

Living the
Gospel



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WHAT IS...



Recently, I was prompted to reflect on love, its mystery, meaning, and necessity for my life and for the life of every human being under God. Now here is a bold statement welling up within me; I know what love is.

In a purely human sense, I do not know what love is. While I can compare it to a feeling, a sense, or an inner knowledge, I can't really define it except to say that it is like something else, which it often isn't or falls short of the indescribable. A current phrase, "Love is love", isn't love but licence. One might as well say that anything and everything is love, without restriction or boundaries.

Yet when I hear in the scriptures, particularly in the Psalms, that God loves me, I know what it is! It is not something to be described or sought through analogy. Still, it is a personal and incomparable presence that appeals to all my senses and is a source of knowledge. I can say I know God loves me. And I can know and love God back.

I recall the 1984 Foreigner song *I Want to Know What Love Is*, written by Mick Jones for the *Agent Provocateur* album. The title says it all and could well be addressed to God, as it is within my soul. The lyrics, "I want you to show me", remind me that in my and everyone's relationship with Christ, He has shown us His intimate relationship with man in every dimension of His good creation, even though we have fallen from it over and over again. It speaks of His forgiveness and mercy in overlooking our faults, and of His desire to redeem us to our original relationship with Him, to be realized fully in the hope of heaven, that is, to be with Him forever, face-to-face. And that redemptive love was shown most especially in the horrific humiliation, torture, crucifixion and death of God in the flesh on the Cross of Calvary.

The singer states,
*"In my life there's been heartache and pain,
I don't know if I can face it again.
Can't stop now, I've travelled so far,
to change this lonely life."*

This life is lonely and all of us experience it in some form. We're lonely because we are incomplete here, and this is not our home and we're not home. There is a longing that we try to fill up with comfort and friends alone, though the truth is that no one can make us perfectly happy because no one can love us perfectly or give to us the only love that God can give. We sense this in so many ways, though we have the common tendency for either this life to end if we are in a depressive conflict or state, or want to live this life for its own sake, grabbing hold of everything with both hands, afraid to let go and unsure of a future beyond.

The words to a song come to my mind in—
"Man is lonely by birth,

man is only a pilgrim on earth;
born to be king
is but a temporary thing,
only a loan while on earth."

And so, the *Foreigner* song is right in stating, "*I want you to show me.*" We need others to show us what love is. So many have never been shown or known love. In their childhood, they may have been, as my mother would say, 'dragged up and not raised up' through abuse, neglect or a deficiency in being shown love. Love needs to be experienced and witnessed by others. It needs to be received by all of us. Love is not self-contained alone but is meant to go out toward God, the Source of love, to others and to receive it ourselves. Goodness knows, this life has enough 'heartache and pain', and modern man often foolishly and perilously thinks he can determine his own end. But we are not our own. We belong to God who is Love Itself! That's why I love the line central to the question of what love is: "Can't stop now I've travelled so far..." In this journey called life, we mustn't give in to the temptation to call it quits or give up, even though we humanly may think there is no point or purpose in going on, and our life thus far might seem to have no meaning or sense in doing so. But I know the contrary is true. Who wouldn't want to see pain, sadness, loneliness or suffering just come to a stop? Thus, the need to turn outward toward God and others rather than inward to self and isolation. We pilgrims of the earth have travelled so far as a species, and the maladies of man only intensify in our time when we settle for self-sufficiency rather than God's sufficiency, particularly God's love. Therefore, the height of knowledge has to be to know that God's loves me and to experience that same love from God through others as well.

And love that is from God – the greatest love of all is shown thus: "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) (*Fr. Charles*)

MARCH FOR LIFE IN OTTAWA

On Thursday, May 14, the annual national March for Life on Parliament Hill will take place. A parishioner has informed me that those from this area who wish to go to Ottawa can drive to St. Patrick's Church in Markham (carpool) and go on one of the organized buses from there. The bus in Markham will leave promptly at 6:45 pm.

MARCH FOR LIFE IN TORONTO

However, another parishioner informed me that people can also attend the March for Life in downtown Toronto at Queen's Park, just a couple of hours away from here, which is way shorter even than those who live in Kingston getting to Ottawa. The March will be held the following week after the Ottawa march, on **Saturday, May 23rd** gathering at 11:00 am, followed by the rally and speeches at 11:15 until the walk downtown begins at 12 noon. There are also workshops that begin at 2:30 – 4:30 pm for those interested. People from the Collingwood area could carpool or even organize a bus to get there and back and the cost to each person would be nominal. Presented with the idea of getting to Ottawa, the CWL were looking into doing something here in the church in lieu of the long drive to the capital, however, the Toronto March is very doable particularly since it is held in Canada's largest city. Think about it. (*Fr. Charles*)

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tue April 28 th	NO MASS
Wed April 29 th	NO MASS
Thurs April 30 th	NO MASS
Friday May 1 st	NO MASS
Saturday May 2 nd	
3:30pm	CONFESSIONS
4:30pm	+Kevin & Christian Jaramillo Requested by Jacqueline Wong & Family
<hr/>	
Sunday 3 rd	
9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Jolanta Okon Requested by Januz Okon

Please Pray for the Sick

Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford, Janine Wright.



Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Joyce Mittermeier



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS
FOR THE INTENTIONS OF
FRANK BRENNAN
APRIL 26TH TO MAY 2ND



Sunday April 19 th	
Inc PAG	\$5430.45
ShareLife 2026 Goal	\$46,000.00
Raised So Far	\$ 13,600.55



St. Mary's CWL Spring Plant Sale

This is the last weekend for ordering your plants. 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.

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>.

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26th 2026

ShareLife Sunday this Weekend, Celebrating 50 Years.

Today is ShareLife Sunday, the second weekend of special collections. Since 1976, ShareLife has been rooted in our Catholic values of charity and in living the Gospel by caring for those in need. Over the decades, thousands of people across our archdiocese have come together through parish campaigns, school drives, workplace giving, and personal acts of kindness to make a difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

ShareLife recognizes that all humans are created in the image of God, with a commitment to the dignity of the individual and the right to life, working on behalf of the poor and vulnerable. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary in 2026, we invite you to join us in honouring this legacy of serving the marginalized in our parish community and around the world.

With your support, ShareLife-funded agencies can continue to provide vital services—like counselling for families, support for isolated seniors, and care for those facing mental health challenges—for years to come.

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.

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