

St. John Vianney Church

13 Baldwin Lane, Barrie, Ontario L4N 2W1

Phone 705-726-8007 Fax 705-726-4543

www.stjohnvianney.ca

Email: stjohnvianney@rogers.com

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, C.M.I., Pastor - 102

Fr. Joshy George, C.M.I., Associate Pastor - 106

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 103

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121



He is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia

HE IS NOT THERE

Why did Mary Magdalene visit the tomb of Christ? Was it simply an act of sight-seeing? St. John doesn't tell us, and St. Matthew does tell us that 'Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb', but the other two Gospels add the detail that the women went to anoint the body of Jesus, taking the first opportunity to do so once the Sabbath was ended.

So of course this was no act of mere curiosity, but an act of love. Mary's love for Jesus did not die when he died on the cross, and like all true love, Mary's love drives her to serve the one she loves in the only way she now can, by an act of tender reverence towards the body of Jesus.

This is the same instinct that impels us Christians not only to pray for those we have loved who have died, but also to give them a respectful funeral, to tend their graves, and to long for the day when we shall be re-united with them and hold them once again in our arms. We do not pretend that death is nothing at all - it is a profound tragedy, but our love is stronger and deeper.

Mary comes, then, to perform that act of love for one who is dead. But she discovers the strange, hard to grasp truth that stands at the center of our faith - he is not here, he has risen. The tomb is empty. This empty tomb that once held the corpse of our Saviour and our God is the place that roots our religion in the world of history, the created world that God so loved. Jesus was buried there, the slaughtered victim of all the world's hatred and fear. But he is not there now. The Lamb once slain now lives forever.

As yet, Mary does not understand what the empty tomb means. How could she? Her conclusion that his body has been stolen makes the best sense of what she sees, and so her love seems to be frustrated; it has reached a dead end. But we know what will happen next - she will encounter the risen Christ in the garden,

and he will call her by her name, and she will understand. When this happens, she will know that her love for Christ is not blocked but re-directed.

It is not that Jesus's body no longer matters. On the contrary, it matters all the more, for now it is not only a living but a life-giving body, a glorified body that must be served in new ways. The oils and spices can be left behind, for the loving service that Mary Magdalene must offer to the body of Christ is one that will impel her far from this garden of the dead, to serve Christ in the new garden of Eden which is the Church.

'Go and find my brothers and tell them', Christ will say to Mary. He calls her by name to a new act of loving service, one that has given her the title, the Apostle of the Apostles. We too are called today and every day to go and find Christ's brothers and sisters and tell them - tell them of our encounter with the risen Christ.

We must indeed tell them of the empty tomb. It matters that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, it matters that he died on the Cross and was buried in that tomb two thousand years ago. And it matters that the same tomb which could not hold him was empty on the morning of the third day.

But if these historical truths are to prove to us what we so desperately long to believe, that love is indeed stronger than death, then it matters too that we have encountered the risen Christ. It matters that we who find that encounter with the risen body of our slain Lord in the life of the Church should go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News: he is not there, he is risen, alleluia!



May the Blessings of the Risen Lord guide you, protect you, and surround you all the days of your life.



Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday April 21st 9:30 am † **Joan Armstrong**
Requested by: Ross & Family
- 9:30 am † **Barbara Nugent**
Requested by: Silvano & Family
- 9:30 am † **Nandor Eschenbach**
Requested by: Judy
- 9:30 am † **William Mezaros**
Requested by: Anne
- 9:30 am For the special intentions of **Marjorie Oliveira**
Requested by: Family
- 11:30 am † **David Ross**
Requested by: Lorelei, Paul & Family
- Monday April 22nd 8:30 am † **Peter Feltracco**
Requested by: Augusto Feltracco
- Tuesday April 23rd 8:30 am For the special intentions of **Chris Collingbourne & Family**
Requested by: Joncas Family
- Thursday April 25th 8:30 am † **Jerry Shanahan**
Requested by: Mom, brothers & sister



Warmest of greetings and welcome to our church family. We are glad that you could be with us today and share this Easter with you as we worship God's risen Son. We hope that God touches your life and that you leave us today with the peace of God in your heart. New parishioners are invited to register by filling out a parish registration form available in the church vestibule or visit us in the Parish Office. Pre-Authorized Giving forms and Offertory Envelopes and are also available. Wishing you a blessed Easter.



Please pray for our young boys and girls who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Communion next weekend at the 5:00 pm and 11:30 am Masses. May God richly bless them and their families as we journey together in faith.



REMINDER OF CONFIRMATION CLASSES
This is a reminder for parents and students who are registered for Confirmation in Group A with Confirmation dates of May 25 or 26 that your classes begin on Thursday May 2 from 7-9 pm.

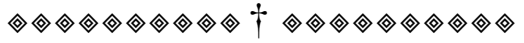
HOLYDAYS KIDS SUMMER DAY CAMP: 2019 Day Camp for elementary students is now open. This year's theme is Holydays. We will be celebrating Christmas, Easter, Birthdays, Valentine's Day and All Saints Day. Camp will be held August 12-16, 2019, daily 9am-3pm. Daily Mass, crafts, skits, outdoor play and fun daily teachings about these special Holydays. All this and more only \$40/child for the week. Registration forms are available next to the youth bulletin board. Don't delay, we cap at 120 registrants.

Pastoral Letters of Reference

If you foresee that you will require a pastoral letter of reference from the pastor for the purpose of applying for a position within the Catholic School Board or to become a Confirmation sponsor or Godparent, it is essential that you introduce yourself to the pastor well in advance so that he can get to know you. A letter of reference is meant to attest that a person is a "practicing Catholic", one who regularly attends Sunday Mass with the Parish Community and is actively involved in the parish. A pastor who does not have some acquaintance with a person cannot satisfy such a request. Another means to attest to your attendance at Mass is by the use of Offertory envelopes and regular contributions to the Sunday collection.



Couples wishing to be married in the church are asked to contact the pastor at least six months in advance. Please call the parish office at (705) 726-8007 to book an appointment.



Please pray for those who are sick: Jessamine Betteridge, Spencer Cameron, Clarence Kennedy, Aileen Henry, Niala Kalliecharan, Patrick Scicluna, Baby Tobias Gerritsen, Brian Downey, Monique Lewicki, Shirley Richard, and Marjorie Oliveira.

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