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St. Paul the Apostle Church
Maltese-Canadian
Community Parish
3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3
416-767-7054
email: stpaulmssp@gmail.com
Website: www.saint-paul-maltese.com

Pastor: Fr. Mario Micallef MSSP
Associate Pastor: Fr. Ivano Burdian MSSP
Parish Secretary: Mrs. Rita Apalit

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES & OTHER ACTIVITIES
Weekday Morning Mass
Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 9:15 am (Maltese)
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:15 am (English)

First Friday of the Month:
Mass in Maltese at 9.15 am,
followed by Adoration & Benediction

Weekend Masses;
Saturday 5:30 pm (English)
Sunday: 9:00 am (English)
10:30 am (Maltese)
12:00 noon (English)

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

• **SACRAMENTS**
Baptism: Please contact the Rectory.
Baptisms are held every Saturday at 10:30am.

Marriages:
Contact the priest at least one year in advance of the wedding.
A marriage preparation course is required.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Any day, by appointment; call the office.

Anointing of the Sick:
Contact the priests. Parishioners are reminded that this is not a sacrament that should be left for the last possible minute. It is a Sacrament for the sick, not just for the dying.



Mission Statement

We, the community of St Paul the Apostle, are a Maltese-Canadian personal Parish, founded on September 8, 1930, and administered by the Missionary Society of St Paul. We are a faith community reflecting the gospel values of Christ according to the teaching and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We serve the Maltese community, welcoming also other people from other nationalities. Our mission is to follow Christ by sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure: by imitating Christ; and by giving witness to our faith through our everyday lives..

Saturday, April 23

- Radek Bielecki (birthday)
- Theresa Massa
- Catherine Vella

Sunday, April 24
9:00am

- Joyce Ferroni

10:30am

- James Magro
- Theresa Massa
- Nenu Dingli
- Carmen & Joseph Govè
- Charlie & Albert Taliana
- Silvana Dewe & Grace Buhagiar
- Joseph & Angela Azzopardi

12:00 noon

- Linda Apalit
- Tony Axiak
- Maria Fenech
- Frank Cini
- Reno Sammut, Nick Nasso, John Camilleri
- Carmen Debono

Monday, April 25

- Paul Delicata

Tuesday, April 26

- Carmel & Edmond Scicluna

Wednesday, April 27

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass
- Fr. Lawrence Bonavia

Thursday, April 28

- Leticia & Kingsley Tranchell

Friday, April 29

- For the People of the Parish

MASS INTENTIONS



April 24, 2022
2nd Sunday of Easter - C

Pastor's thoughts ...



It is not easy to believe in the resurrection. We remember Jesus' close friend Mary who thought that the risen Lord was, in fact, the gardener. Then Jesus' own disciples, who refused to believe what the women told them after they had witnessed the risen Lord. What had more than once been foretold by Jesus himself seems to go beyond any human reasoning, beyond any logic. Today we have the story of Thomas, who is no exception to this rule.

It is one of those gospel passages that we almost know by heart. On Easter Sunday Jesus comes to visit his disciples, who had been locked up in that upper room filled with fear, while Thomas was not with them. So, Jesus returns a week later, when Thomas is also present. Our first reaction might be "How beautiful! Jesus returns just for the sake of Thomas, to make sure that he, too, experiences what his friends had witnessed a week earlier". This is true, but there is much more than this.

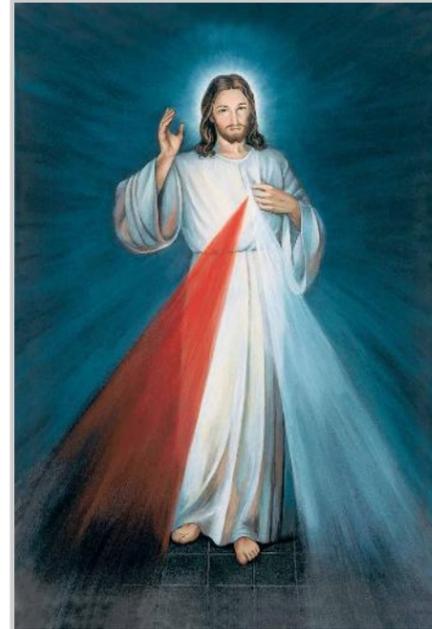
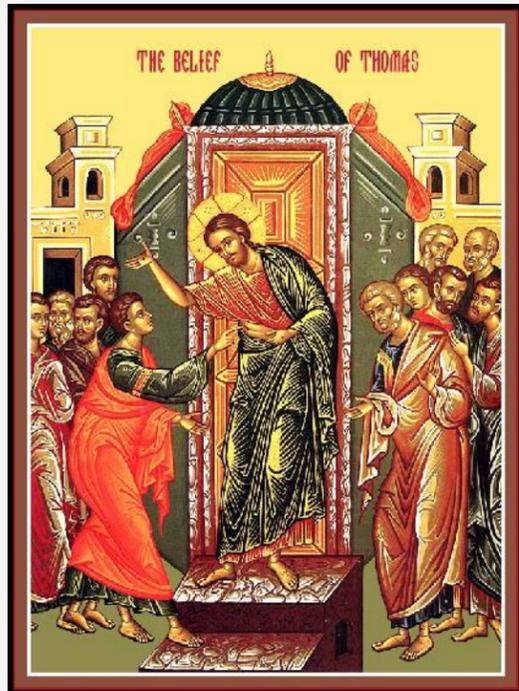
Indeed, Jesus does return for the sake of Thomas. This reminds us of how important each and every one of us is for Jesus. Do you remember that one lost sheep of the parable? But then again, one could argue that Jesus could have gone to meet Thomas wherever he happened to be on that Sunday evening. But no, Thomas had to experience the risen Christ when he was with his community. It is there, while the disciples are gathered again the following week, that Jesus comes to meet Thomas. It is as if Jesus wanted to remind Thomas – and, indeed, each one of us – that one can meet the risen, living Jesus only when one is in communion with the rest of the community. Even if it is an imperfect, broken community like the one of those first disciples. How often do I hear people say they feel it's enough to pray to God at home, without the need of being together with the believing community! Somehow, that does not work.

We can imagine the dynamics within that first Christian community during those eight days between the two visits of Jesus. The group constantly insisting that they had seen Jesus, and Thomas adamantly stating that he would not believe a word they were saying, unless he gets tangible proof. We can almost feel the tension and the frustration within that group. Yet, in spite of this tension, Thomas does not abandon the group. He stays. And he is rewarded. Jesus does return, and Thomas recognizes him not by looking at his face (as we would normally recognize people) but through the wounds of his passion. Those passion signs do not disappear after the resurrection. They remain. And rather than being a sign of defeat, they become signs and proof of triumph. The body of the risen Christ is not a body without wounds. Thomas experienced this in more ways than one. He saw the wounds in the hands and side of Jesus. He experienced the woundedness of the body which is the Church.

"Put your finger here ... give me your hand, put it in my side," Jesus tells Thomas. The wounds in the body are real, do not run away from them or try to deny them. This is the Jesus I believe in. This is the Church, as Body of Christ, I believe in. And yet, within this context of woundedness, amongst the tension created inside the community and amidst all the fear the disciples were experiencing during those days, Jesus' first words were "Peace be with you". The gift of peace is not a denial or cancellation of the woundedness we all experience. It is the result of being in the presence of Jesus who had gone through it all, and came out victorious.

May you all experience this gift of Christ's peace as you go through the ups and downs of your own spiritual journeys and everyday lives. This is what a Happy Easter is all about.

Fr Mario



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today, the second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the feast of the Divine Mercy. This feast was established by Pope St John Paul II, in 2000.

"How greatly today's world needs the mercy of God! In every continent, from the depth of human suffering, a cry for mercy seems to rise up. Where hatred and the thirst for revenge dominate, where war brings suffering and death to the innocent, there the grace of mercy is needed in order to settle human minds and hearts and to bring about peace. Wherever respect for life and human dignity are lacking, there is need of God's merciful love, in whose light we see the inexpressible value of every human being. Mercy is needed in order to ensure that every injustice in the world will come to an end in the splendor of truth. (...) In the mercy of God the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness!" - Pope John Paul II

"JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU"

EASTER RAFFLE

The Easter Basket was won by Mary, with ticket N. 086

A Figolla was won as second prize by Ann Defry, ticket No. 057.

THANK YOU to the donors of the prizes.

The raffle made \$450 to the parish.

THANK YOU

The **Good Friday Collection for the needs of the Holy Land** was \$1,855. As always, may God bless your generosity

SHARE LIFE

Next weekend is our second ShareLife Collection.

Thank you to those who have contributed to our annual appeal. We are being invited to reflect on our ability to help those in need, and make a sacrificial gift to support those who turn to the numerous agencies helped by ShareLife for assistance.

One of the key messages Jesus left us is to "love one another as I have loved you." Our generosity toward ShareLife agencies is one of the ways we can help transform the lives of the marginalized in our society.



REMINDER - SYNOD OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Pope Francis has launched the **Synod on Synodality**: a two-year global process of listening to the faithful that will help the Church reflect on how we can do God's will in the world today. The comments of the faithful will ultimately be discussed at a meeting of the bishops in the Vatican in 2023. To learn more about the Synod on Synodality and to share your thoughts, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/synodality . **On the same page there is a survey where everyone is invited to share their thoughts about different aspects of the Church.** Please participate!

