

RECTOR'S THOUGHTS...

THIS TOO SHALL PASS...



Visitors to Saint Joseph Parish often remark how friendly and welcoming they find our parishioners. We are used to greeting each other after Mass with a warm handshake and a big hug...external expressions of our love for each other, We invite visitors to join us for coffee and fellowship after the Sunday Parish Mass. Sometimes they stay and become part of our parish family.

COVID-19 may have temporarily changed the way we do things. As of this writing...shelter-in-place orders are still in affect...Statewide and throughout most of the country. We practice "social distancing" in our interaction with others. We have not been able to gather as a parish community for Sunday Mass. We want this to pass...we want things to get back to normal.

"This too shall pass" is a popular expression we use when we find ourselves in difficult and challenging situations. The expression does contain an element of hope. Although the phrase is incorrectly attributed to Holy Scripture...the words "this too shall pass" don't appear anywhere in the Bible...it may have its basis in a passage from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians:

"For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever. So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." (2 Corinthians 4.17-18 NIV)

There are numerous other Scriptural passages that talk about trials and tribulations we experience during this lifetime. We learn from these experiences how to trust God more. As believers in Christ we understand nothing we encounter can compare to what he went through on our behalf.

Jesus might have thought to himself "this too shall pass" as he approached his death on the cross. He knew the darkest hour in human history would ultimately lead us into light...and everlasting life...the hope the writer of Hebrews says defines our faith...what we look forward to and have not yet experienced.

This is Easter...it may take a while longer for things to get back to normal...but this is a time for celebration in our hearts. We get strength from knowing we are still a community of believers who love Christ and each other and are called to love others. We live in challenging times. We should ask God to empower us with his Holy Spirit more and more each day so we can give strength to others. Let's remember what Jesus said:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16.33 NIV)

Happy Easter! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Father Craig Looney +

EASTER DAY – 12 APRIL

WE DO NOT KNOW YET WHETHER WE WILL BE ABLE TO GATHER FOR EASTER MASS...WE HOPE SO BUT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY. PLEASE CHECK YOUR E-MAIL ON PALM SUNDAY 5 APRIL AND THROUGHOUT HOLY WEEK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

AN EASTER PRAYER

"The right hand of the Lord is exalted,
the right hand of the Lord does wonders.
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord."
Christ, the Son of the Living God,
Accept from us this Easter prayer
and give us that joy of the new Life,
which we bear with us,
which only you can give to the human heart.
You, the Risen Christ.
You, our Paschal Lamb!

SAINT JOHN PAUL II



As many of you know, I recently traveled across the country to the Synod in Atlanta. Alex went with me. On that trip, I often thought about the opening scenes of *The Silver Chair*, the fourth of the Chronicles of Narnia by the great twentieth century Anglican apologist C. S. Lewis. Though the Chronicles of Narnia were written for children, they are more than worthwhile to revisit as adults. When *The Silver Chair* was the only one of the Chronicles of Narnia in stock at a used bookstore we visited after the Synod, I knew it was Providence and bought it and re-read it on the flight home.

I was thinking about *The Silver Chair* because the book is about a long journey with friends, and I was on a long journey with friends. Among the many lessons of the book is that sometimes it is easier to travel alone. When we travel alone, we never have to wait for another person to catch up. We don't have to compromise on when to have dinner. But, on the whole, it is better to travel with a friend. When we travel with a friend, there is another person to help us remember the directions. There's someone to give advice about whether a situation is dangerous. There's someone to help us with any danger we fall into. I sometimes travel alone for work, but importantly, Aslan never sends his heroes on an adventure alone.

Thankfully, our trip to Atlanta was uneventful. Unlike the heroes of *The Silver Chair*, we met no dragons, no sorcerers, no hungry giants. We met many friendly people, but, sadly, no Lion.

The copy of *The Silver Chair* we bought in Atlanta has been donated to the Parish library and is available for borrowing. (Please remember to write your name in the check-out notebook.) *The Silver Chair* by C. S. Lewis is also available from San Mateo County Libraries in regular print (multiple languages), large print, audio and e-book formats. Remember that residents of many San Mateo County cities over the age of 60 do not pay library fines (and there are no fines for anyone for e-books). It is also available from bookstores.

In a future edition of the Parish Times, I will explain why I refer to *The Silver Chair* as the fourth of the Chronicles of Narnia, while it is sometimes marked as the sixth.

(Ed...Aslan is the talking lion and a major character that appears in all seven books in the Chronicles of Narnia series.)



Mark was born in Jerusalem in the early 1st Century AD. He was raised by his mother, Mary, in a house where (according to Acts 12.12) the first Apostles would meet. He is identified as the young man who briefly accompanied Jesus after his arrest and then ran away naked to avoid being arrested himself.

Mark was the cousin of Barnabas. He went with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey...but for reasons unknown returned to Jerusalem. Several years later Barnabas suggested they take Mark on their next missionary journey but Paul refused. This caused a rift between Paul and Barnabas. Paul traveled to Syria with Silas and Barnabas traveled with Mark to Cyprus.

The rift between Paul and Barnabas was eventually healed. Ten years later, when Paul was in Rome, he called Mark his fellow worker. Peter also highly regarded Mark and called him 'my son'.

Tradition holds after the death of Peter in Rome, Mark preached the "Good News" about Jesus Christ in Alexandria and became its first bishop. He was martyred there in about 74 AD.

Mark's Gospel is notable for the way he presents Christ's life without the details of Matthew or Luke...giving credence to Mark's being the first Gospel written. Mark's Gospel is an "action" Gospel...he is more concerned with what Jesus does rather than what he says.

25 April has been observed as the Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist, since the 12th Century. Mark is the Patron Saint of lawyers, prisoners, lions and the city of Venice, Italy. He is often depicted in art as a winged lion referring to the regal dignity and supreme power of Christ.

The Collect

O Almighty God, who hast instructed thy holy Church with the heavenly doctrine of thy Evangelist Saint Mark; Give us grace that, being not like children carried away with every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of thy holy Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, Page 237)

THE ROGATION DAYS...



The Rogation Days are the three days preceding the Ascension Day. The *Book of Common Prayer* (Page 261-263) provides a Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Rogation Days. The Fifth Sunday after Easter is called Rogation Sunday...a name it gets from the Rogation Days.

The word *rogation* comes from the Latin verb *rogare*...to ask. It was also customary for farmers to have their crops blessed by the parish priest...asking God to protect the land and provide for a bountiful harvest.

On the Rogation Days parishioners would form a procession and proceed to all corners of the parish praying for its protection during the coming year. This custom...called *beating the bounds*...survives in some Anglican parishes today.

Our custom at Saint Joseph Parish has been to bless the Saint Francis Garden immediately following the Parish Mass on Rogation Sunday (17 May this year). Because of COVID-19 there is still much uncertainty about extension of stay-at-home orders.

This year asking God to supply us with our daily needs takes on added meaning...let's join together in asking God not only to encourage people not to hoard food and other items...but to inspire doctors to find effective treatments and a cure for the COVID-19 virus.

A MORNING PRAYER

*LORD, IN THE QUIET OF THIS MORNING HOUR
I COME TO THEE FOR PEACE, FOR WISDOM, POWER
TO VIEW THE WORLD TODAY THROUGH LOVE-FILLED EYES;
BE PATIENT, UNDERSTANDING, GENTLE, WISE;
LET ME SO KINDLY BE, SO FULL OF CHEER,
THAT ALL I MEET MAY FEEL THY PRESENCE NEAR.
O CLOTHE ME IN THY BEAUTY, THIS I PRAY,
LET ME REVEAL THEE, LORD, THROUGH ALL THE DAY. AMEN.*

(Phil Mancini shared this wonderful prayer with us given to him by his mother. We incorporated it into our 2019 Lenten Study. It seems an appropriate prayer in this time of uncertainty. Thank you again, Phil, for sharing this very special gift.)

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD...



The Ascension Day takes place on 21 May this year. We almost always talk about *The Ascension of Christ*, the iconic painting by Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dalí (1904-1989), which he completed in 1958.

The most striking feature of *The Ascension of Christ* is the vantage point. Most paintings and icons of the Ascension have us looking on from a distance. Dalí's painting draws us into the Ascension...we are standing with the Apostles...not far off...but up close and personal. We are drawn into the painting not as spectators...but as participants...as if we too are there experiencing what the Apostles experienced. The last glimpse of Jesus we see as he ascends back to heaven are his unwashed bare feet.

The Ascension of Christ is compellingly **Incarnational**. Jesus had a real human body. He wasn't a phantom or computer-generated hologram from Star Trek. Jesus went back to heaven shoeless...Jesus took his resurrected and glorified human body back to heaven...dirty feet and all...he didn't leave it behind.

We state our firm belief in the **Resurrection** of the body and **Life Everlasting** in the Apostles' Creed. Christianity is not about reincarnation into someone or something else after we die. Christianity is not about life after death as a disembodied spirit.

We too will take our resurrected and glorified human bodies to heaven...we won't leave them behind...and we can only imagine what our perfect and glorified human bodies will be like. Will we need shoes in heaven? Probably not...but for now we can keep them on...they help keep our feet dry and clean.

VESTRY MEETING...



The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 31 May at 10:30 AM in the Classroom. If the shelter-in-place order is still in affect...a virtual meeting will be held...format yet to be determined.

PENTECOST...



The terms *Pentecost* comes from the Greek word *Pentekoste* meaning “fiftieth”. Also known as “Feast of Weeks”, it is a Jewish harvest festival celebrated fifty days after Passover.

According to Acts 2.5-11 there were many visitors in Jerusalem for Pentecost...some may have remained in the city after the Passover since travel was a time consuming process. These visitors included Jews from many different countries (the *Diaspora*) who spoke different languages and *proselytes*. *Proselytes* refers to non-Jews who adhered to all facets of the Mosaic law including circumcision and attended Temple services in a place reserved for non-Jews.

Acts 2.1-4 records the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the empowerment they were given to speak in languages the visitors to Jerusalem spoke. The Apostles were initially accused on being drunk at 9:00 AM. Peter then launches into a sermon that convinces over 3000 people Jesus was the promised Messiah and Savior...they get baptized. These people take the “Good News” about Jesus back to their own countries. Pentecost has long been considered the Church’s birthday for this reason.

For Christians, Pentecost takes place fifty days after Easter. In the early days of the Church, the Easter-Pentecost Season was celebrated as one long festival of the Resurrection. Pentecost is also known as Whitsunday (White Sunday) for the white robes worn by the candidates who had prepared for many months and were baptized into the Body of Christ on this day.

CALL PRIMROSE...



We are not collecting non-perishable food or other items for CALL Primrose at this time. CALL Primrose also states on their website they are not accepting contributions of non-perishable food or other items until further notice. They are, however, accepting financial donations, so they may continue to support community members in need. If you wish to make a financial contribution to CALL Primrose...please send your check directly to them:

CALL Primrose
139 Primrose Rd
Burlingame CA 94010

DID YOU KNOW...

And now...for a bit of humor (well we hope you will smile a little).

Did you know there was a Saint Corona? She gets her name from a vision she had of a crown. *Corona* is Latin for *crown*. Her Greek name is *Stephanie*...the female version of *Stephanos*...which also means crown.



Saint Corona has been identified in the media as the Patron Saint for protection against viruses. COVID-19 gets its name from the spikes that make it appear to have a crown.

While her name would seem to fit current events...Saint Corona is actually the Patron Saint of gamblers and treasure hunters. She is depicted in art holding a crown and two palm branches. She was martyred in Roman Syria c. 170 AD tied between two palm branches.

There are two saints whose names are associated with epidemics: Saints Roch (pronounced Rock) and Edmund. Saint Roch lived c. 1295-1327. He is the Patron Saint of bachelors, cattle, dogs, pilgrims and those afflicted with skin conditions and protection against epidemics. Saint Edmund the Martyr lived c. 841-870. He was the King of East Anglia and his name was invoked as protection against plague and other diseases.

And yes...for cat lovers...they too have a Patron Saint. She is Gertrude, the 7th Century Abbess of Neville (Belgium).

PLEDGES AND PLATE OFFERINGS...



Sheltering in place has affected all of us in many ways. Many people are struggling financially after loss of employment.

Saint Joseph Parish relies on the generosity of its parishioners and friends to partially meet its monthly financial obligations. Pledge and plate offerings are on target so far this year. But parish expenses continue during the time services have been suspended.

Please continue to send your weekly/monthly contributions regularly to the parish by mail. This will help keep the parish strong and healthy and ready for the time we will once again gather as a parish community for Sunday Mass...we pray to Almighty God that will happen soon.

GAZELLE CREATIVE LEARNING SCHOOL...



Our long-time tenant, Gazelle Creative Learning School (CLS), has suspended classes during this time of crisis until further notice for protection of themselves and the children. Please include the teachers and children of CLS in your daily prayers

For the Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, who hast blessed us with the joy and care of children; Give us light and strength so to train them, that they may love whatsoever things are true and pure and lovely and of good report, following the example of their Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, Page 596)

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP

WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.



www.saintjosephparish.net
650 347 4423



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

770 NORTH EL CAMINO REAL

SAN MATEO CA 94401

