

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL: The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion. From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen. Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.



TODAY, IS THE SUNDAY OF THE DIVINE MERCY. This is a new and relatively recent enrichment of the liturgy, an adornment added to the ancient splendours of Paschaltide by the express will of Saint John Paul II. Saint John Paul II's encyclical on Divine Mercy in 1980 resonated in the hearts of many as an invitation to return to the Father and to believe boldly in His tenderness for the most fragile and wounded among us. Saint John Paul II, personally touched to the quick by the message of his humble compatriot, Saint Faustina, was compelled to share her message with the whole Church and, indeed, with the world. This he did, not only by his teaching, but also by integrating Saint Faustina's message into the liturgy itself.

Jesus, I Trust In You !

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK APRIL 19 - 23, 2023

Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Braeside	Frank Gable <i>by James & Ellie Hrkach</i>
Thursday	9:00 a.m. Arnprior	Earl Larocque <i>by Therese Larocque</i>
Friday	9:00 a.m. Arnprior	Pat Lee <i>by Mike & Sharron Doherty</i>
Saturday	4:30 p.m. Arnprior	Lou & Hazel Martin <i>by Suzanne & Paul Etheridge</i>
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Arnprior	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>
	10:30 a.m. Braeside	Rev Brady McNamara & Deceased Family Members <i>By The Estate</i>

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: 20 minutes before weekend Masses and also upon request.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: all those who are alone this Easter Season, for our faithful departed, Alma McNulty mother of Catherine McNulty of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Larry Pouliot from St. John Chrysostom.

CHURCH EXTERIOR RESTORATION COLLECTION: The amount of \$8,794.55 for the months of February and March was recently sent to the Chancery Office in Pembroke. Thank you for your generosity.

VOCATIONS: 1st Thursday Holy Hours to Pray for Vocations: On May 4th, 8-9 p.m. at St. Alphonsus Parish, Chapeau – "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (*Mt. 9:37-38*). The Holy Hour will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Music, a reflection by Fr. Murray, a Rosary for vocations, and time for silent prayer. April's Holy Hour will be at the Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Pembroke. These Holy Hours are open to everyone, not just those considering a priestly vocation. For more information and details please visit [Pembroke Vocations](#).

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST: Do you desire a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit and a vital rediscovery of the Sacraments in your life? Do you long for a personal relationship with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek a greater outpouring of God's healing and love? Do you yearn for a greater openness to prayer and Scripture? The Spirit of the Living God Prayer Group invites you to a "Life in the Spirit" Seminar. St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Hall, Barry's Bay. **Seven Thursdays, April 13th to May 25th, 7-8:15 p.m.** Contact: Greg or Mary Doyle at 613 756-6643.