

Living the
Gospel

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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LAST SUNDAY'S HOMILY...



In the homily last Sunday I took a quick look, of course, at St. Thomas the Apostle who, after the Resurrection appearance to the other Apostles, was told that they had seen Jesus risen. Yet, because he wasn't there when Jesus appeared, for whatever reason, he refused to listen to them. Yet these same Apostles who told Thomas that they had physically seen Jesus as He had appeared to them, just refused to believe anything he couldn't see with his eyes. These are the Apostles Thomas had spent 36 months with, eating, sleeping, walking the countryside with each other and in the midst of the most incredible things that Jesus was preaching, teaching along with His miracles and the raising back to life of at least three individuals that we know of. They were there along with Thomas when Jesus fed the thousands of people who had no food with just a couple of loaves of bread and some fish. They were there when whole towns would come out to meet Jesus while he was visiting a home and He would cure many of them. I often think of the words that echoed in many different but the similar ways when Peter exclaimed something to Jesus after He arose early one morning and went off by Himself to pray. When he found Jesus, he said, "Lord, everyone is looking for you!" The truth is, everyone still is. (This reminds me of a Fulton Sheen quote: "Ever since the days of Adam, man has been hiding from God and saying "God is hard to find".

In His hours of His being arrested, questioned, belittled and flogged, surely a band of just some of the thousands of people that Jesus had helped would have come to His aid, stormed the praetorium of Pilate and demanded Jesus' release! In sheer numbers of the thousands Jesus had helped, cured, raised back to life or among those who had their lives changed through the persuasion and balm of His words which pierced their hearts with the yearning that is found in the 'more' of God, they would most certainly have been moved, personally incited to defend Him, protect Him, hide Him away against those authorities who were a threat to His life and were desirous even to kill Him. But the scriptures speak of very few like this, save for His Mother, Mary, and John and women who had remained close during His 'Hour'. Was there no one who would defend Him or plead His cause? Nicodemus, who had often secretly come to Jesus at night so thirsty to know and plumb Jesus' words and learned from Jesus firsthand and personally of his need and every man's need to be 'born again' from above. Where was Nicodemus, afraid of others, in Jesus' own night of abandonment? He, too, was absent.

Peter, who would become in time and in grace our first pope, showed some semblance of faithfulness to Jesus but true to Jesus' prediction would deny Jesus not once, not twice but thrice with the effect of "I do not know Him". We know, through the evolving of time and revelation to our

day, that Peter would later be restored to Christ whereas Judas, who had also betrayed Jesus as did Peter, turned in on himself and didn't go to the Lord he knew so well with the bitter, inner realization that he "had betrayed innocent blood, abandoned his close friends and companions in the band of Apostles, and the forgiveness he could have sought in his Lord and dearest Saviour, and took his life.

I am surprised I have never thought of this idea of the almost total abandonment of so many to the One who is the source of life, God in the flesh. I recently heard a priest say words to the effect of the amazing absence of good people to come to Jesus' aid. Perhaps the Lord would have refused this help just as he told Peter to put his sword back into its sheath as His Kingdom would not be won in that way. Yet we have this contemporary vantage point to see Jesus in the light of His clear mission to save the world from sin through His death on the Cross.

But there is a pivotal point to this question as to why so many, including those closest to Him – His 'friends' – did not stick by Him in His 'hour' but fled from Him, denied Him, were filled with fear and dread of what they could see was coming for Him and wanted to be 'safe'. Safe; that word we heard used so much during covid when personal safety was being pushed more than living faith which resulted in people bowing down to almost anything authorities were forcing the populace to do. Oh no. We had it wrong in so many ways as Christ Jesus IS our safety and shield, our rock and fortress, our stronghold – the God in whom we trust, or should. So, the pivotal point is when after the Resurrection Jesus began to make His appearances to those He knew best, the very ones who should have acted differently in the grim reality of His being 'handed-over' into the hands of the very sinners He came to save. When He appears He doesn't do what I or most people would do. He doesn't angrily tell them off as He shows He has foiled their act of putting Him to death in the reappearance of a ghost. He is bodily back, alive, in a resurrected body, no longer looking the same. He doesn't use the moment of reappearance to His Apostles to chastise them fiercely for their cowardice or go after Peter to say "I told you so; I told you beforehand that you would deny me three times". No. Not at all. What does Jesus do? He says, "Peace be with you". And, "as the Father has sent me so I have sent you" and He breathes the Holy Spirit on them. In other words, the mission I gave you before I was crucified is still on and all the more so since, as I told you, I would rise from the dead. And this great sending has not ceased since He spoke those words to them in that room of solitude and fear in which they had locked themselves. He restores Peter, our first Holy Father in that long line of 266 Roman Pontiffs right up to and including our late Pope Francis.

Jesus is alive, truly! He is alive in all those who have come and are coming to believe in Him, His power, His Way, Truth and His life. Knowing and experiencing this *is* peace. (FrC)

MAY 4, 2025



Tues May 6th

7:00pm +Patrick Prevost
Requested by the O'Hearn Family

Wed May 7th

8:30am For all Veterans & Soldiers of War
Requested by Diane Lucas

Thurs May 8th

8:30am +Fanny & Christian Jaramillo
Requested by Jacqueline & Terry Wong

Fri May 9th

7:30am Holy Hour
8:30am Intentions of Tacing & Pomping Andaya
+Felina Marqueses & Eleuterio Andaya
Requested by the Guerrero Family

Sat May 10th

8:30am Unannounced Mass
3:30pm Confession
4:30pm +Pearl Findlay
Requested by the Family

Sun May 11th

9:00am For the People
11:00am +Szczepan Richard Targonski
Requested by Richard Targonski

Please Pray for the Sick

Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Albert Sant, Teresa Kosierb, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Alex Poirier & Family, Tammy MacDonald, Anita Taglione, Mary Little, Yvonne Grimm, Janine Wright, Anne Johnston, Dorothy Shaughnessy, Rose Flanagan, Norma Still, Pat Ironside-Mayes, Bev Underhill.

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased



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MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND ITALIAN DINNER

Last weekend for purchasing tickets for the Mother's Day Dinner. We have about 30 tickets left. Cost \$30.00 Adult; \$20 for Kids 16 and Under

Children 5 and under free

Where: Fr. Ellard Hall: Time 6:00pm.

Tickets available for purchase after the masses

Or you can contact Angelo Vivona at 705 446 5147 or

Domenic Sanfilippo at 705 445 7615.



3rd Sunday of Easter

ShareLife Sunday



May 4, 2025

ShareLife: Living the Gospel by providing for those in need

On the second ShareLife Sunday, we call upon your compassionate hearts to support your vulnerable brothers and sisters in need. More people than ever are turning to our agencies for help. The kind-heartedness of ShareLife supporters like you enables access to essential programs and services, such as the treatment program and transitional housing at St. Michael's Homes. For Jack, your support was transformative. After moving to start a physically demanding job, he suffered a knee injury that ultimately left him unemployed and addicted to pain medication. Thanks to your empathy, Jack had a safe space to overcome his addiction and gained the power to build himself back up.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Catholic Education Week – May 4-9, 2025

"Pilgrims of Hope"

During Catholic Education Week (May 4 – 9, 2025), we give thanks for the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education in our province. Catholic schools foster supportive communities where children can experience the joy of God's love and understand the Christian mission in the world. As we celebrate this Year of Jubilee, as pilgrims of hope, let us journey with our parishes, educators and families to sow and nurture the seeds of faith with the next generation of Catholics, encouraging them to live lives of holiness and Christian witness as one body in Christ. To indicate your support of Catholic education and sign-up for email updates, visit: www.togetherinfaith.ca.

An Evening of Jubilation & Praise

St. Michael's Choir School Concert

St. Margaret's Parish in Midland, as part of their 2025 Year of Jubilee celebration will have the honour of hosting the St. Michael's Choir School for a concert on Friday May 30th at 6:30pm.

Tickets can be purchased online at

<https://square.link/u/otwi5JWR> or by contacting Deacon Tim Dunlop at 705 528 2927 or Katie Goulbourne at 705 529 9537. Tickets are \$50.00

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