

Dear Friends of St. Paul's,

In our Gospel for this 3rd Sunday of Easter we will have an account of the appearance of the Risen Lord according to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus enters the locked room and says, "*Peace be With You.*" This salutation, "*Peace be with You*", is part of Jesus' post Resurrection lexicon. To experience the Risen Lord is to know this peace that comes from the heart of God's love for us.

Does this peace mean that we will be free from all forms of distress, anxiety and discomfort? No! But faith in the Resurrection, life beyond death, can help place our difficulties in perspective.

In the RCIA process, we still meet a few times for the period of Mystagogy, a reflection on the mysteries, a time for post-baptismal catechesis. The other night we looked at the topic of, "Holiness". We are all called to live a holy life.

In that session I used some excerpts from the Letter to Diognetus. The letter to Diognetus is an ancient description (2nd century) of the Christian life. The letter emphasizes that Christians live in the world and can incarnate their faith in different places, in different languages, adapting to the cultures and customs around them. Holiness is not about separateness.

But it also had this to say:

"They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh. They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law. Christians love all men, but all men persecute them. Condemned because they are not understood, they are put to death, but raised to life again. They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute, but possess an abundance of everything. They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult. For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then they, rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life."

Holiness is about peace. A peace that we can experience even when the world around us does not understand, even when the world around us does not provide it.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid."
(John 14:27)

Announcements:

- Thanks to all who have supported the *One Heart One Soul Campaign*. Your generosity to this endeavour has been amazing.
- Seminarian Daniel Naim (who was staying with us while the seminary was closed in January) has been assigned to St. Paul's for the summer. He will be arriving mid-May and if all goes well will be ordained as a transitional deacon this summer.
- We are still open for Mass and are maintaining the normal schedule. We are asking everyone to sign up on-line for the Sunday Masses. At the time of writing this note there was still room at every Mass.
- The parish office is closed to the public. Please call ahead to arrange for mass cards etc.
- *Thanks to all of you for kindly continuing to support the parish financially during these days. Donations can be mailed to the church office or to contribute (masses are later posted to our parish YouTube electronically you can do so by emailing an E-transfer to paul22@cogeco.ca or go to the website to donate by credit card (follow the directions on the Donate drop down). If you are donating via Canada Helps please note that they issue the tax receipts. We reduced the number of envelopes by a significant number this year so most people have a new number-please do not use your envelope number from previous years. Call the office to get your new number*

Sunday Mass will be broadcast on our parish Facebook page at 9am.

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulTheApostleBurlingtonOntario/>

4. Masses are later posted to our parish YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtcCWZCjlwHgx4D4EJI169w/videos>