

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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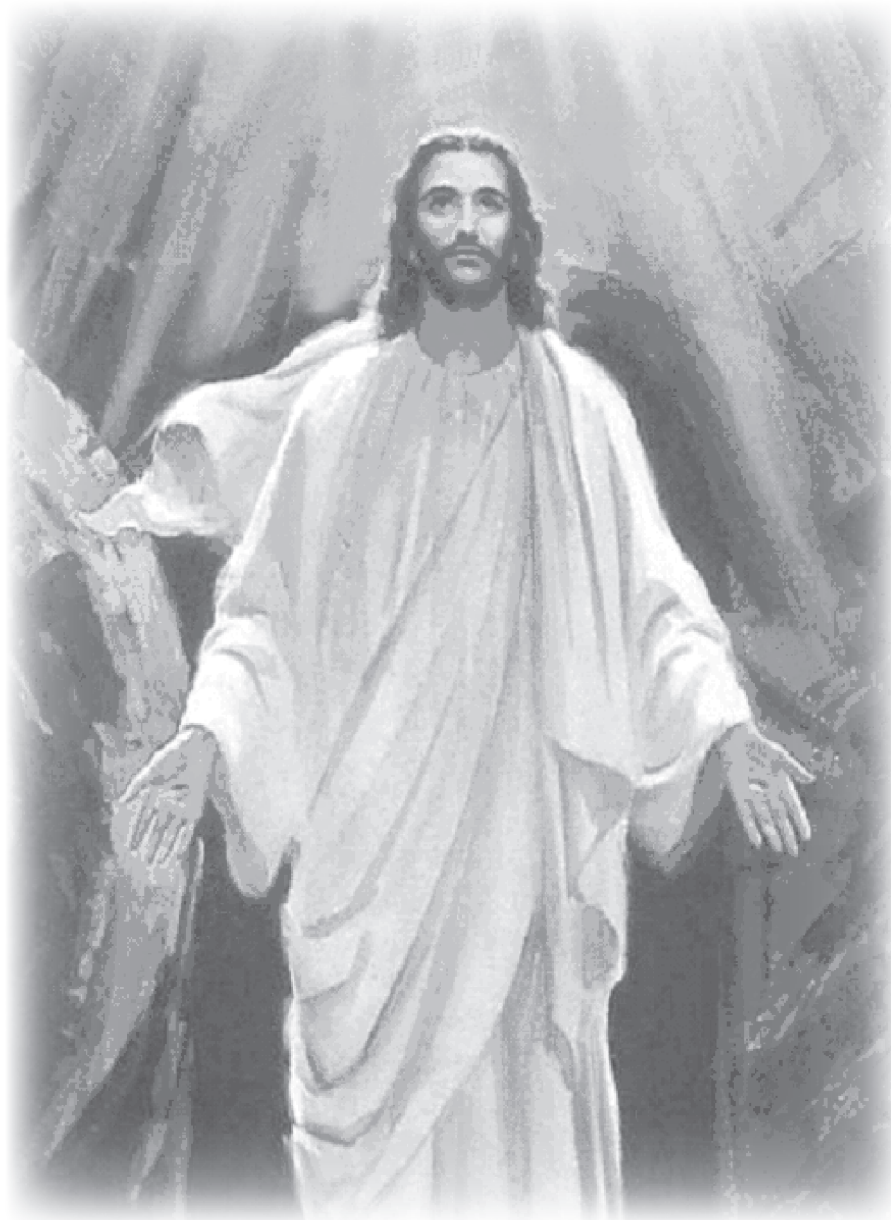
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Christ is Risen!

Recognizing the Risen Lord

Resurrection of Jesus

John 20.1-18

Rejoice, the Lord is risen, truly He is risen! Today is the Solemnity of Solemnities, the most holy day in the Church's calendar. Let us take a moment to rejoice in the glory of the resurrection. These past forty days we've been preparing for this great feast where we will be met with the risen Christ. However, let us ask ourselves, how often do we fail to recognize Him in our daily lives?

In the Gospel today, we hear the account of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene. Mary is face-to-face with Jesus risen



from the dead and yet she didn't recognize Him. She has spent the last couple years of her life following Him and now she cannot even identify Him as the man before her. While we may be quick to judge Mary, we should remember that Christ makes Himself present to us in countless ways that we often don't perceive.

One way that Jesus comes to us is through our

neighbour. St. Teresa of Calcutta says, "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus." This Easter, let us rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and seek to find Him in our neighbours. The same way that we would run to serve Christ, let us serve Christ dwelling in those around us and fully live out our call of stewardship.

Summary

These past forty days we've been preparing for this great feast where we will be met with the risen Christ yet how often do we fail to recognize Him in our daily lives? St. Teresa of Calcutta believes that we encounter Jesus through our neighbour as she says, "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him." This Easter, let us rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and seek to find and serve Him in our neighbour by being good stewards.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~



**This week
The Sanctuary Lamp
is dedicated
For the intentions of
The Cabral family
requested by
The Cabral Family**



**Mass
Intentions**

Monday, April 1st

12:05 pm † Teresa Buettner on her birthday remembrance
requested the Cabral family

Tuesday, April 2nd

12:05 pm In thanksgiving to St. Philomena
requested by Veronica Ferreira

Wednesday, April 3rd

12:05 pm In thanksgiving to St. Philomena
requested by Veronica Ferreira

Thursday, April 4th

12:05 pm Birthday intentions of Agnes Mapp on her 92nd
birthday
requested by her nephew, Anthony Michael Mapp

Friday, April 5th

12:05 pm † Deceased members of the Cabral family
requested by the Cabral family

Saturday, April 6th

9:00 am † Farahlinda Mejia
requested by the Migia family

5:00 pm Birthday intentions of Elsa Borja
requested by Elsa

Sunday, April 7th

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

11:00 am † Carlos Adao
requested by Thelma Potal & family

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA SCHEDULE

NINE DAYS OF PRAYER	DATE	TIME	TIME
		DIVINE MERCY NOVENA	MASS/ SERVICE
Day 3	Easter Sun. Mar. 31 st	10:15 am	11:00 am
Days 4 -8	Mon. Apr. 1 st to Fri. Apr 5 th	12:30 pm	12:05 pm
Day 9	Saturday Apr. 6 th	9:30 am	9:00 am
Divine Mercy Sunday	Sunday Apr. 7th	3:00–3:45 pm ♦ Confession ♦ Exposition & Benediction ♦ Blessing of candles & rosaries	11:00 am Mass

7 PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The Empty Tomb of Jesus

The empty tomb may be the strongest proof Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Two major theories have been advanced by unbelievers: someone stole Jesus' body or the women and disciples went to the wrong tomb. The Jews and Romans had no motive to steal the body. Christ's apostles were too cowardly and would have had to overcome the Roman guards. The women who found the tomb empty had earlier watched Jesus being laid away; they knew where the correct tomb was. Even if they had gone to the wrong tomb, the Sanhedrin could have produced the body from the right tomb to stop the resurrection stories. Jesus' burial cloths were left neatly folded inside, hardly the act of hurrying grave robbers. Angels said Jesus had risen from the dead.

2. The Holy Women Eyewitnesses

The holy women eyewitnesses are further proof that the Gospels are accurate historical records. If the accounts had been made up, no ancient author would have used women for witnesses to Christ's resurrection. Women were second class citizens in Bible times; their testimony was not even allowed in court. Yet the Bible says the risen Christ first appeared to Mary Magdalene and other holy women. Even the apostles did not believe Mary when she told them the tomb was empty. Jesus, who always had special respect for these women, honored them as the first eyewitnesses to his resurrection. The male Gospel writers had no choice but to report this embarrassing act of God's favor, because that was how it happened.

3. Jesus' Apostles' New-Found Courage

After the crucifixion, Jesus' apostles hid behind locked doors, terrified they would be executed next. But something changed them from cowards to bold preachers. Anyone who understands human character knows people do not change that much without some major influence. That influence was seeing their Master, bodily risen from the dead. Christ appeared to them in the locked room, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and on the Mount of Olives. After seeing Jesus alive, Peter and the others left the locked room and preached the risen Christ, unafraid of what would happen to them. They quit hiding because they knew the truth. They finally understood that Jesus is God incarnate, who saves people from sin.

4. Changed Lives of James and Others

Changed lives are yet another proof of the resurrection. James, the brother of Jesus, was openly skeptical that Jesus was the Messiah. Later James became a courageous leader of the Jerusalem church, even being stoned to death for his faith. Why? The Bible says the risen Christ appeared to him. What a shock to see your own brother, alive again, after you knew he was dead. James and the apostles were effective missionaries because people could tell these men had touched and seen the risen Christ. With such zealous eyewitnesses, the early church exploded in growth, spreading west from Jerusalem to Rome and beyond. For 2,000 years, encounters with the resurrected Jesus have changed lives.

5. Large Crowd of Eyewitnesses

A large crowd of more than 500 eyewitnesses saw the risen Jesus Christ at the same time. The Apostle Paul records this event in 1 Corinthians 15:6. He states that most of these men and women were still alive when he wrote this letter, about 55 A.D. Undoubtedly they told others about this miracle. Today, psychologists say it would be impossible for a large crowd of people to have had the same hallucination at once. Smaller groups also saw the risen Christ, such as the apostles, and Cleopas and his companion. They all saw the same thing, and in the case of the apostles, they touched Jesus and watched him eat food. The hallucination theory is further debunked because after the ascension of Jesus into heaven, sightings of him stopped.

6. Conversion of Paul

The conversion of Paul records the most drastically changed life in the Bible. As Saul of Tarsus, he was an aggressive persecutor of the early church. When the risen Christ appeared to Paul on the Damascus Road, Paul became Christianity's most determined missionary. He endured five floggings, three beatings, three shipwrecks, a stoning, poverty, and years of ridicule. Finally the Roman emperor Nero had Paul beheaded because the apostle refused to deny his faith in Jesus. What could make a person willingly accept—even welcome—such hardships? Christians believe the conversion of Paul came about because he encountered Jesus Christ who had risen from the dead.

7. They Died for Jesus

Countless people have died for Jesus, absolutely certain that the resurrection of Christ is an historical fact. Tradition says ten of the original apostles died as martyrs for Christ, as did the Apostle Paul. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of early Christians died in the Roman arena and in prisons for their faith. Down through the centuries, thousands more have died for Jesus because they believed the resurrection is true. Even today, people suffer persecution because they have faith that Christ rose from the dead. An isolated group may give up their lives for a cult leader, but Christian martyrs have died in many lands, for nearly 2,000 years, believing Jesus conquered death to give them eternal life.

<https://www.learnreligions.com/>



“He is risen! Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!”
Have faith in him ... And he will always be there for you!
May God bless you & your family with abundant
faith, serenity and joy this Easter.

A Blessed Easter to you all!

From: Fr. Charles, Fr. Peter, & Staff



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