

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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www.stleothegreat.ca • e-mail: office@stleothegreat.ca

Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget

Parish Secretary: Magda Nowak 905-655-3286 x 101

Youth Director: Dennis Wardle x 109

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Friday Office Closed.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Friday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass)

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Youth Mass

Sunday 9:00 a.m. (with Children's Liturgy JK, SK, Grade 1 & 2) & 11:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or anytime by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please download the Baptism Information Kit and Registration Form from the parish website, www.stleothegreat.ca

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

The Archdiocese of Toronto requires that you contact your parish priest at least one year in advance of the planned date of your wedding and that you participate in a marriage preparation course. Please call the Parish Office.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.

Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the church.

LOCAL HOSPITALS AND EMERGENCY PASTORAL VISITATION

If you or someone in your family is in the Oshawa, Whitby or Port Perry Hospitals and would like to have a priest (for serious reasons) visit the person who is sick for Anointing of the Sick, Last Rites, Confession or Communion, please note that there is a full-time Catholic Priest assigned to these three hospitals at various times of the week. Simply ask hospital staff to inquire as to whether *Father Pius Alejo* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If *Father Pius Alejo* is not available and there is an emergency requiring a Catholic priest, please call St. Leo the Great Parish at 905-655-3286 and when prompted, press "8" and leave your message. Fr. Charles will receive your message (if he is available) and return your call. If there is no emergency but you would like to speak to Fr. Charles, please call the parish office and leave a message with the parish secretary at 905-655-3286 x 101.

“ G O N E ”

This bulletin article has been in the making within me for some time now and now that I am aiming to write it I know I can do it no justice with my words. It comes from a place deep within me where the sense of loss through death resides. It is beyond words in so many ways and yet beckons me to speak about it, write about it and somehow, albeit imperfectly, to express it.

We tend to couch the most dreadful parts of grief over the death of a spouse, child, parent, friend, pet, or even someone totally unrelated to our own personal experience such as a movie star or a personal hero, in language that far from expressing or describing accurately what has taken place, serves only to cover up, somehow soften or even deny the awful reality that someone who was, is no more. It is particularly difficult for those who have to live with the horror of a child that went missing or worse. Their sense of not knowing whether their child is alive or dead, or what their end might have been leaves them with a haunting sense of incompleteness and a heavy, abiding sense of ‘gone’. Parents who have lost a child before birth also feel the awful sense of gone with a child they never saw but knew and awaited its birth.

We use terms such as ‘passed away’, ‘passed on’, ‘has gone to heaven’ to label the awful truth that someone who was known to us, lived with us, shared the reality of this life is, well, gone. Gone is not so much the word we would tend to use to describe a person’s death yet it more adequately expresses the feeling, the sense of what we are experiencing. The same sense is found in the Gospel when Peter runs to the tomb of Jesus with John and discover it empty, only to hear an angel ask them, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!” Just before we hear the truth from the angel that Jesus is risen, we hear that which is reminiscent of ‘gone’ in “He is not here.” The same sadness can be heard in the voices and words of the disciples, particularly Thomas, when on the night before Jesus died, with His apostles he tells them that He will have to go and will prepare a place for them. Go where? Jesus tells them that they know the way to the place where He is going. Thomas says, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going so how can we know the way?” (Jn. 14:5) Jesus reveals to them that He Himself is the way, the truth and the life. But still the disciples are perplexed at this idea that He had to go and in the passing of days they would feel alone with that sense that Jesus, their friend, their leader, their Lord... was ‘gone’. There is no recorded conversation they had with one another to the effect that they encouraged one another with the promise that He said He would rise again. They felt the full weight of being without Jesus and that He was simply gone. Having faith does not change this reality. Sure, we can have a great deal of faith in the promises of Jesus that are found all over the New Testament and in the words of Jesus Himself. We can even come to know with certainty that God is real, alive, with us and that His promises of eternal life will be fulfilled, though we have no idea what that will really be like.

Jesus, Himself, also experienced this sense of “gone” when on the Cross He felt the great and consoling absence of His Father

when He cried out, “My God, my God, why have You abandoned Me?” And while He speaks to His Father hanging on that awful wood, His Father is silent, absent, gone. He hears no voice and receives no sign from His Father. Often people feel abandoned by a loved one who has died suddenly or even by someone who has taken their life. Jesus felt what the atheist feels.

It’s odd how different deaths impact us in different ways. For example, my father died in 2014 but I have not experienced the sense of ‘gone’ in dealing with his death. I knew my father was extremely weak and that his heart was failing and he was tired and ready to go. His death, to my thinking, was a final healing and while I know that he died my mind more easily accepts this, particularly in light of the fact that my father was a man of great faith and loved the Lord. Yet someone else could have the same relationship I have with my father and be left with a tremendous sense of “gone” which disturbs their sleep and lingers in their living.

I have experienced this sense of ‘gone’ in the deaths of three of my dogs over the last ten years, which might sound strange when it is not felt by me with my late father. I know that my dogs are totally reliant on me for their food, care, exercise and I am totally responsible for them. Dogs can form such a strong bond with us and be such a presence to our living that when they suddenly are gone, they are ‘gone’. Non-dog people don’t understand this and will quickly respond to the news that our pet has died with the likes of “Well, he’s just a dog”, or “You can get another one.” While I know that a dog or any pet is not a human nor is it on the level of a human, they are such consistent, faithful and thankful companions whose whole existence is lived and centered around us. They are such visible signs of the reality of God.

No attempts, no matter how well intentioned, sincere or loving should be made to try and explain away the stark feeling and experience of ‘gone’ in our life or in the lives of others. It just is. Our Christian faith and hope simply and profoundly reminds us of the truth that it won’t be forever. And while that reality doesn’t change what we feel it makes all the difference in the world. All is God. *(Fr. Charles)*

SEVERED AND GONE by Anne Brontë

Severed and gone, so many years!
And art thou still so dear to me,
That throbbing heart and burning tears
Can witness how I cling to thee?
I know that in the narrow tomb
The form I loved was buried deep,
And left, in silence and in gloom,
To slumber out its dreamless sleep.

I know the corner where it lies,
Is but a dreary place of rest:
The charnel moisture never dries
From the dark flagstones o'er its breast,

For there the sunbeams never shine,
Nor ever breathes the freshening air,
- But not for this do I repine;
For my beloved is not there.

O, no! I do not think of thee
As festering there in slow decay: -
'Tis this sole thought oppresses me,
That thou art gone so far away.

For ever gone; for I, by night,
Have prayed, within my silent room,
That Heaven would grant a burst of light
Its cheerless darkness to illumine;

And give thee to my longing eyes,
A moment, as thou shinest now,
Fresh from thy mansion in the skies,
With all its glories on thy brow.

Wild was the wish, intense the gaze
I fixed upon the murky air,
Expecting, half, a kindling blaze
Would strike my raptured vision there, --

A shape these human nerves would thrill,
A majesty that might appal,
Did not thy earthly likeness, still,
Gleam softly, gladly, through it all.

False hope! vain prayer! it might not be
That thou shouldst visit earth again.
I called on Heaven -- I called on thee,
And watched, and waited -- all in vain.

Had I one shining tress of thine,
How it would bless these longing eyes!
Or if thy pictured form were mine,
What gold should rob me of the prize?

A few cold words on yonder stone,
A corpse as cold as they can be -
Vain words, and mouldering dust, alone -
Can this be all that's left of thee?

O, no! thy spirit lingers still
Where'er thy sunny smile was seen:
There's less of darkness, less of chill
On earth, than if thou hadst not been.

Thou breathest in my bosom yet,
And dwellest in my beating heart;
And, while I cannot quite forget,
Thou, darling, canst not quite depart.

Though, freed from sin, and grief, and pain
Thou drinkest now the bliss of Heaven,
Thou didst not visit earth in vain;
And from us, yet, thou art not riven.

Life seems more sweet that thou didst live,
And men more true that thou wert one:
Nothing is lost that thou didst give,
Nothing destroyed that thou hast done.

Earth hath received thine earthly part;
Thine heavenly flame has heavenward flown;
But both still linger in my heart,
Still live, and not in mine alone.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, January 23rd

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Geraldine Sullivan

Wednesday, January 24th

7:00 p.m. † Walter Labow
† Mary Mulcahy
† Louis Cruz

Thursday, January 25th

8:30 a.m. Agathe Leclerc

Friday, January 26th

8:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 27th

4:30 p.m. † Gaetano Ferlanda

Sunday, January 28th

9:00 a.m. † Tomasina Parente

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Innocenzo Mammone



CWL of St. Leo's Parish is holding their first meeting of the new year on **Sunday January 28 in the Parish Hall from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m.** Come and find out what the Women of the Parish have planned for the next few months and how you can contribute and have fun. You are not required to join to participate."

VALENTINE DANCE

St. Leo Knights of Columbus invites everyone to attend its Annual Valentine Dance for an enjoyable evening of socializing in the Parish hall starting at 6:30 P.M. on Saturday, Feb.10th. A hot buffet will be served with dessert, coffee or tea: music will be provided by a disc jockey: cash bar will be available and spot prizes and 50-50 draw included.

KofC BREAKFAST



St. Leo Knights of Columbus will serve Breakfast on February 4th. following the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. Masses. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a **full Breakfast** of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice in the Church hall. Adults - \$5.00, Children ages 4 - 12 - \$3.00 and Children under 4 - free .Hope to see you there.

VOCATION SEEDS

The call of the disciples is so familiar to us that we tend to miss the wonder of the disciples' response, which was immediate and complete; they leave everything and follow Jesus. Can we do less if we feel that God is calling us to the priesthood, religious life or diaconate? If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call **Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email at vocations@archtoronto.org**



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