The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!

On entering the tomb, they saw a man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side. He said to them,

“There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified; He has risen, He is not here.” Mark 16:5-6

My sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and celebrate, over three great days, the Paschal Mystery which finds its culmination in the Easter Vigil. It is during these three days that we listen to the story of God’s love for us. “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.” (John 3:16) As we listen, we remember, but when the Church remembers, she also makes present the event that is being recalled.

On Holy Thursday, as we sit at the Passover Table with Jesus and his friends, we are invited to have our feet washed by the Master and then He invites us to do the same. This simple act of Jesus reminds us of what it means to be the “Body of Christ.” Like Him, we are invited by our baptism to serve. As the meal unfolds, He gives His Body and Blood to be the food that feeds us to be in turn His Body and Blood.

On Good Friday, we stand with Mary, the faithful women and John to witness His death. To acknowledge this act of love, the Church gathers her children to venerate the Cross, the symbol of His love.

On Holy Saturday, we join the great Vigil of waiting with the women to hear the words… “He is risen! He is not here!” In the midst of the darkness of death, the fire and light break the power of darkness. We renew our Baptismal faith, committing ourselves after our Lenten Retreat to be the Children of Light

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I had the pleasure of meeting Hannah Watkins and Brianna McArdle during their Confirmation interviews. What struck me about them was that they were young women with amazing faith – a faith that seeks to put beliefs into action. They shared with me how they attended a social justice conference that inspired them to be the change in the world that they would like to see. And so, I introduce to you Hannah and Brianna, two grade eight students at St. Catherine of Siena who are role models for each of us at St. Michael’s. Our future as a community of faith burns brighter because of them!

Please read their articles on page 14 about their involvement in Me to We and Free the Children.
“What makes you come alive?” “What sets you on fire?” Fr. Philip Chircop, who gave the parish mission last December, challenges us with these words. In doing so he sets the tone for this issue of the newsletter. It is an appropriate question to ask ourselves at Easter, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus into new life. Fr. Murray issues an invitation to come and celebrate, over three days, the Paschal Mystery culminating in the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening.

A birthday cake with candles lights the eyes of the Lawrence children as the family finds a new life here in London after spending eleven years in a refugee camp in Sudan. Brianna and Hannah, two grade eight students in our parish, share their experiences at the second National Me to We Day sponsored by the Free the Children organization. Their passionate realization that they can make a difference for good in the world shines through.

For many, music animates their lives. Terry Dollard’s article explores the new sound heard at Mass here at St. Michael’s.

As the Church celebrates the Year of St. Paul, Mary Taylor examines this apostle to the nations, “a dynamic, energetic and progressive champion of the faith.”

In this issue we continue the series on our parish schools by focusing on Mother Teresa, one of the secondary schools found within our parish boundaries. There is also an opportunity to learn more about Fr. Murray in an interview. The Calendar of Events, children’s page and photo page complete our regular features. We encourage you to browse these pages and discover what makes people in St. Michael’s come alive.

The Easter Offertory Envelope has been included in this issue. You may want to put this in a safe place so you can find it when you need it.

Autumn 2009 Issue. The Newsletter welcomes your contributions. If you have an idea for an article please contact us before May 1, 2009. Email to gail-brown@rogers.com or ftheilade@uwo.ca.

The publication and distribution of the St. Michael’s Newsletter is made possible by the generous support of our advertisers. Please give them your support.

Our Newsletter Team members are Gail Brown, John & Michelle Cavaliere, Terry Dollard, Paul Evans, Carmen Gicante, Terry McBride, Keith Rodrigues, Dorothy Solomon, Vincent Taylor, Frances Theilade and Paul Tremblay.
Passion (Palm) Sunday
Saturday, April 4  5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, April 5  8:30 a.m.  10:30 a.m.  12:30 p.m. Mass
Monday, April 6  8:00 a.m.  12:00 noon Mass
7:30 p.m. Mass of Chrism at St. Peter’s Cathedral
Bishop Fabbro will preside at this diocesan celebration to bless the oils for use in the sacraments during the coming year. All are invited.

Tuesday, April 7  8:00 a.m.  12:00 noon Mass

Wednesday, April 8  8:00 a.m.  12:00 noon Mass

Easter Triduum
Throughout His Pascal mystery Jesus redeemed the human race and gave perfect glory to God. By dying, Christ destroyed our death; by rising, He restored our life.

Holy Thursday
We recall the Passover meal and the Lord’s Supper. There is an emphasis on love and service. (John 13:1-15)
Thursday, April 9  7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord’s Supper
8:30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Midnight Night Prayer

Good Friday
We recall the familiar story of Jesus’ Passion. (John 18:1-19:42) We fast and abstain today to honour the suffering and death of Jesus and to prepare to share more deeply in the joy of His resurrection.
Friday, April 10  10:00 a.m. Family Liturgy: The Living Way of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Solemn Memorial of the Passion and Death of Jesus
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday
We wait as a community before the tomb and look with hope toward the promise of resurrection. (Luke 24:1-12)
Saturday, April 11  9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
11:00 a.m. Blessing of Easter Food
8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection

The great victory of Christ is celebrated in joy. We reflect on our history and our roots; we bless and light the Easter candle; we bless the baptismal water, and we renew the promises made in Baptism. Our candidates are received into the family of the Church.

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12  8:30 a.m. Mass
10:30 a.m. Mass
12:30 p.m. Mass

There will be two Masses at 10:30 a.m., one in the church and one in the parish hall.
Last year Pope Benedict declared a Year of St. Paul (June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009) in honour of the bi-millennium celebrations of the birth of this saint. We do well to honour St. Paul for he has rightly been called Apostle to the Nations. Paul's influence on Christianity arises not only from the establishment of so many Christian centres but also from his understanding of the Christian faith. Paul was the first major Christian theologian. It was from Paul that Christianity received its understanding of the meaning of Jesus as Lord and Saviour. It was from Paul also that the early church was able to understand itself as more than just a Jewish sect but rather, by divine intervention, destined to bring people to salvation in Christ.

Paul, or Saul in the Hebrew version of his name, was born in Tarsus, a city in modern-day Turkey. Because he was born in a Roman city, Paul was a Roman citizen, but he was born a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin. Paul was a dedicated and zealous Jew, proud of his heritage. At the time of Jesus’ crucifixion, he had come to Jerusalem to study under the distinguished rabbi Gamaliel. He was educated in the Jewish tradition of the Pharisees, one of the more legalistic Jewish sects and one which Jesus often criticized for its rigidity.

When the disciples began proclaiming Jesus as Messiah, Paul was outraged! He considered their claim to be blasphemous. Armed with authority from the chief priests, he took it upon himself to stamp out what he considered a heretical sect within Judaism. He admitted as much in his letter to the Christians in Galatia. “You must have heard of my career as a practicing Jew, how merciless I was in persecuting the Church of God, how much damage I did to it, how I stood out among the Jews of my generation and how enthusiastic I was for the traditions of my ancestors.” (Gal. 1:13-14)

It was while Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there that he experienced a vision of the Risen Christ which led to an immediate and total conversion. (Acts 9:3-20) While he would remain Torah observant throughout his life, Paul now began to proclaim Jesus as Lord with the same single mindedness that characterized his earlier persecutions. The picture of Paul that emerges in the Acts of the Apostles is that of a man of great spirit, formidable intellect and unwavering courage.

By the time Paul began his missionary activity large numbers of Jews had established themselves in far flung areas of the Roman Empire. Since they were living far from Jerusalem the temple was no longer the centre of their religious life. Instead their spirituality revolved around the local synagogue and the Torah, the Hebrew Scriptures.

Paul’s first plan was to convert his fellow Jews and so it was only natural that upon his arrival in a new city, he would make his way to the local synagogue. The plan met with only limited success however since Paul and his colleagues would often become embroiled in a controversy which would force them to leave the synagogue. Whenever this rejection occurred Paul would respond “My conscience is clear; now I shall go to the Gentiles.” (Acts 18:6) Gentiles were those who were attracted to the strict moral code of Judaism but who had not become full converts to it. In the Acts of the Apostles Paul describes what he perceives as a prophetic calling to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. “Go, the Lord said to me,
As soon as Paul began to convert non-Jews the question arose as to whether they had to observe the Jewish Torah and its traditions. This forced the leaders of the Christian community to look at the fundamental question of the relationship of Christianity to Judaism. The issue was resolved at the Council of Jerusalem in 49 CE. It was here that Paul argued that the Spirit was given to all, Jews and Gentiles alike. In Paul's own words “there is no such thing as Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal.3:28-29)

These words symbolized the direction in which the Christian community was now moving. It no longer saw itself as a sect within Judaism but something new and quite separate from it. The early Christians saw themselves as the new People of God. This new vision caused intense bitterness between Christians and Jews and Paul and his colleagues often found themselves at the receiving end of the hostilities. Paul willingly suffered for the sake of the Gospel and over the course of thirty or so years he travelled throughout the Roman Empire setting up Christian communities in nearly every major city in Asia Minor and Greece. By today’s standards the mission would be hard work! In modern terms Paul’s missionary activity spanned a vast area from Israel through Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Greece.

How did one man accomplish so much in his lifetime? The answer is probably twofold: flexibility and teamwork. Paul was fully aware that in order for his message to be received he had to nuance it to suit his listeners. His style of preaching varied depending on who he encountered. He used every gift at his disposal to convince his audience.

Paul suffered many hardships for the sake of the Gospel. He was seen as a serious threat by the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem, was often beaten and finally imprisoned as a dangerous heretic. He is thought to have died around the year 65 CE, as a martyr for the faith.

Paul was a dynamic, energetic and progressive champion of the faith and it is good for us to reflect upon his influence on the spread of Christianity. With his energy and zeal he took the message of the Gospel out into the world and changed the course of the church’s history. May we continue to look to his example as we live out our mission of evangelization.

“I must become all things to all people for the sake of the Gospel.” (1Cor. 9:19-23)

Teamwork was critical for the success of the mission. In the course of moving to a new area Paul would remain in and around the capital city, while his co-workers would spread out to smaller towns in the region. They would remain in one location for as long as it took the new converts to learn the Christian ways. When they felt the time was right, they would move on and repeat the process in a new location, with Paul often plying his trade as a tentmaker in order to support himself.

The letters or epistles of St. Paul are the earliest writings in the New Testament and give us a vivid picture of the early church and of Paul’s life as a missionary. Far from being heavy theological treatises, these letters, at times encouraging, at other times critical, are spontaneous responses to the particular situations being faced by the young Christian communities. Paul’s feisty nature and fiery zeal are plainly evident in many of these letters, but so too is his tender affection for his new converts.

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This newsletter provides an enriching opportunity to learn more about our parish, including the members of our pastoral team. Recently I had the opportunity to interview Father Murray Sample.

Those who have heard you singing during mass would probably all agree that you have a beautiful voice. What role does singing and music play in your life?

Music has always been a part of my life. My father was gifted with a wonderful voice. When I was a child, my parents were aware of this gift from God and so they provided voice lessons with Sr. Othelia, a Sister of St. Joseph. I find music to be the center of praise. I cannot imagine a Mass, which is an offering of praise to God, without music. I find it difficult to understand why some people do not pick up the hymnal when invited to sing. Even if you think you cannot sing, the words alone are prayer. I remember my mom thought she couldn’t sing. I once asked her who gave her the voice she had. She responded: God! I then said: Give back to God what he had given to you. She sang for a long time after that. When you read scripture, the command, “Sing praise to God,” is repeated 345 times. It must be important if it is repeated that many times.

What has inspired you the most during your trips to the Holy Land?

The Holy Land is the 5th Gospel. You cannot go to the Land of Jesus without being touched deeply by the Gospels. The Gospels take on a different sense as you ponder the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem or Bethlehem. The one spot that continues to inspire me is the ruins of the Palace of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest at the time of Jesus. He had Jesus brought and placed in the cistern, a well used for storage. As I stand in the dark of the cistern, I am touched by Jesus listening to his accuser above him about how they will get rid him and the thought of Peter in the courtyard denying that he knew Jesus. I am always moved to tears in this sacred place.

What is one of the most fulfilling parts of your vocation?

The most fulfilling part of my vocation is the moments when I enter into the private lives of my people, whether that be at the time of great joy (e.g., baptism, marriage) or time of great sorrow (e.g., reconciliation, funeral), and to be allowed to be a part of these moments and know you are there as the voice of Jesus and His People.

Do you have an early memory of Easter that you can share with us?

Each Easter is filled with the joy of the Easter Vigil, having journeyed with the candidates and catechumens, then being there when they ask to become members of the Catholic Church. Standing in the light of the Paschal candle, I am moved with joy.

I see Easter as a message of hope. What do you hope for when you think of our youth?

My hope for the youth is that they grow to know that God is unchangeable and that His Church is the rock in their life. The world is fickle and changes with winds of time. One day this is acceptable, and the next day it isn’t. But God is the same today, tomorrow and forever. I believe that this is such a radical message that some think the Church and God are out of touch. But in fact, the Rock is always in touch with reality.

Thank you Father Murray for your inspiring thoughts.
Each Life is Precious to God

"I will sing hymns to your name, Most High"

Psalms 9:3

St. Michael’s Photos

Faith

Wisdom

Joy
The mission statement of Mother Teresa is “Each life is precious to God,” affirming the dignity and respect of every human person, recognizing Christ in them. “On our journey of faith, with its path built on Gospel values, Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School exists to provide a quality education in a caring community that enables the individual to become a contributing member of the Church and society.”

Mr. John Palmer, founding principal, opened the school in September 2000 with 150 grade nine students. The school was located at 85 Charles Street (originally St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School adjacent to old West Lions Park) until the beautiful new building on Sunningdale Road East in north east London was opened on September 3rd, 2002.

Now in its ninth year, Mother Teresa is the largest secondary school in the London District Catholic School Board with an enrolment of 1630 students, including a record number of 425 grade nine students and a grade 9-12 French Immersion program of 375. Our feeder schools are St. Mark, St. Thomas Moore, Blessed Kateri, St. Marguerite d’Youville, St. Patrick, St. Catherine of Siena and St. John French Immersion. As a result of our growth over the last three years, our school has added 16 portables.

The school, built to accommodate 1200 students, is a two-storey $25 million facility approximately 170,000 square feet in area, located on 15 acres of land. The property includes a football and soccer field, an eight-lane track and a field house. Over 200 parking spaces are available for staff and visitors as well as a unique bus loading/drop off area. The library is the primary learning resource centre of the school with a spacious open ceiling, perimeter book shelving, a seminar room, a reading lounge area and 25 computer stations. The school includes a large double gym, a single gym, a mezzanine viewing area and a state-of-the-art fitness centre. Athletic competition is available in all sports, junior and senior, through the Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association. The Cafetorium is a multi-purpose space serving as a lunch and assembly area as well as a full drama production facility complete with overhead catwalk, state-of-the-art lighting and sound system.

Our school offers a comprehensive Catholic Religious Studies program, providing opportunities for spiritual growth and participation in Eucharistic celebrations,
retreats and special projects aimed at understanding our relationships with God through prayer, reflection and service to others. The building’s spiritual focal point is our beautiful Chapel located on the second floor, a unique circular design with flexible seating for up to 150 people.

The curriculum at Mother Teresa offers a wide variety of programs including Vocal/Instrumental Music, Physical Education/Fitness/Athletics, a full Technological Studies program including Construction/Design/Transportation/Communications, as well as a Theatre Technology program and Visual Arts. A comprehensive French Immersion Program is available from grade nine to grade 12, and a Modern Languages program offering Core French, Spanish and Italian. Mother Teresa is host to the five credit Construction Work Experience Program through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. We are very proud of our Fine Arts program, having staged a range of Broadway hits. Our athletic teams are ranked at the top in the TVRAA and our literacy and math testing scores are consistently above the provincial and board averages.

Our Learning Services department is a caring and committed group of staff who work very hard to provide an appropriate learning environment and experiences for exceptional students. We are blessed with caring Guidance counsellors, a social worker, a chaplain and learning services teachers who provide support academically, emotionally and spiritually. Our Peer Support group, comprised of students in grades 10-11, provides support to our grade nine students in their transition to high school. Four years ago, the London Police Department initiated the School Community Police Resource Officer program for all secondary schools in London. One day a week, we are blessed with the presence of Constable Darren Fischer who provides our staff and students with a range of community co-educational curriculum.

Our student council and Chaplaincy team have organized many fundraisers to support various charities including an Annual Relay for Life Cancer Awareness Campaign, which has raised almost $100,000 over the last six years. Other campaigns have supported the United Way, St. Vincent de Paul Society (Be An Angel Campaign during Advent), Hands of Hope (Guatemala Medical Clinic), Community House, the London Area Food Bank Drive and Jesse’s Journey.

This spring our first Mother Teresa graduate will be student teaching at Mother Teresa, serving and supporting students, living our mission statement and sharing many talents and gifts with the Mother Teresa community.

I have had the privilege of serving as Principal of our school since April 2001, and through this time, I have been humbled by the dedication, support and service demonstrated by students, staff and parents. I encourage you to visit our website www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/mths and or contact me directly at 519-675-4433.
In Father Murray’s homily at the Feast of the Epiphany he underlined how we are all created equal. And yet we know that all are not treated equally. In March 2008 a family of nine - parents, two teenage daughters and five sons - arrived in London having spent the previous eleven years in Juba, a Sudanese Refugee Camp. This family was baptized here at St. Michael’s and has been attending Mass regularly. Lily and Roselyne are in grade nine at Catholic Central High School where an ESL (English as a second language) is offered daily. The boys Monday, Jacob, Christopher, and Joshua are in elementary school at St. Michael’s while Robinson, age two, goes with his mother Joska to an ESL school on Lorne Avenue. The father, Mwaka, has been attending ESL at Wheable and is presently working part-time as caretaker at St. Michael’s church. He’s in need of a full-time job. Interestingly, all but two in the family have birthdays on the same day, January 1st! When questioning Mwaka, he glibly said: “I arranged it.” I responded: “That is impossible!” Sister Maria explained that when a refugee family comes through Immigration there are no records and no one has accurate knowledge. So, seven of them were given birth dates two years apart on January 1st.

Christmas 2008 was a memorable occasion! Everything was supplied and prepared in our traditional Christmas style, complete with all the trimmings. We celebrated this great feast on Christmas Eve, and it was Mwaka’s 38th birthday! For a couple of weeks prior I had teased Mwaka about carving the turkey! He was anxious to learn and when the time came he arrived wearing a suit and tie. I mentioned he wouldn’t need the coat; instead he would need to roll up his sleeves. He was a great sport as I demonstrated how to carve a turkey. The whole family wore their Sunday best for this wonderful occasion and they were delighted watching their Dad handling a carving knife as I coached him. The climax came at the end of the meal when a huge, beautifully decorated chocolate cake was placed on the table. What a pleasant surprise!

They loved it! And yes, the Sudanese have a very sweet tooth! Even though the children withhold their emotions their eyes danced with excitement.

January 1st was a huge birthday celebration! The table was colourfully decorated. The big moment was when several coloured candles on their cake were being lit. Their eyes shone with joy as bright as the burning candles! This was a spiritual moment; the presence of God was with and among us in their humble little kitchen.

This family came from a land of sunshine and conflict where fear had been a large part of their life experience. They live in a two-bedroom apartment in north London. It is crowded, small and inadequate for nine people. The dark drapes on the patio doors continue to be drawn...
most of the time. But it is better than what they had in Sudan and they are grateful. Currently, they are 46th on a waiting list for government-subsidized housing. In London affordable housing and overcrowding are critical issues!

I met and became involved with the Lawrence family at a luncheon for new parishioners last spring. This beautiful family of nine sat quietly around a table in the parish hall. I greeted everyone, tried to converse with the mother and the children first. They didn’t understand a word, and then the father spoke, got out a paper and pencil and asked for my name and phone number. The children captured my heart and my attention. I learned that God’s ways are not our ways! Soon I was taking supplies from St. Joseph’s Hospitality Center on a regular basis. Situations like this stretch us and bring out the best in us. Their needs are many, their limitations cannot be measured. We honour their courage to venture into an environment and way of life that is completely foreign. The parents came to this country so that their seven children would have a better life. It’s been an incredible journey! Their hope for a better life is an inspiration!

Thank you and may God bless you for your kindness! During the Christmas season parishioners and parish committees, as well as others, were more than generous. The Lawrence family was drawn into the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the children participated in the Christmas pageant, they enjoyed a feast at their table and everyone received beautiful gifts.

The New Sound of Sacred Music

by Terry Dollard

A short while ago I mentioned to Sue Cavender, the director of the 5:00 p.m. Mass choir, that I was stumbling my way through the new musical score for the sung parts of the Mass. I asked her to explain to me where the changes had come from and why they had been applied in our parish specifically.

“You’re right about the new sound of the Gloria and other sung Mass parts,” Sue told me. “This new sound is called the “Mass of Light” and was written a few years ago by David Haas, the Director of the Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer and Ministry in Minnesota. He is also the composer of much of the music that we presently sing at our liturgical celebrations.

The new music, which has a nice upbeat tempo, is not in either of the hymnals that we currently use, but it is included in the Gather Comprehensive hymnal which we hope to have in the pews sometime this spring. Father Murray asked all of the choirs to learn it last year and it is also being taught to the children in our parish schools as well. At this point we are hoping that the congregation will join in the Refrain (Chorus) of the Gloria, as well as the Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen and Lamb of God all of which are very repetitive. When we receive the new hymnals, we will then be able to refer the congregation to the appropriate setting and the entire Gloria will be sung by all.”

Father Murray has often pointed out to us that many more singers are required for each of our choirs – if you enjoy singing praise to God please consider Father’s request as an invitation to join the choir of your choice in singing/praying the new sound at St Michael’s.
“What is your gift? What sets you on fire? What makes you come alive? Go and do it! No excuses. You are called.” This exhortation during our parish mission was part of an invitation to be, as opposed to simply receive, Eucharist. And to “be Eucharist” is not some trendy shibboleth; it echoes the words of St. Augustine: we become what we receive. To understand this, it is helpful to consider first some ideas about God and self offered by Fr. Philip, since our perceptions colour our understanding.

The God who calls us is madly in love with us! When he sees one small spark of possibility, he enlarges it. God is not a monster condemning us to hell for minor infractions. Rather, he recognizes his children get dirty and loves us because He is good, not because we are good.

And what of ourselves? In the words of scripture, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit, God’s work of art and even the fragrance of Christ. So whether you are a living stone or even a stumbling block in the Body of Christ, gently acknowledge your place and pray for the grace to become what God wants you to be. Don’t be fixated on the bad – remember that we will all die sinners. To use Fr. Philip’s paraphrase: “You’re not OK and that’s OK”.

Returning to the meaning of “be Eucharist”, the mission intertwined the theme of being invited to a banquet (Matt. 22:1-14) with the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it – himself – to us.

Jesus takes bread; Jesus takes - chooses or calls - us

We all know the banquet parable in Matthew’s Gospel and that its invitation is meant for us. Like those in the story, we may have reasons or excuses for declining the invitation. Very well then, says Fr. Philip: name your excuse and offer it to God. If we think of becoming his body and receiving God’s gifts as simply another chore to do, something is wrong! It’s a banquet – come and enjoy! We need to wake up; we need to come hungry and thirsty, not unlike the prodigal son. And we have to choose to come…

Jesus blesses bread; Jesus blesses us

Do you believe you are blessed? While that usually means receiving a special gift or favour, especially one from God, it may help if we expand our thinking here: moments of deep pain, darkness, laughter and tears can be moments of blessing. To know that you are not alone, that you are part of a bigger collage – the Body of Christ collage – means that you are blessed.

It is interesting that etymologically “to bless” and “to bleed” come from similar roots. As strange as it may sound, blessing, bleeding and being wounded are close to each other, which lead us to our next Eucharistic verb: breaks.

Jesus breaks bread; Jesus “breaks us”

The harshest words Jesus used were to those who believed they were not broken: The tax collectors and prostitutes are going to Heaven before you. For Jesus to use us we must first realize the fact that individually and collectively we are the broken body of Christ. Fr Philip

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would have us say this with a smile. We are in good company, too: Noah was a drunk, David was a murderer and Peter denied Christ three times...

Pain can break us, too. And pain will come, so when it does, embrace it and learn from it. As writer Jeanette Winterson says, “there is no love which does not pierce the hands and feet.”

As for our sins, yes, sin is serious; but view it within the context of a loving God. We need to pray for the grace to open up, to embrace our sins and know our demons. And to those who believe that their brokenness or addictions or compulsions are bigger than God: you are in a Hell of your own making. God is bigger than your biggest sin.

**Jesus gives bread, Jesus gives us**

Being Eucharist. After Jesus was taken, blessed and broken, he was given; the order is important. And now the link: in receiving Eucharist, we are to become the Body of Christ, to become what we receive. Indeed, the word Eucharist means not only “thanksgiving” but also “good gift.” To receive Communion means we should be an instrument of communion in the parish. To receive the Real Presence means we are to be really present to the needs of others, disappearing. Sometimes, instead, we are called to be light – like a candle giving itself away. And sometimes, as suggested in R. Voight’s beautiful poem The Eucharist, all that is needed is to simply listen to another or be on time or offer sympathy...

Let’s conclude by coming full circle. You are called to be Eucharist to yourself as well. What makes you come alive? Go and do it! Become what you receive!
Me to We and Free the Children

Last October, my friend Brianna and I had the privilege of attending the second annual National Me to We Day in Toronto. Me to We is a philosophy stating that we need to stop thinking so much about ourselves and start thinking about the people around us, especially those who are less fortunate than we are. This philosophy was adopted by the organization Free the Children, an organization created by Marc and Craig Kielburger, devoted to young people’s involvement in the world. It focuses not only on helping people who don’t have anything, but also on helping them sustain a healthy life. Through Free the Children I had the opportunity to raise money to build a school in Sierra Leone.

Free the Children has really affected my life. I’ve learned so much about the world around me, and how I can make a difference. I’ve learned that social justice is not only giving people money or food or shelter, but also helping them be able to provide for themselves. And most importantly, I’ve learned that anyone can make a difference. It doesn’t matter how old you are, what you look like, or where you’re from, every small act of random kindness can change the world.

Hannah Watkins

Me To We, along with Free The Children, shows youth that WE can make a difference in the world. It is one of the largest organizations of children helping children. It’s a great program because it really lets us know what we can do to help, and it tells us what is going on in our world, and what needs to be changed.

I was first introduced to Free The Children a few years ago when I went to a meeting about the environment for school. Then I was lucky to be invited to go to Toronto for the first national Me To We Day in 2007 by Hannah and her mother. I was able to learn so much from it and it just made me want to go and do something about all the things that were talked about. When I found out about the second National Me to We Day trip in 2008 I was really excited to go! At Me To We 2007, the energy was unbelievable! It was an experience that I will never forget!

To me social justice means that everyone should be able to have a voice and that it should be able to be heard. It also means that everyone should be treated equally and fairly no matter what and that everyone matters - every life has value and should be respected and cared for.

This amazing experience has affected my faith life because it shows me that God is working through everyone who is working with Me To We, Free The Children and other organizations, to make the world better and to help change the lives of people who are suffering. I think that everyone in our generation really needs to know that there are things we can do to improve lives.

• Get involved in a cause that you have a passion for.
• Learn more about Me To We, Free The Children and other organizations as great start. When you know what exactly you have the power to do, then it will inspire you to go for it.
• You can go to www.freethechildren.com and www.metowe.com for more information.
• Also helping doesn’t have to be with an organization. At Me To We Day, one of the speakers said “Making a change in someone’s life can be as easy as giving the shirt off your back.” Meaning that any kind of help counts, no matter how big or small, it will matter equally to that person getting help.

Brianna McArdle
**Children’s Corner**

**SCRAMBLED WORDS**
Unscramble the words, the highlighted letters spell out our Easter Mystery Word

| srapie |  __________ |
| elliage |  __________ |
| uessj |  __________ |
| sapesolt |  __________ |
| poeh |  __________ |
| acelrmi |  __________ |

**Mystery Word**
_ _ _ _ _ _

**THINK FAST!**
How many different letters can go in the blank below to form common 4-letter words? 3, 4, or 6?

TA_ K

What three letters are missing from the mixed-up alphabet?
DNEY GWKVJLO
BTRZ PIIHQASUF

How many fruits can you find in this mini Word Search?

Replace the question mark in each diagram with a number so the sum of the numbers in the four diagrams are the same.

| BMRELE | ANUEEG | NEMLO | AOPAPA |
| HU | R | U | B | P | E | N | A | Q | E | L | A | M | N | P | E | A | R | R | A | E | M | I | O |

| 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | ? |
| ? | -1 | 9 | -5 |
| -1 | 9 | ? | 6 |

**MIDDLE MANAGEMENT**
Here is an important message from “Learning more about Fr. Murray” on page 6. But someone has gone eraser-happy and removed the middle from each word. Can you put the message back together?

SING PRAISE TO GOD

answer to middle management: SING PRAISE TO GOD

TANK, TALK, C, M, and X are missing. There are seven fruits (Apple, banana, lemon, lime, orange, pear, plum). The sum is 16 (2, 9, 6). Answer to Think Fast: 4 (Tack, talk.

 Unscrewed words: Praise, Galilee, Jesus, Apostles, Hope, Miracle, Mystery, Word, Easter.
Parish Information

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Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

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Sid Wocks, Hall Coordinator ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson
Gerry Bezzina

Sunday Masses
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 12:00 noon
Wednesday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

African Caribbean Catholic Community Mass
4th Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Children’s Ministries
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass
Liturgy of the Word: Grades 2, 3 and 4
Sunday School: Aged 3 to Grade 1
Babysitting: Infants to age 3

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 10:00 - 11 a.m. and 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Free Bus Service to 10:30 a.m. Mass
The route . . .
9:50 Richmond & Windemere
  770 Fanshawe Park Rd. east of Fremont
10:00 Adelaide St. & Fanshawe Park Rd. bus stop south
Adelaide/Kipps Lane 1st bus stop
Kipps Lane/Barker St. bus stop west
McNay/Huron St.
Huron St. bus stop east of Wedgewood Dr.
10:15 Royal Oak Apartments 1136 Adelaide St.
St. Michael’s Church
The bus will stop at regular bus stops or wherever it is hailed along the route.

Pastoral Team

Calender of Events
Easter Sunday April 12
First Communions April 18/19, 25/26
Pentecost Sunday May 2/3, 9/10
Parish Picnic May 31
Inquiry Process for New Catholics starts (R.C.I.A.) September 27

New Parishioners? Moving? We invite all new parishioners to register with the Parish. The registration form is available at the Welcome Desk or parish office. If you have recently changed your address or phone number, please advise the parish office.