



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

APRIL 26, 2020 – 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

HOLY WEEK 2020 - Prayer & Adoration - Good Friday,

Saturday & Easter Sunday - 9:00am to 4:30pm Reconciliation: By Appointment Only 403-527-6933 ext 101

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm - Closed on Holidays

HE WALKS WITH US

There was once a spider who lived in a cornfield. She was a big spider, and she had spun a beautiful web between the corn stalks. She got fat eating all the bugs that would get caught in her web. She liked this home and planned to stay there for the rest of her life. One day, the spider caught a little bug in her web, and just as the spider was about to eat him, the bug said, "If you let me go I will tell you something important that will save your life." The spider paused for a moment and listened because she was amused. "You better get out of this cornfield," the little bug said, "The harvest is coming!" The spider smiled and said, "What is this harvest you are talking about? I think you are just telling me a story." But the little bug said, "Oh no, it is true. The owner of this field is coming to harvest it soon. All the stalks will be knocked down, and the corn will be gathered up. You will be killed by the giant machines if you stay here."

The spider said, "I don't believe in harvests and giant machines that knock down corn stalks. How can you prove this?" The little bug continued, "Just look at the corn. See how it is planted in rows? It proves this field was created by an intelligent designer." The spider laughed and mockingly said, "This field has evolved and has nothing to do with a creator. Corn always grows that way." The bug went on to explain, "Oh no. This field belongs to the owner who planted it, and the harvest is coming soon." The spider grinned and said to the little bug, "I don't believe you," and then the spider ate the little bug for lunch.

A few days later, the spider was laughing about the story the little bug had told her. She thought to herself, "A harvest! What a silly idea. I have lived here all of my life, and nothing has ever disturbed me. I have been here since these stalks were just a foot off the ground, and I'll be here for the rest of my life, because nothing is ever going to change in this field. Life is good, and I have it made."

The next day was a beautiful sunny day in the cornfield. The sky above was clear, and there was no wind at all. That afternoon, as the spider was about to take a nap, she noticed some thick dusty clouds moving toward her. She could hear the roar of a great engine, and she said to herself, "I wonder what that could be?" By the time she could understand, the machine devoured her.

Today the world is having the same feeling and understanding that there is nothing which could halt our life, but it did, a tiny invisible virus. The pandemic has caused the world to shutdown everything: places of worship, markets and businesses. The world right now is under the darkness of uncertainty to determine when our life will be back to normal.

In today's Gospel we could see the same situation with these two disciples on their way to Emmaus. They saw darkness and sadness as they left Jerusalem for Emmaus. They were talking about the situation and things which took place in Jerusalem. Their hope had vanished to see Israel liberated from Roman rule. However, in their moments of sadness, someone joined in and walked with them. The stranger was looking at their faces and could feel the marks of fear and darkness. He could understand their feelings, but he wanted to hear from them. They started sharing about everything which had taken place in Jerusalem and how the Saviour was unjustly killed by the authorities. Furthermore, they told the stranger that some women had told them that they had seen Him, but they found it hard to believe it possible for a dead man to rise from the dead. Are we not finding ourselves in the same situation today, as the world is getting wrapped under a thick darkness of doubt and fear, are we losing hope for the better?

Jesus who is a stranger in the story, helped these disciples to understand everything and believe that he truly had risen from the dead. He walked with them (who knows if he walked for 11 kilometers with them to their village Emmaus, at present it is called Abu Gosh) to comfort them and to open their hearts and mind to understand why was he walking with them. Moreover, in order to confirm that he had risen and had conquered even death, he went inside their home to eat. During his stay with these two disciples three very important things happened: first he took the bread and said the blessings and their eyes were opened. This reminds us that through Holy Eucharist we could see Jesus with our own eyes that he is always present and never leaves us alone. Secondly the eyes of the disciples are opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared. What does it mean? It means Jesus wants us to recognize him in every situation of our life. He opens our eyes to see his presence in the world, though the world is shut down He keeps showing himself to us. He is walking with us always, but very specially in this time when we find life hard. Lastly the hearts of those disciples were burning with the love and presence of Jesus. Our present situation of COVID-19 pandemic is inviting us to let our hearts burn with his love because nothing could separate us from his love. St. Paul describe it in this way ***"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline"***. On the other hand, St. Peter in his first letter, invites us to remember that Jesus always walks with us in our trials and suffering: ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed"***.

Let us in this pandemic allow Jesus to walk with us to comfort, console and strengthen us so that rather than losing hope and growing in doubt and fear, we may trust in him who conquered everything even death as well.

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

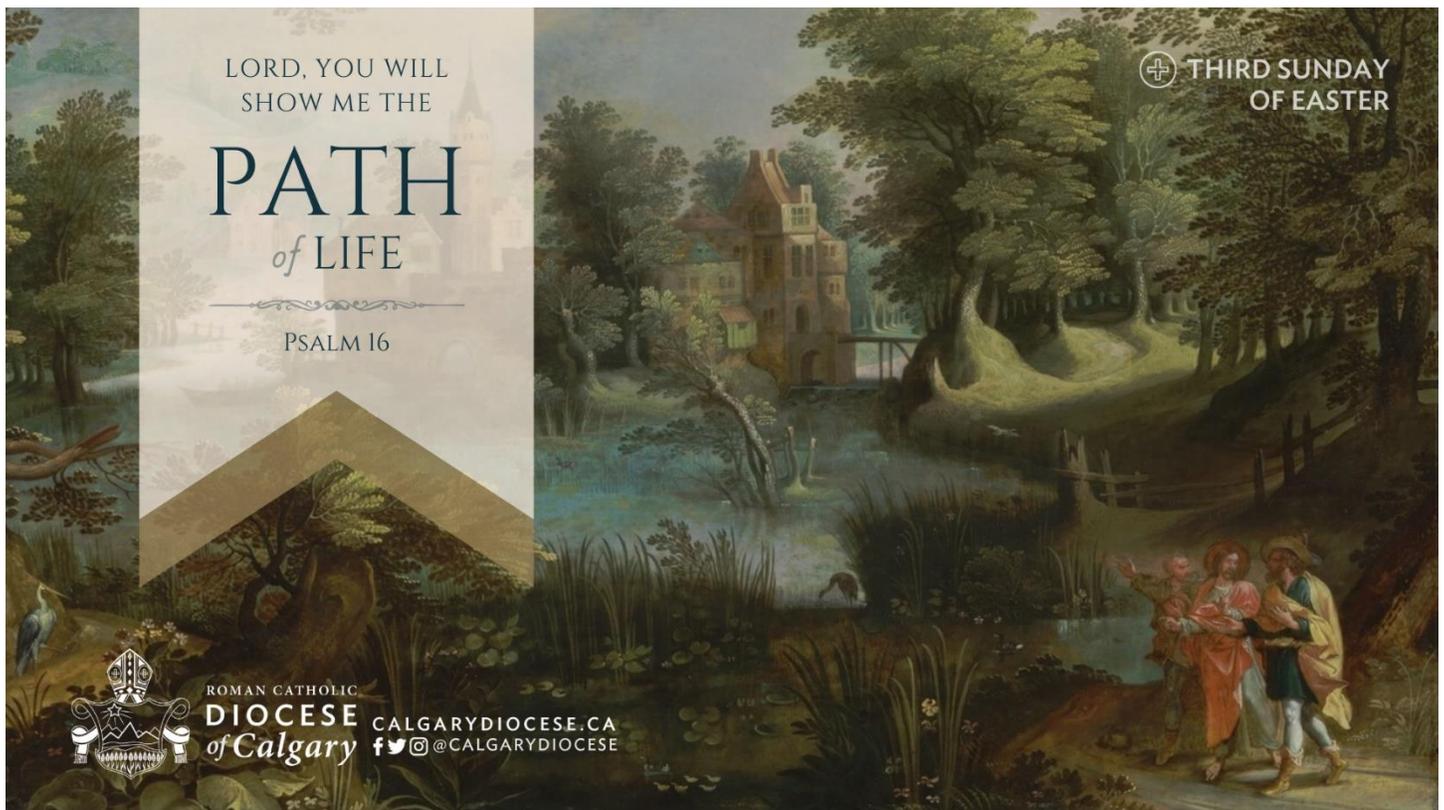
April 26, 2020

Faithfully
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

ONLINE AT...

<https://preview.mailerlite.com/c3z9u4/1405980166903043981/f0r0/>





Talk to a Friend: A Jesuit Network of Listeners

Talk to a friend is a Jesuit network of listeners for those suffering because of COVID-19.

If the lockdown becomes burdensome, too heavy, scary or worrisome for you; If you're a caregiver who wants to be listened to; If you're grieving for a loved one; If you have COVID-19; you can email talktoafriend@jesuits.org 7 days a week. A free and confidential service. There are many issues you may want to talk about: *What should I do? What dangers do I face? Who can I talk to about what is happening? Or I just feel like talking...* A "network of listeners" has been formed. These people are priests, deacons, religious and lay people who are already experienced in listening to people with life difficulties. Email us and one of them will reach out to you and set up some time to talk, to offer comfort and solace. Please share this with those who might need it.

Do you have loved ones in the hospital?

When you can't visit the hospital, here's a link to send well wishes to patients.

Your kind words of encouragement will be delivered by the volunteers of

Alberta Health Services and Covenant Health

facilities. Visit: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/wellwishes.aspx>

It is now possible to make your regular offertory gift online. Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. You can also use the online giving page on the diocesan website to set up a one-time or recurring donation to your parish via credit-card. Funds donated will be transferred to the selected parish. Give now at <https://www.catholicyc.ca/give> or contact Ria at Holy Family Parish 403-527-6933 ext 4 make a donation by phone or set up monthly automated donations or jst bring in a cheque Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.



**The Faith Room
Chapel is open
Sunday to Friday
9:00am to 4:00pm**