



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

MAY 10TH, 2020 – 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

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

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

INNER PEACE & CONSOLATION

It is very sad and painful to see when we lose someone from our family because the hurt which is caused by the loss is beyond explanation. In my personal meetings with the families who come to arrange a funeral mass/service, I can see the depth of pain and hurt in their eyes as they share the memories of the deceased person. In the Book of Song of Songs, it is written "Love is as strong as death" which means there is no guarantee when our life will end but death for sure will come. In the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-12) it mentions *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end"*.

Some people think death is a means of receiving eternal life but on the other hand for some people death is destruction & ruin: *"In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality"* (Wisdom 3:2-4).

In this current COVID-19 pandemic people have mixed feelings and understanding of life and death. This pandemic has caused more pain and hurt as people are being buried either with few members of the family or without but the worst part of this pandemic is when family members are not even allowed to say good bye to them. How sad is that? Let me share a short story as I am going to reflect on the readings of this Sunday which remind us that inner peace and consolation only comes from Jesus who conquered death. There is saying from a 2nd century author "they are happy who, putting all their trust in the Cross, have

plunged into the water of life". St. Maximus highlights the true meaning of Christ's resurrection in these words "Christ is risen. His rising brings life to the dead, forgiveness to sinners, and glory to the saints. And so, David the prophet summons all creation to join in celebrating the Easter festival: Rejoice and be glad, he cries, on this day which the Lord has made".

Once upon a time a well-respected scholar and avowed atheist was speaking at a large outdoor picnic. He spoke for two and a half hours attempting to prove that the resurrection of Jesus was false. He quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there was no such thing as the historical resurrection, the religious tradition of the church was groundless emotional nonsense because it was based on a relationship with a risen Jesus, who never rose from the dead in any literal sense. He then asked if there were any questions.

After about 30 seconds, an old preacher stood up. "Sir, I have one question," he said as all eyes turned toward him. He reached into his lunch bag and pulled out an apple he had been eating. "My question is a simple question," he said before taking another bite of the apple. He continued, "I haven't read all the books you have, and I can't recite the Scriptures in original Greek." He took a couple more bites of the apple and said, "I don't know a thing about Niebuhr and Heidegger."

He finished the apple and said, "All I wanna know is: this apple I just finished, was it tart or sweet?" The speaker paused for a moment and answered in exemplary scholarly fashion, "I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven't tasted your apple." The white-haired preacher dropped the core of his apple into his crumpled paper bag and said calmly, "Neither have you tasted my Jesus."

The exclamation of St. Stephen in the first reading opens new horizons to understand the true meaning of inner peace and consolation that comes from the Lord: ***"But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."***

"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" The faith and trust of St. Stephen in the Lord eliminates his pain and suffering because he knew that the Lord is not going to abandon him. St. John in the Book of Revelation (14:13) we see that for us as Christians death is not a mean of destruction but a source of uniting us with the Lord ***"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."***

St. Peter in the 2nd reading invites everyone to work for eternal salvation like grown ups ***"Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"***.

In this pandemic the Gospel reading is a perfect source of encouragement, hope and trust. There are three very important points to understand the true and real meaning of inner peace and consolation that comes from the Lord. In the words of Prophet Isaiah only God can comfort us in our pain and suffering" ***"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God."***

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins".

Our Lord Jesus comforts his followers with these words ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled..."*** Through these words Jesus shows us that he has a divine power to give us inner peace and he can console us in our grief and sorrows. Are we not troubled right now with our current situation where everything is under lock? Surely, we are troubled as uncertainty is growing worse day by day and it seems there is nothing positive coming up. Only he can wipe our tears as St. John writes in the Book of Revelation (21:1-5) ***"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."***

Secondly, he is going to prepare a place for us to be with him ***"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is" (1 John 3:2)***. Who else could give us such inner peace and consolation in our painful loss? He came to give us life and life in abundance and no one can take this away from him.

Lastly, he ensures us that he is The Way, The Truth and The Life. He himself leads us to the Father because he came from him and he draws everyone back to him. Jesus, being The Way, help us to find truth and life in him which gives us inner peace and consolation. St. Paul says if we have died with him, we will also rise in him, but the only condition is to have strong faith in him and taste him to see how good he is.

Let's today as we experience the inner peace and consolation of the Lord, pray for our mother on this Mothers' Day that their love and sacrifice keeps reminding us "without Jesus we are nothing but in him our whole being is complete as he has created us wonderfully in our mothers' womb". Through the intercession of our Blessed Virgin Mary may everyone be comforted and protected. Amen! Happy Mothers' Day!

Fr. Iqbal Khurshi

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Happy Mothers' Day!

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

May 10, 2020

5th Sunday of Easter

Year-A



OPERATING FINANCES

April 1 - 30, 2020

Operating Budget 2020	\$ 65,000
General Envelope Collection	\$ 32,697
Loose Collections	\$ 212
Future Development	\$ 2,104
Sale of Church Supplies	\$ 275
Youth Ministry	\$ 435
Shortfall	-\$ 29,277
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,697
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,175
Mission Mexico	\$ 60
CARO	\$ 90
Seminary Fund	\$ 20
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 15
Holy Land	\$ 800
Catholic Education	\$ 100
Loonies for Lent this year	\$ 6,010
2020 TIA GOAL – \$71,214 TO DATE \$ 16,513 = 23% OF THE WAY	
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	

THANK YOU TO KENT & SALLY ...

Kent and Sally have been temporarily laid off... we are so sorry this had to happen. WE thank them for their dedication and hard work, and we can not wait for the day we can say, get back to work!!!

Miss you guys!!!



Although it is not possible to be physically present at these #prolife activities like last year, you can participate online in the following events:

- **Mass for Life:** Bishop McGrattan will be offering the Fifth Sunday of Easter Mass for the protection of life. When: **Sunday, May 10 at 10 am (Mother's Day)**. Livestream will be available on www.calgarydiocese.ca or via [Facebook Live](#) | [Download poster/graphic](#)
- **Virtual National March for Life (May 10-15):** This is a week-long online program building up to the day of the 23rd National March for Life, May 14. The program will include high profile movies and interviews streamed online from May 10-12; a virtual candlelight vigil on Wednesday, May 13; online pro-life Masses and religious services on Thursday, May 14 and a livestreamed 'virtual' rally, with guests from Canada and around the world. <https://www.marchforlife.ca/>

LET YOUR LOVE BE UPON
US LORD, EVEN AS WE

HOPE *in* YOU

PSALM 33



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

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 FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

Updates on Gathering from the Diocese

In preparation for the lifting of some restrictions on gatherings in public places in Alberta, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta are working to develop a plan for the eventual reinstatement of public celebrations of the Mass. The Bishops have established a task force under the direction of Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton and Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary. The mandate of this task force is to discern when and how this gradual reinstatement will be initiated. Their consideration will continue to be informed by the advice of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the [provincial government's staged COVID-19 recovery plan](#).

"We are acutely aware of our parishioners' fervent desire to return to the Eucharist, and we share their concern," said Archbishop Smith. "Our careful discernment now will ensure that when the time comes, we will be ready to begin inviting the faithful back to the churches they miss so much. We are extremely grateful to all those who have made great sacrifices in the common effort to protect our brothers and sisters by preventing the spread of COVID-19."

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**



ONLINE OR BY PHONE
NOON-HOUR CHRISTIAN MEDITATION
WITH PATRICIA HARASYM

Come join us in the light and in the
silence...

Please consider yourself welcome to
join our weekly Christian Meditation
this Thursday, May 7 at 12:15 p.m.
AND 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to
communicate and nurture meditation
as passed on through the teachings of Father John Main, OSB in the Christian
tradition.



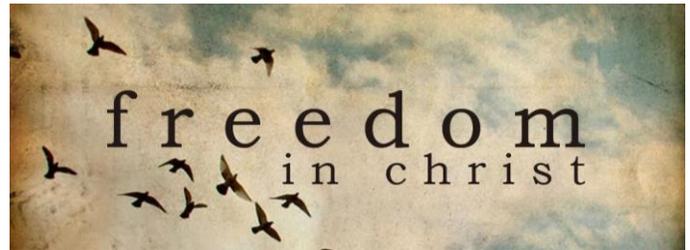
Fr. John Main talk to on the theme:
THE PATH TO TRUTH

May 7, 2020 from 12:15 to 12:50PM

These are words reported in the Gospel of
John spoken by Jesus: If you dwell within the
revelation that I have brought, you are
indeed my disciples; you shall know the
truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:31-2

Sign-Up! 12:15PM - Noon Hour Christian Meditation



Fr. John Main talk to the Theme:
EXPERIENCE AND EXPANSION

May 7, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fr. John says, "In the Christian vision, each
of us is on a pilgrimage to discover that the
wonder of our own creation is that we are
created by God for an eternal destiny, an
infinite expansion of spirit".

Sign-Up! 7PM - Evening of Christian Meditation



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FREEWILL OFFERING GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Please visit FCJ at <https://www.fcjcentre.ca/> for more information.