

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, April 22nd

+ Doris & Joseph McKcrow
Requested by Jo-Ann Higgins

Wednesday, April 23rd

+ Brian Elcombe
Requested by Carmel Lundin

Thursday, April 24th

Intentions of Jim Hughes
Requested by Carolyn Brady

Friday, April 25th

+ Aidan Carr
Requested by Maureen Carr

Saturday, April 26th

+ Michael Molloy
Requested by Anna Molloy & Family

REST IN PEACE

In your charity, pray for the repose of the soul of John
O'Connor

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light burns this week for
the intentions of Edmond Valin Sr.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Philip Teixeira, John W., Gerry Genuino, Baby Isaiah
Liam, Baby Owen, Patrick O'Neill, Jacob McLean, Elaine
Atwood, Dawn Ruthven, Raphael Ng, Margaret (Peggy)
McCarthy, Lynn Sparkes, Edna Higgins

WEEKLY REFLECTION

The experience of the two disciples is relatable – they are preoccupied by the news of Jesus' execution and therefore distracted from recognizing that the Risen Christ is literally right beside them. How often are we engrossed in our daily lives, the ups and downs of our own experiences, such that we cannot see how Christ is right beside us?

Open the eyes of my heart to recognize how Christ draws near as I journey through life. Strengthen my faith so I may live in Easter joy.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

JUBILEE 2025 LENTEN PILGRIMAGE:

Why not consider a Lenten Pilgrimage to one of our designated Pilgrimage Churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto during this special year of blessings? A listing of these churches and resources for your visit can be found at: www.archtoronto.org/jubilee. The site also provides information for those wishing to receive a Plenary Indulgence through their visit to a Pilgrimage church. Please note that it is not necessary to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the same day as your visit to the Pilgrimage church but can be celebrated in your own parish "within several days before or after your visit."

Jubilee 2025 – Suggested Prayer of the Faithful for April 2025

For this parish community, brothers and sisters united in the Risen Christ; may the joy and peace of the Redeemer inspire us, Pilgrims of Hope, to be tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. We pray to the Lord.

2025 NEOPHYTE MASS:

Cardinal Leo will preside at the annual Neophyte Mass to celebrate with all those in the archdiocese who have been newly initiated, fully initiated or received into the Church at Easter. **The Mass will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 11 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, 65 Bond St., Toronto.**

This Mass is open to all, but reserved seating is available only for Neophytes and up to five guests. Reserved seating will be designated by parish. Registration closes Monday, May 5. Seating is limited, so please register early. All other attendees will be seated in non-reserved sections on a first come, first served basis.

REGISTER:

<https://bit.ly/NeophyteMassRegisterMay2025>

CONTACT: formation@archtoronto.org.

A DAY WITH MARY – REGISTRATION OPEN:

Online registration is now open for A Day With Mary taking place **May 31 at Villanova College in King City**. During this Jubilee Holy Year, spend a day with our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Hope and deepen your devotion to her through a keynote address by Dr. Josephine Lombardi, a number of inspiring witnessings and Holy Mass presided over by His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo. This family-friendly event will have music, food, fellowship, children's catechesis and activities. For more information and to register, visit www.archtoronto.org/mary

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

EASTER MESSAGE: JESUS IS RISEN, ALLEUIA!

From singing hallelujah, to chocolate bunnies, to egg hunts, to reuniting with whatever you fasted from during Lent, Easter is easily one of my favourite times of the year.

But to find the greatest gift of Easter, you'll have to put down your basket and all that yummy, sugary stuff that fills you up (looking at you Peeps) and instead run to something empty – a tomb where the body of Jesus, the King of the Jews, was laid to rest.

He Is Risen: We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus loud and proud every Easter Sunday not only because it begins the most important liturgical time of the year, but because His resurrection is central to our Christian faith and the most pivotal moment in human history. **“If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith.”**

This is the classic “all-or-nothing” decision we have to make with Jesus. He either rose from the dead, or He didn't; there's no in-between. We either have to believe that He gave His life for us on the cross and then came back to life, or we must cast off the whole resurrection story as nonsense. The Resurrection became the moment that altered the course of history forever.

Jesus is Alive: Before I started to take my faith seriously, I thought Jesus was the guy who died for our sins so that when I messed up, it wasn't that big of a deal. But the more I encountered people who were on fire for their Christian faith, I started to ask myself, “If all Jesus did was die for me, then why didn't the story end then and there? How are we still here worshipping Him today if His life just ended on the cross?”

Those questions are answered on Easter Sunday, when we celebrate and proclaim His Resurrection. Jesus is alive. He did so much more than just die for us; He went the extra step that only Jesus could take and rose from the dead for us. If we truly and firmly believe in the miracle of Easter, then it's imperative that we do more than just celebrate for one Sunday; go out and proclaim that He is risen!

Proclaiming the Name: There are plenty of reasons why it's important to proclaim that Jesus is alive, but specifically the resurrection is a world-shaking event because it is confirming, conquering and continuing.

The resurrection is confirming because it proved Jesus' divinity. Up until His crucifixion, He had been bold and controversial in His teachings of who He really was and who had sent Him. As Jesus is hanging from the cross, people walk by shaking their heads and taunting Him, saying things like, “if you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

But Jesus showed that He indeed was the Son of God and proved His divinity not in simply saving Himself from death on the cross, but by defeating death by living again.

The resurrection is also conquering because of this defeat of death. Romans 6:9 says, **“We know that Christ, who was brought back to life, will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.”**

The devil fought savagely to overthrow the kingdom of heaven and probably thought he had won on Good Friday. But instead of the cross and the tomb being a symbol of Jesus' defeat, they became symbols of His triumph. Sin and death were conquered that day once and for all.

Lastly, the resurrection of Jesus is continuing because He destroyed the notion that “You Only Live Once” and in doing so, opened the door for us to join Him in resurrection when He comes again. Jesus walking out of the tomb won back for us what was lost because of Adam's sin in the garden.