

**T**he teaching of Jesus in today's gospel, in response to the plea of the apostles, has an important lesson for all Christians. It would be unfortunate if the comparisons he uses - very strange to our ears - got in the way, as we listen to him. Black and white affirmations and vivid images were taken for granted by the cultural tradition in which Jesus shared. Perhaps he was near a mulberry tree as he spoke. That a mulberry bush, a fair sized tree with an extensive root system familiar to his audience, should suddenly be re-established in the sea, was clearly an impossibility in the world of ordinary experience. But the point Jesus is making is that those who have 'faith' will know things that are impossible, except to God.

The notion of faith with which we are most familiar - knowing, through the authority of God, truths that would otherwise be beyond our grasp - is sound as far as it goes, but incomplete when compared with what the scriptures tell us about God's gift of faith. The 'faith' that Jesus constantly referred to in the gospels was an openness to the coming of God in the miraculous signs he worked. God has been revealed, as the Scriptures constantly remind us, in the 'great things' God has done. The eternal Son was sent by the Father to bring about the final achievement of all. He 'must suffer' and 'rise again' he tells his companions as they press forward to Jerusalem; he looks forward to his 'hour', John's gospel tells us. Though the mission of Jesus meets with resistance, and his followers are told they must expect the same, 'faith' will be their strength - the openness that recognizes - owns, finds new life in - what God has done for the world in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery.

Now the link with the other comparison recalled by Luke in this passage becomes clear. This comparison leaves us uncomfortable, because it refers to the relationship between master and slave that was taken for granted in the world that produced the gospels. Jesus is not approving this system, but he draws a comparison with it to bring out the nature of the relationship with the Lord that the disciple who lives by faith should have. Like the apostles, we are all sent out - given a share in the Saviour's own mission and what God achieves through him. We are reminded, however, that we are no more than God's instruments - whatever has lasting worth for the final kingdom is all God's work. This applies to us all; but it has an obvious importance for those who are called to serve within the Christian community. In the reading from the letter to Timothy, those who have such roles are told, therefore, to 'rely on the power of God' and 'the help of the Holy Spirit'.

The final words of Habakkuk, 'the upright man will live by his faithfulness', had great influence in Christian thought. Paul linked his fundamental principle, 'we are justified by faith', with this text - in his dispute with those who wanted to impose on all the observance of the old Law. Clearly, Paul's principle expresses the mind of Jesus - faith is God's gift, through which we own the new life brought to the world by the Saviour.

*John Thornhill sm*

PARISH

**Mass Intentions This Week – Oct. 7 to 13**

Please join us as we pray for the following "Announced Mass" intentions:

	Intention(s)	Offered by
Monday, 9am	✠ Joe Hall	Bill & Georgina McGee
Tuesday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Betty Horsey
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Elizabeth Cochrane	The Brennan Family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Ivelda Cavoto	The Pace Family
Friday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Gene & Elaine Hall
Saturday, 9am	✠ John Doran	Marguerite Doran & Family
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Anne Pohole
Sunday, 8am	...our Parish and Parishioners	
9:30am	✠ Edward Kulaga	Joanna Battiston
11am	✠ Paul Furtado	Mike & Idalia
12:30pm	✠ Alina Bandrowski	A friend

**This Weekend! Campaign Life - Life Chain – Sunday, Oct. 6, 2–3pm**

Partake in prayerful, peaceful witness to the sanctity of life on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society. Meet at the corner of Bloor & Islington. Join us!

**Scripture Classes – Wednesdays, 10am & Thursdays, 7pm**

All are welcome on Wednesdays in the Parish Hall meeting room and on Thursdays at OLS School, 32 Montgomery Rd. Our topic is the Gospel of John. Bring your Bible!

**Rosary Group – Daily, after 9am Mass & Fridays, 2pm**

One decade daily, three decades on Fridays followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**Youth Ministry News**

We are volunteering at Good Shepherd Ministries on Saturday, Oct. 12, 1–4pm. Join us! Anyone interested in participating in OLS Youth and Young Adult Ministry this year is invited and encouraged to contact Abigail Lofte, Youth Minister, through the Parish Office or [abigail.lofte@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.lofte@gmail.com) or 647.861.5197 or Facebook - <http://on.fb.me/15r1pW0>

**Help Wanted – Our St. Vincent de Paul group is looking for a few new members.**

If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of people who are constantly struggling to make ends meet, please contact the Parish Office.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive – Non-perishable foods needed, Oct. 12 & 13**

Please bring your contribution to the church on Thanksgiving weekend. Proceeds to Good Shepherd Ministries. Urgent needs include: rice, pasta/sauce, cookies/crackers, cereal, peanut butter, jam, tea, ground/instant coffee, sugar, ketchup, mustard, relish, canned items including: tuna, salmon, vegetables, meat, fruit, soup & stew.

**Bundle Up For St. Vincent de Paul! – Oct. 26 & 27**

Help in all Possible Ways: Donations of new or gently used clothing and toiletries will be gratefully received at the SvDP truck in the parish parking lot. Consider the cold winter ahead and dig deep! Sincere thanks for your continued generosity and support.

**Youth and Chamber Choirs – New singers always welcome!**

Rehearsals are on Thursdays, Youth Choir from 4–5pm and Chamber Choir from 5–6pm. Contact Michele through the Parish Office or at 416-245-0761 for more information.

COMMUNITY

**First Reconciliation and First Eucharist – Registration Weekend**

**Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19/20 after all regular Masses**

Homilies this weekend will address parents and candidates as they begin the sacramental process. All are strongly encouraged to attend. Parish staff will be available in the Parish Hall to process registrations and collect fees.

**Coming up: Confirmation Registration Weekend – Oct. 26/27**

**Please note that Registration Deadline for the above is Friday, Nov. 15.**

**4th Annual Mass to End Woman Abuse – Oct. 22, 7pm, OLS**

Catholic Family Services of Toronto and Our Lady of Sorrows Parish will host this 4th Annual Mass in our church. Light refreshments will follow. Please join us as we gather to pray for all families who are affected by violence. **Woman Abuse Hurts Us All.**

**Syria – Humanitarian Relief**

The Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting financial contributions to support humanitarian relief efforts in Syria and the Middle East. Those wishing to help may do so online at [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) or by phone at 416-934-3411 or through the regular offertory collection, making cheques payable to: "OLS – Syria – Humanitarian Relief".

**34th Annual Cardinal's Dinner – Oct. 17, 6pm**

This fundraiser supports many charities across the GTA and raises over \$120,000 per year. To order tickets online, please see <http://bit.ly/CardinalsDinner> or call 416-934-3400, ext. 567.

**In Search of Truth: A Call to Conversion – Oct. 19, 9:30am–4pm**

Be inspired by renowned Catholic apologist & EWTN host **Marcus Grodi** and one of Toronto's finest Catechists, **Patrick Sullivan** during what promises to be an amazing day filled with prayer, faith and fellowship. Meet hundreds of other Catholics and be nourished and educated in the faith! Visit <http://bit.ly/16FznBT> or email [info@catholicchapterhouse.com](mailto:info@catholicchapterhouse.com).

**De La Salle College – Open House – Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7–9pm**

This renowned Catholic co-educational, private school for students in grades 5 to 12 will be hosting an Open House for prospective students and their families for the academic year 2014-2015. The school is located at 131 Farnham Ave. Call 416-969-8771 for information.

**Fabulous Fall Fashion Show – Humber Valley United Church, Oct. 26, 1-4pm**

Tickets \$25 (incl. glass of wine or punch). Call Joan at 416-236-8208 for tickets and info.

**Spiritual Twelve Step A.A. Retreat – Teopoli, Gravenhurst, Oct. 18-20**

Theme of the Retreat: Growth. A free will offering is expected according to your financial condition. For reservations and further information, please contact Eraldo at 416-249-9788 or The United Society 416-243-7319.

**Know Your Faith Series – Oct. 15–Dec. 3, 7–9pm, Holy Cross Parish Hall**

Join Holy Cross Parish as we celebrate the year of faith with the course "Be My Witnesses." Challenge your present lifestyle for a deeper relationship with the Lord. Reflect on Pope Francis' encyclical "The Light of Faith". Discuss what the new evangelization means and learn what Church documents say about it. Watch inspiring DVDs and consider how to respond to Christ's personal call to you in today's culture! Registration is \$25 and includes seven week course, text, handouts. Visit [www.kolbeapostolate.com](http://www.kolbeapostolate.com).