

Christ
is
Risen!

SUNDAY, APRIL 4th, 2021

SUNDAY READINGS

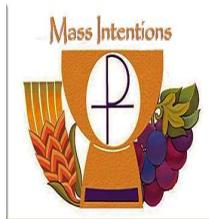
First Reading: Acts 10: 34a, 37~43

Psalm 118: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

Second Reading: Colossians 5: 6b~8

Gospel: John 20: 1~18

THIS WEEKEND



**Saturday April 3rd
8 pm Pro Populo
Sunday April 4th
9 am + Francis &
+ Walter Berchul
11 am + Charles
Brownell**

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!



Welcome to Easter Sunday's celebration! It has now been over a year since the pandemic began. This past year has not been a time of going forth. Instead, it has been a time of lockdowns, restrictions, uncertainty, cancellations, disappointments, sickness and death. We have watched our church communities suffer in silence not knowing when our churches will be open or for how long they will remain open or how long it will take for

people to reconnect with their parishes. It has been a difficult time not only for people of faith but for the whole country as well. In spite of this, our Christian families continue to be places where faith lives and even flourishes.

Today, during this Easter season, we continue to struggle, but there is a new sense of hope with the vaccines now being distributed, an opening-up of the churches in many parts of the country and even the warmer weather after a long challenging winter. Perhaps there is nothing as hopeful and meaningful in our faith celebrations as the Easter Vigil Mass when the new Paschal Candle is lit once again. The simple light is held high and shines brightly in the darkness as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world. . . The congregation lights their small candles from the Easter Candle, one by one, they pass *the light of Christ*. The Church becomes radiant and there is a sign of hope coming from each of us holding our lighted candles.

Is this not a sign of what we are called to do as we move forward through this pandemic? Are we not called to be signs of hope as we re-build our communities following the destruction caused by the Corona Virus in the past year? In fact, we are on the very doorstep of a unique experience of church renewal. The lessons we have learned over the past year must play a part in this renewal, especially how important, beautiful and valuable our faith really is; how vital the sacraments are to us; how hopeful the Word of God is to us. Is not our task to rebuild, to renew, to proclaim, to go out and be that light

symbolized at the Easter Vigil? To be the post-pandemic Church!

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia”

This year, Pope Francis has given us St. Joseph to be our model and our inspiration. St. Joseph is the Protector of the Universal Church and our Patron Saint here in Canada and in our very own Parish! Can we turn to him more and more to help us in our great task of building both in our Church and in the wider community? In his Apostolic Letter on St. Joseph, Patris Corde, the Holy Father reminds us that Joseph was a man of service, he knew the meaning of sacrifice and he placed himself at the service of the Messiah to protect him and help him grow. He writes: *“As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father, who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him”*. God chooses to work through the weak, as he did with Joseph and as he does with us, as we too place ourselves at the service of the Messiah in helping our communities to stand up and walk and to go forth!

St. Joseph was a man who moved forward with a certain creative courage as the Pope reminds us in Patris Corde”. The faith Christ taught us is what we see in St. Joseph. He did not look for shortcuts, but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.”

The Pope has also declared a “Year of the Family, Amoris Laetitia”. A year to focus

on the “Joy of Love” that the family is meant to experience deeply. He is calling us to renew our pastoral commitment to place the family at the centre of the Church and society ~ a source of joy and generous love even in trials and difficulties.

This Easter, perhaps more than ever, there is good reason to be hopeful in our faith and to live a true Christian realism where we clearly acknowledge the reality of our present situation with all its lights and shadows. An Easter Faith means simply to believe that God’s hand can be found everywhere and, in every event, however happy or sad, knowing, as St. Paul says: . . . *that all things work together for good for those who love God”*.

I wish to conclude this Easter message with the few words used by Pope Francis at the Mass in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Bagdad, the place where 48 people were murdered by terrorists in 2010:

“. . . in the face of adversity, there are always two temptations ~ flight or (fight) anger. But these two approaches never fix anything. Jesus, on the other hand, changed history. How? With the humble power of love, with his patient witness. This is what we are called to do; and this is how God fulfils his promises”.

Wishing you and your loved ones, friends, and family a most blessed healthy and graced Easter celebration.. . Happy Easter!

Fr. Oswin