

Today's gospel reading, 'I am the true vine', brings us another of John's 'I AM' meditations. It takes up an important theme developed by the Old Testament prophets and one of the psalms: the old Israel was Yahweh's 'vine', lovingly planted and tended; but it brought forth only bitter fruits. In Jesus, however, this divine project has been taken up again by the Father – coming forth from his Paschal Mystery, he is the true vine which will bear fruits which give eternal 'glory' to the Father.

Thus our liturgy carries forward our Easter reflection upon what the Saviour's Paschal Mystery means in our lives and in the life of the Church. One of the central themes of the New Testament is the solidarity we have with Christ through what was achieved by God through his death and resurrection. For Paul we live 'in Christ', we are 'limbs of his body'. John often repeats that Christ (and his Father) now 'dwell' or 'make their home' in us.



A fruitful life through the Paschal Mystery

We could easily overlook the fact that what comes through clearly in this gospel is the call to fruitfulness – sharing with the Son all that makes him the 'true' vine, beloved of the Father who has given him over for the sake of the whole world. The vine's branches are 'pruned' by the Father by means of 'the word' – a clear call to nourish our Resurrection life through a knowledge and love of the Scriptures. The fruits we will bear are primarily the witness we must give to others, and the outreach through which we are called to embody the Saviour's presence in our world. Israel was called to be 'a light to the nations' but failed; the New Israel, brought into existence through our solidarity with Jesus in his Paschal Mystery, must fulfil that great mission – an apparently impossible task, until we recall that what is at stake is the Father's great design in creation, and we recognise that all that is to be achieved derives from the One who is 'the true vine'.

In the first reading from Acts, the story of the apostolic Church, energised by its Resurrection faith, continues. The conversion of Paul – through his meeting with the Risen Lord – is a great turning point in this story. As now, the difficulties to be overcome, if the community of believers was to bear life-giving fruits, were both internal and external. It was not easy to accept and trust as a brother the man who had been so violent against them. And the message of life – brought to a lost world – was hated by those who preferred darkness to the light.

If the fruits of life 'in the vine' stressed in the gospel are the Church's effective witness and outreach, the 'discipleship' referred to at the end of the gospel's teaching brings great personal blessings to each believer. The reading from John's letter spells out some of them: learning from the Saviour what authentic 'love' is; finding the trust in God which overcomes all our deepest fears and self-doubts; the unspeakable privilege of the divine indwelling; and finally the gift of God's own Spirit.

John Thornhill sm  
www.theemmausseries.com

**Our second Scripture reading reminds us that we are to love, not in word and speech only, but in truth and action.**

If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

On April 25, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck in Nepal. Aftershocks then continued to devastate huge areas of the country. At least 5,200 are reported dead, over 11,000 injured, many thousands of families displaced from their homes. An estimated 1.7 million children are in urgent need. The Archdiocese of Toronto is now accepting financial contributions for humanitarian relief. Caritas Internationalis, the official Catholic relief agency on the ground, reports that victims are most in need of temporary shelter, water, sanitation & hygiene supplies. Those wishing to help may do so as follows: ① At www.archtoronto.org ② By phone at 416-934-3411 ③ At the parish office or via the offertory collection, making cheques payable to "OLS – Nepal Earthquake – Humanitarian Relief". We offer our prayers for the victims of this natural disaster. Thank you for your efforts to help those in crisis in Nepal.

PARISH

Readings ~ Acts 9:26-31 ~ 1 John 3:18-24 ~ John 15:1-8

**Mass Intentions This Week – May 4 to 10**

Please join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Ken Morgan	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Mary Martin	Gail Weiler & Dave Tyrrell
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Edward Ford	The Brennan family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Teresa & Antonio Zicarelli	The family
Friday, 9am	✠ Jack Mann	The family
Saturday, 9am	✠ Giusepina Barone & Teresa Zicarelli	Pina Valle
5:15pm	✠ Olga & Wally Kalisz	Diana Kalisz
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Sophie Borys	The Milne family
11am	✠ members of the Krasic-Czudek families	The family
12:30pm	✠ Michalina & Peter Dziuma	The family

**Rosary Group – stay and pray daily, after 9am Mass + Fridays, 2pm**

Five decades daily, fifteen decades on Fridays followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

*"The Family that prays together, stays together."*

*"If families give Our Lady fifteen minutes a day by reciting the Rosary, I assure them that their homes will become, by God's grace, peaceful places."*

–Father Patrick Peyton

**Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land November 8–17, 2015**

This once-in-a-lifetime journey, under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Nino, marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our parish. You'll visit the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Capernaum, the River Jordan, Nazareth, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Via Dolorosa, Mount Zion, Masada, the Dead Sea & much more! Cost is \$2,490 pp. Contact Halina at 905-886-0232, ext. 315.

**Working wonders in the whole community...**

**SL ShareLife**

"Now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year of helping the whole community, the number of agencies funded by ShareLife's annual appeal has increased significantly, reflecting the growing local social needs. The reality is there are more people relying on ShareLife today than ever before! I firmly believe we can continue to offer them a helping hand if we all participate. Your donation, regardless of the amount, will bring us closer to our goal. Thank you for the contribution you make in gift and deed to our Church and to the community at large. My prayer is that the Lord will help us all to share our time, talents and treasure with a generous spirit."

—Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto

**ShareLife's campaign continues. Please give generously. You can work wonders!**

**Public Lecture by Dr. Rohan Curnow – Wednesday, May 6, 7–9:30pm @OLS**

Enjoy an evening of elevated thinking as Rohan Curnow, Professor Extraordinarius of Dogmatic Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney speaks about "The Preferential Option for the Poor and the Teaching of Pope Francis". Presented in cooperation with the Dominican Institute of Toronto.



**Stretch & Flex – all are welcome! – Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the parish hall**

\$10 per session. Bring a yoga-type mat, perhaps a bottle of water and wear comfy clothing!

COMMUNITY

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." –Saint Augustine

**Vatican II and the Promise of Renewal – May 7–9**

2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dominican Order. The Dominicans played a significant role in shaping the Council's theological agenda and in fostering its reception throughout the world. In honour of these two anniversaries, the Dominican Institute of Toronto, the Institute for Research on Vatican II in Canada and the Faculty of Theology are hosting an international conference with over 25 speakers at Carr Hall, University of St. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph St. Free of charge. To register and for more information, including a list of speakers, visit [www.dominicantoronto.org](http://www.dominicantoronto.org)



**Our Archdiocese Welcomes Two New Shepherds**



Archdiocese of Toronto

We pray together as a community of faith for Rev. Mr. Ricardo Davis & Rev. Mr. David Twaddle who are to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood at 10am on Saturday, May 9 at St. Michael's Cathedral. **May the Lord who has begun this good work in them bring it to fulfillment!** On Friday, May 8 at 7pm, the Office of Vocations will be hosting a prayer vigil for our two ordinandi. The event includes Eucharistic Adoration, reflections by Cardinal Collins, Fr. Chris Lemieux and Fr. Edwin Gonsalves. Vespers and Benediction to follow. On the day of the ordinations, Cardinal Collins will host a pre-ordination breakfast at the Arcadian Court (401 Bay St., 8<sup>th</sup> Fl.) at 7:30am where he will explain the rite of ordination. All are invited to this event. Attendees will be guests of Cardinal Collins at the cathedral later that morning.

**Informational Talk – "On Marriage and Annulment" – Monday, May 11, 7pm**

Catholic Family Services of Toronto and New Beginnings invite you to this talk by Fr. Brian Clough, Judicial Vicar, Archdiocese of Toronto. He will provide us with an understanding of the Catholic Church's teachings on marriage and annulment. Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St., 4th Floor. Free underground parking available & adjacent to Summerhill Subway Station. For inquiries, call Mary at 416-921-1163, ext. 2235 or email [mberincasa@cfstoronto.com](mailto:mberincasa@cfstoronto.com)

**Celebrate Your Marriage with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!**

Married couples: You deserve a weekend to cherish being together; to rediscover each other and focus on ways to make your relationship even better. A WME weekend offers this opportunity. Consider giving each other or another couple you know the gift of a weekend away from daily pressures; time to be with each other and with God. Upcoming weekend: May 22–24. For more information, visit [www.wme.org](http://www.wme.org) or contact Gerard & Marge McCauley at [gerard.marge@rogers.com](mailto:gerard.marge@rogers.com) or call 905-792-1925.



**Project Rachel Retreat – May 22–24**

*"Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord."* –Psalm 25

Are you longing for mercy from the One who brings peace & healing? We can help. This weekend retreat is for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion. Private & confidential. Call 416-629-8264 or email [projectrachel@stmarysrefuge.org](mailto:projectrachel@stmarysrefuge.org)

**Magnificat Breakfast May 30, 9:30am – Julius Banquet Ctr., 2201 Finch Ave. W.**

Join us for the 36<sup>th</sup> Magnificat breakfast for women. Treat your mother, sister, colleague, friend or yourself to an inspirational morning that includes a hot breakfast, songs of praise & worship led by our spirit-filled music ministry, and a personal testimony of the transforming love of Christ. Priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Guest Speaker: Enza Lamberti. For tickets, \$20, call Inez at 416-745-4268. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

