo of its meditation on the Eucharist, 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world' (6:51).

Even for the apostolic group, 'seeing' was not 'believing'. The 'seeing' of their extraordinary and mysterious encounter was an invitation to accept the Saviour's gift of faith. Each Easter brings the same invitation to us all: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Peter has this same message: 'You did not see him yet you love him, filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described'.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Will you respond to God's call to be sent as priest, deacon or religious?
If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto. 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Acts 2:42-47 ~ 1 Peter 1:3-9 ~ John 20:19-31

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – April 24 – April 30

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	... of Runolfa Cariaga	
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Alphonse Bates and family	Paula Bates
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Doris Vogtle	Herman Rohner
Thursday, 9am	18 th Birthday thanksgiving for Konrad Baj	family
Friday, 9am	... of Fr. Nino's 40 th Anniversary of Priesthood	
Saturday, 9am	... of Fr. Nino's 40 th Anniversary of Priesthood	
5:15pm	✠ Mary Grace Buttigieg	Inis & Gordon Mansell
Sunday, 8am	✠ Lena Badali	family
9:30am	☞ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ☞	
11am	✠ Larry Holmes	family
12:30pm	✠ Anna Plastina	family

Congratulations Father Nino!

To celebrate Fr. Nino's 40th Anniversary of Ordination, everyone is invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday, April 28 at 7pm followed by a reception of light refreshments. **Your contributions of bite-size homemade desserts would be greatly appreciated.** Please call the parish office at 416 231 6016 or email olosorrows@bellnet.a to confirm your contribution. Please keep Father Nino in your prayers.

Living the Gospel by helping the vulnerable in our society...

Tim and Donna met 25 years ago and have made the Friday and Saturday social nights at Our Place a regular part of their lives. Their intellectual capacity is somewhat limited but they do maintain their own independent apartments. While Tim is currently caring for his aging mother following her recent surgery, Donna is able to support Tim by cooking meals and offering caring attention. As Tim overcomes some social shyness in his own life, he also takes cares of some of Donna's daily needs with household chores, and working on the computer. The support role ShareLife plays enables Our Place to be a caring partner to these vulnerable people. ShareLife funded agencies like Our Place helps many intellectually disabled men and women through compassionate and caring support.



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

Your Offertory Envelopes – please write in an amount

Please take a moment each week to write the amount of your donation on your envelope. If you're using the supplied (numbered) envelopes, you need not write your name – we'll know it's you based on the envelope number. If using a surrogate envelope, do please make sure to note your number or name along with the amount. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

An Invitation to Serve Help Lead the Whole People of God Into His Presence!

Do you feel God is calling you to serve? Are you nervous or unsure? Please, have no fear! Take the first step in your amazing learning & faith journey as an altar server! Email Kristen, altar server coordinator, at kristen@sorrows.ca today or speak to her in person after the 8 or 9:30am Sunday Masses. **Keep your heart right with God, be a disciple, join this important youth ministry.**



COMMUNITY

Navigating the Etobicoke Health Care System with Gary Hepworth

Next Saturday, April 29, 10:30am-12:00noon, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall
You're invited to this seminar that provides an overview of the Health Care System and Services for Seniors that are available in Etobicoke. Other topics to be discussed are the availability and limitations of CCAC, the differences between Retirement Homes and Long Term Care facilities, and how to plan for your future health care needs. This is a FREE event. RSVP: luisa@sorrows.ca or call 416 231 6016.

The Source with the Sisters of Life - Thursday, April 27 – 7 to 9pm, St. Peter's Church

Join the Sisters of Life for an evening of prayer and fellowship. 7 to 8pm: Eucharistic adoration with meditative music by the Sisters and confessions available. 8 to 9pm: Social with refreshments in the parish hall. Contact: The Sisters of Life at 416 463 2722 or visit www.sistersoflife.org.

Senior Men's High School Retreat (Grades 11 & 12) - Saturday, April 29, 9am to 5pm

The Office of Vocations is hosting a day retreat at St. Mary Immaculate Parish, Richmond Hill. The retreat provides a time to pray, interact & socialize with other young Catholic men. Seminarians will deliver talks on practical aspects of faith. Day includes Holy Mass, Adoration & Confession. For more information call the Office of Vocations at 416 968 0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org.

Huge Flea Market - Saturday, April 29, 8am - 1pm at Kingsway-Lambton United Church

Thousands of items priced to sell at this outstanding Flea Market, now in its 53rd year. Household furnishings, clothing, jewelry, accessories, toys, games, books, vintage treasures, china, silverware and more fill every room in the church and out on the lawn. Bake Sale. BBQ lunch. Proceeds support over 20 charities. Free Admission. Visit www.kingswaylambton.ca/events.

Magnificat Breakfast – Saturday, April 29, 9:30am-12:30pm, Julius Banquet Centre

Join the 39th Magnificat breakfast for women. Treat your mother, sister, colleague, friend or yourself to an inspirational morning that includes a hot breakfast, songs of praise and worship led by our spirit-filled music ministry, a personal testimony of the transforming love of Christ in the life of an invited speaker. Priests are available for women wishing to avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation. Guest Speaker: Natasha Filippetto. Cost: \$22. Call Inez at 416 745 4268. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Becoming One in Christ – Sunday, April 30 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish

Keynote speaker Fr. Bill will explore how the liturgy represents, rehearses and forms in its participants the essential commitments of the Christian Community. For details call 905 853 5009.

Etobicoke – Lakeshore Interfaith Festival Sunday, April 30, 2pm-5pm, Tibetan Cultural Center

Join Etobicoke faith groups of many creeds and backgrounds, uniting in celebration of shared values and showing unity in diversity. Free admission. RSVP requested: interfaithfest@gmail.com.

Humanitarian Relief for South Sudan

Over the summer, Father John Ngbapia from Yambio, South Sudan, came to Our Lady of Sorrows Church to raise funds for his community. The country has been in a civil war for 30 years – the ethnic tensions have been considered genocide and the country has recently declared a state of famine. **Your donations of gently used items such as clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, household items, small appliances, bikes, towels, linen and food that can sustain high temperatures (rice, flour etc.) to fill 40-foot container in aid of the displaced people.** The goal is to send the container to arrive by Christmas 2017. Please contact Idalia Furtado-DeFaria at Idalia@finesse.to to arrange drop off or pick up of items as required.