

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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Rev. Fr. Charles Collins, Administrator

Rev. Fr. Peter Gitendran, In Residence

He Lives!



Alleluia, Alleluia!!



EASTER MESSAGE

My Dear Parishioners,

During lent, God asks us to examine whether, in our lives, in our families, and in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others and helping them, too. Let us co-operate with one another.

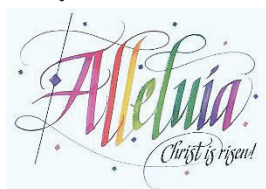
I am very proud of my parish communities – Immaculate Heart of Mary and Our Lady of Good Health; and it is truly a blessing serving you all.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all my staff and volunteers. A big thank you to our choir members, organists, altar servers, lectors, & Eucharistic ministers.

Rejoice in the Lord! A Blessed Easter to you all!

In Christ,

Fr. Charles



EASTER PRAYER

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal/belief.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it. Amen.



NEW

UPDATE

Effective April 1st, 2025, our parish Administrator, Fr. Charles Collins has been appointed Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.



The office will be **CLOSED** from Thursday, April 14th to Wednesday, April 17th and will **REOPEN** on Thursday, April 24th.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 21st

12:05 pm In thanksgiving & in honour o St. Raphael
requested by the Ferreira family

Tuesday, April 22nd

12:05 pm † Vicky Luis & deceased members of the Luis & Fernandes families
requested by Francis Luis

Wednesday, April 23rd

12:05 pm † James Connors
requested by Lynn & Brian Sullivan

Thursday, April 24th

12:05 pm

Friday, April 25th

12:05 pm † Brian Dettmer
requested by Lucienne Nelson

Saturday, April 26th

9:00 am In thanksgiving & intentions of Michele & Carol Morra on their 56th wedding anniversary
requested by Carol Morra

5:00 pm For the People of the Parish

DIVINE MERCY Sunday, April 27th

9:00 am For the Protection of Unborn Children
requested by the Masses for Life Project

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

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA



The Divine Mercy Novena, led by the Legion of Mary, continues as follows:

EASTER SUNDAY

Apr. 20th at 10:15 am

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Apr. 21st to 25th at 12:30 pm

SATURDAY

Apr. 26th - 9:30 am

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Apr. 27th at 3:00 – 3:45 pm

Confession | Exposition & Benediction | Blessings of candles & rosaries

JOIN US!

The Paradox of the Cross

Alleluia, He is Risen! Today is the Sunday of Sundays, the Solemnity of Solemnities. Today is the day Christ broke through the chains of sin and death and triumphantly rose from the dead, winning for us our salvation. As Christians, we are an Easter people and we are called to live in the joy and peace of the Risen Christ. Let us take a moment to reflect on how Easter can profoundly impact our daily lives.

By human standards, the crucifixion was an utter humiliating defeat. It was the end of the story for the person of Jesus and His followers. Jesus would just be remembered as the influential and charismatic preacher



that went too far by claiming to be God. All hope was seemingly lost. Yet, this is the paradox of the cross. The cross, the weapon of torture and death, becomes the very means of life and salvation. It was the necessary step in order for the resurrection. There simply is no Easter Sunday without a Good Friday.

This is the beautiful truth of our faith. The famous Portuguese proverb says that,

“God writes straight with crooked lines.” When all seems lost and broken, God can use these situations to bring about great blessings. As stewards, let us not be discouraged when we face crosses and trials in life or our ministry. If God was able to bring about the resurrection out of the crucifixion, just imagine the great deeds He will bring through our crosses. So let us rejoice on this Easter Sunday and thank God for the gift of His resurrection.

Summary

The beautiful truth of our faith is that God was able to bring about the greatest good of the resurrection through the seemingly utter defeat of the crucifixion. The famous Portuguese proverb says that, *“God writes straight with crooked lines.”* As stewards, let us not be discouraged when we face crosses and trials but instead trust that God will transform these difficulties into many little Easter mornings.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

7 PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Proof #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.

Proof #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.

Proof #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.

Proof #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.

To be continued



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