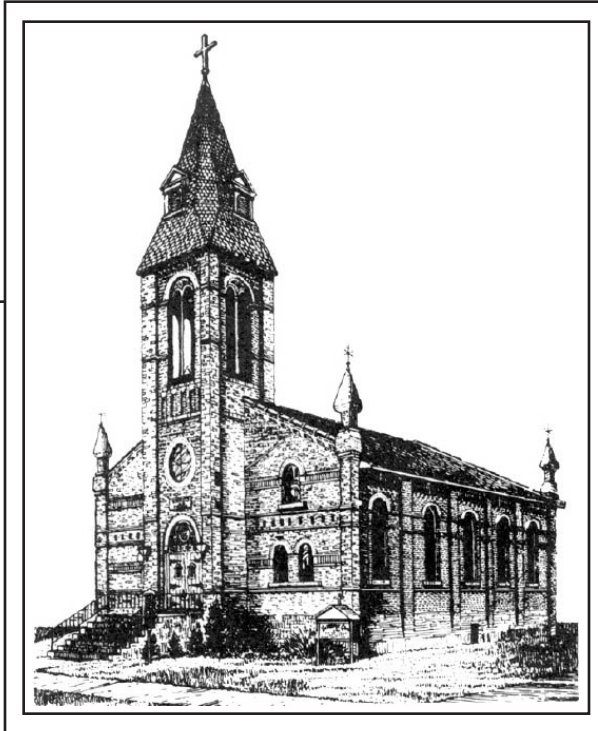


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
Collingwood, ON L9Y 3L6
Tel: 705-445-1790
Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



Every Friday:
HOLY HOUR
7:30 a.m.
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

Jayne Williams,
Office Administrator

St. Mary's Cemetery
401 Raglan St
Business Office: 63 Elgin St
705-445-1790 Ext 2

**The Society of
St. Vincent de Paul**
President:
Michael Quinn
Tel: 705-444-0999
ssvpcollingwood.ca

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. to Mass

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PARISH

St. Mary's Elementary School . . . 705-445-6132
Our Lady of the Bay Catholic
High School 705-445-2043
Notre Dame de la Huronie 705-444-1764

BAPTISMS: Please call the Parish Office.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK, SHUT-INS: Holy Communion is brought regularly to sick and shut-ins. Please notify the rectory.

MARRIAGES: Couples planning to get married must contact a priest one year in advance for an appointment. They must also receive personal preparation for entering marriage. Please do not book the time and place of your reception before your appointment with the priest.

If either party has gone through any form of civil or religious marriage with another person, the priest is not permitted to set a date for the wedding until the Bishop's Office has been consulted.

PARISH REGISTRATION: All parishioners should be registered. Registration cards can be found in the Church foyer or at the parish office. Would you kindly notify the office when you are moving out of the parish.

BULLETIN NOTICES must be received at the parish office by Tuesday at noon. Announcements will appear for no more than two weeks, and should contain only pertinent information. Please be brief.

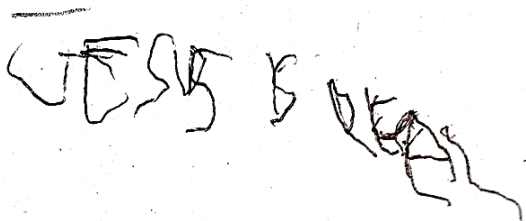
Catholic Women's League
President: Carol Johns
email: info@collewl.ca
647-241-4699

The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree
Grand Knight: Richard Mittermeier
email: gk5793@ontariokofc.ca
Collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree
Faithful Navigator: Domenic Sanfilippo
705-445 7615

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

JESUS IS RISEN!



Have you ever been close to someone, so close as in a lifelong commitment, as in marriage or in a deep, close relationship with a friend, that upon their departure after spending time together, you were saddened by the great human force of absence in place of their presence? Could it not be the same in the face of death? I propose these questions in light of the absence we feel when people we know and love die, yet the promise of life forever in the resurrection of those who knew and loved Jesus in this earthly life speaks to us about their happiness. And it's not that someone would be happy to leave us behind in the realization of their presence in the heavenly realm, or that they would no longer care about us and the sorrow we would experience in their absence. No, we're talking about the greatest reality that could not possibly be anything less than seeing Jesus Himself, face-to-face.

I recently came across a story of a young man in Cebu City, Jonathan Sia, just 23-years-old, who had been raised in a devout Christian family, had a strong faith in Christ, participated in several church activities and youth groups and possessed a mature faith in praying for the sick, even at a young age and became a youth leader in high school. Academically gifted, he went on to college and excelled, graduating Magna Cum Laude in Marketing Management. However, his graduation joy was marked with a sudden illness when, in May of 2024, he experienced fever and gastrointestinal problems that got worse, even though he had undergone treatment. In mid-June, Jonathan was hospitalized after collapsing one day after breakfast. In the hospital, Jonathan continued to share his faith with nurses and doctors, encouraging them with words like, "Doctor, you have a greater purpose." His father, Joel, later spoke of Jonathan's tremendous faith despite his declining health.

In July, on the day Jonathan died, he tried to signal his father, who was with him, to indicate that he was seeing something beautiful and otherworldly before being resuscitated. Though he was unable to speak clearly, he was handed a pen and paper by his dad, who was astonished to see his son write "Jesus is real" just before he peacefully died. (The words above this article are the very handwriting of Jonathan, 'Jesus is real').

His father later wrote:

"Before my son Jonathan was resuscitated... he signalled to me as if he was seeing someone... but I couldn't understand him... so I gave him a paper and pen to write down what he was trying to tell me, but I couldn't read his writing. He was so weak already and shaking and couldn't hold the pen properly... but before the nurses called code blue, he was able to write this: 'Jesus is real'. And it amazed me because it was so clearly readable, and I believe he saw Jesus because Aidy,

my wife, saw a bright light and a hand holding my son ascending... and he was smiling."

His father, later reflecting on his son Jonathan's life, spoke of his faith in God's plan, in which even in the face of tragedy, God's purpose and presence were evident. While the family had prayed for miracles and hoped for a very different outcome, they had learned to trust in God's wisdom.

I can't imagine how painful it would be for a father to lose a child at the cusp of his future and career. Yet I can see clearly how the context of living faith his son had forever would change their grief because their son's dying, written words were his obvious witness that Jesus is real.

We all know, thankfully without obsessing over it, that anyone close to us can say goodbye one day, only for it to be the last time. I'm reminded of a good and close friend I had in my early 30s, Angela Worona. She was 31 and from a larger family of seven children, as I am, and we became good friends through the youth group we attended. On January 31, 1995, she had coffee with her mom and dad at their house in Whitby before heading into Toronto for work. After their visit, she said goodbye to them, and they never saw her alive again. She was the first victim in what would be a series of truck tires that had come off trucks in Ontario, and in Angela's case, had come off an eastbound truck on the 401 while she was travelling westbound. The truck tire bounced several times before crashing on top of her Pontiac Grand Am, killing her instantly. It was so tragic. Personally, the one consolation I had and have is that Angela believed that Jesus was real.

Jesus was not just some teacher or yet another guru from the past who was born, told sage and wise stories, and then died, as all men do, only to be remembered as a teacher, a prophet, or a memorable figure. He came to earth for one specific mission: to die. Death was His goal because it would mean an end to ours. And even though He had spoken plainly to His apostles about the fact that He would die, the manner by which He would die – crucifixion – and would be raised back to life three days later, none of His closest friends remembered that He would rise. And this was evidenced in the fact that they had all been either sitting around in fear that what the authorities had done to Christ they might do to them, or by their leaving Jerusalem, which is to say, leaving all hope in Jesus, whose end had come with His death.

For all who profess faith in Christ, the test of our belief in Him as Lord, Messiah and Saviour is whether we come to know and experience that He's real. Jonathan was blessed to have a faith that always led him to believe that Jesus was real, as he lived and treated others. And he was also blessed to have his faith confirmed on his deathbed, in the great consolation of actually, physically seeing Jesus, with his last written words, words that are perhaps the most important in the summation of a person's words in this life, that everything he had come to believe about Jesus was absolutely true. Let us pray that we might all come to the realization of the experience of Jesus the Risen Lord.

Jesus is real! Jesus is Risen! (Fr. Charles)



Tue April 21 st	
6:30pm	CONFESSIONS
7:00pm	+Pat Chalmers Requested by Irene Taylor & Julie Brennan
Wed April 22 nd	
8:30am	Intentions of Jim Hughes Requested by Mary Cudney
Thurs April 23 rd	
8:30am	+George Gerynowicz Requested by the Cudney Family
Friday April 24 th	
7:30am	HOLY HOUR
8:30am	+Katherine Cudney Requested by the Cudney Family
Saturday April 25 th	
8:30am	+Joseph Szydiak Requested by the O'Hearn Family
3:30pm	CONFESSIONS
4:30pm	+Mary Little Requested by the St. Mary's CWL
Sunday April 26 th	
9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Henny Marshall Requested by Dan Marshall

Please Pray for the Sick

Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford, Janine Wright.



Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Maria Nayagam Nallaia



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS
IN MEMORY OF BETTY GILL
APRIL 19TH TO APRIL 25TH



Sunday April 12th

Inc PAG	\$5156.00
ShareLife 2026 Goal	\$46,000.00
Raised So Far	\$ 12,057.55



St. Mary's CWL Spring Plant Sale

The CWL will continue taking order for their spring Plant Sale this weekend and next. Order forms will be available at each entrance to the church, and members of the CWL will be available to answer any questions you may have.

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 19th, 2026

Through ShareLife, you helped Tara rebuild her life.

Tara's childhood was anything but safe. Conflict and fear filled her days, and as she grew older, home became unbearable. She waited, hoping things would change, but she had to leave once she became a teenager. Because of your warm heart, Tara found safety at Covenant House Toronto, a Catholic Charities agency you support through ShareLife. After a short stay in the crisis shelter, she moved into the Rights of Passage (ROP) program, determined to rebuild her life.

You gave Tara the strength to take charge of her future—adding her name to waitlists for affordable housing and taking steps to stand on her own. In the meantime, she balanced multiple part-time jobs while staying in school, saving every dollar she could. With your caring support, she connected with a counsellor to begin working through the challenges that had forced her to leave home. Today, she's living independently and building the future she once thought was out of reach.

ShareLife Sunday special collections are taking place next weekend on April 26. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Help Not Harm: Take Action to Support Bill C-218 Write your Member of Parliament Today! Visit

HelpNotHarmCanada.ca You're invited to visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca where you can e-mail your Member of Parliament (MP), asking for their support of Bill C-218 (The Right to Recover Act), which would amend the Criminal Code to prevent Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) from being provided when mental illness is the sole underlying condition. Without this change, MAiD will be available for those suffering from mental illness alone beginning in March 2027. Chances are you know someone struggling with mental illness — a family member, friend, or colleague. As Catholics and Canadians, we are called to offer care, hope, and protection — not death — to those who are suffering and most vulnerable. Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca today and ask your MP to support Bill C-218.

We have been informed that the anticipated mid-April vote in Parliament will be delayed until at least the end of April and possibly into May 2026.

You are invited to a "Day With Mary" taking place on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at Villanova College in King City. This family-friendly day will consist of Holy Mass with His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, praying of the Rosary, Confessions, a keynote address for adults and children's catechesis for the little ones. There will be music, fellowship and more. There is no fee to register – this is a free event open to all. Register online today at <https://bit.ly/DWMRegistration>. Complete information can be found at <https://archtoronto.org/Mary>.

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