St. John the Evangelist Parish, Gananoque
and
St. Philomena, Howe Island

270 Stone Street South, Gananoque Ontario Canada K7G 2A1
Phone: 613.382.2017 - Fax: 613.382.5002
Email: stjohnstphil@gmail.com - Web: www.stjohnsgananoque.ca

May 20, 2020

My Friends in Christ,
As I write these words, we are preparing to celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, which is a great celebration in the Church's Liturgy.

As we know, Jesus ascends to the right hand of the Father and is seated in His rightful place in glory. Our Lord, leaves behind his apostles, yet does not leave them alone. He is present to them and us, in various ways. Jesus is present to us as well, during this time of the Pandemic. As Jesus promised in St. Matthew's Gospel "***Yes, I will be with you until the end of time.***" (Mt 28:30) We are not abandoned. Jesus will send his Holy Spirit upon us as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost. We are also called to prayer for nine days, as the disciples were after Jesus' ascension in preparation for Pentecost. (Acts 1:14)

During the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles and they received many gifts, one of which was courage. This allowed them to go out and boldly proclaim the gospel. We also need courage, at this present moment. We have made many sacrifices for the good of others and have come together as a community and a nation to face this challenge. Many have put their gifts to work to serve others. The Holy Spirit has brought us together as it did the apostles, so many years ago, to give birth to the beginning of the Church. (Acts 2:1)

I would also like to remind you of our website (stjohnsgananoque.ca) where we update information and provide you with prayers and other resources to help you spiritually, at this time. For example, we have provided you with a Novena for Pentecost. In addition, I thank you all again, for your continued financial support for St. John's and St. Philomena's Parishes.

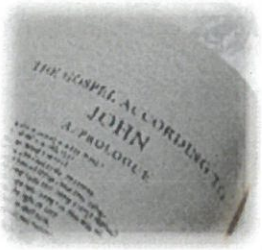
My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I would like to assure you of my continued prayers. I know how much we all miss celebrating Mass together as a Parish family and receiving the sacraments. I hope over the next few weeks, we will begin to see a loosening of the restrictions to allow us to open the Churches. There still will be guidelines, that we will all have to follow for this to become a reality. Let us all stay in prayer, trusting in God, being ever thankful for our blessings.

Yours in Jesus, through Mary,

Fr. Dale

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

Saint Augustine



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May 6, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we prepare to celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter, this Sunday is also special for another reason. It is of course, Mother's Day.

When we think of the importance of this day, all of us can reflect upon the role that the influence of our Mothers has played in our lives. This is indeed a very special vocation.

Many would spend time with their Mother on this day, if they were able to. Perhaps they would take them out for lunch or even dinner to celebrate this day. However, at this present moment, that would be most difficult because of the COVID-19 Virus and the affect it has had on our society. Yet, there are unique ways that one can still spend time with our Mothers.

Some individuals, like myself, do not have their Mothers with them any more. They have passed from this life, to the next. We can all be consoled by the fact that they are praying for us and we can pray for them.

This is also the month of May, which is the month of our Blessed Mother Mary. All of us can pray for our Mothers, asking for the intercession of Our Lady, as we pray the Rosary. My own Mother always told me that I have a better Mother in heaven, in our dear Blessed Mother, who I can turn to at any time for help and she would lead me even closer to her Son Jesus.

I would like to wish all Mothers a Happy Mother's Day and especially pray, that God will abundantly bless each and every one of you.

Yours in Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Dale

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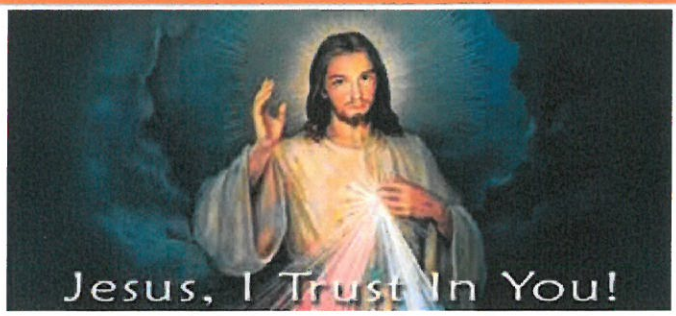

April 20, 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As I write these words, it is the Second Sunday of Easter, we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, Our Divine Saviour.

Reflecting upon the Gospel of this Second Sunday of Easter, we experience the presence of our Lord in a special way as we read, "***It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord."*** We too can see the presence of the Lord in the situation that we find ourselves in at the present moment with respect to the COVID-19 virus. As we seek out and experience His presence, our faith will be strengthened as we turn to Jesus in our time of need!

This Sunday, is also know as Divine Mercy Sunday, which was established by St. John Paul II for the people of God to celebrate. The Mercy of God is so abundant, especially at this moment, and we are in need of it so much. Many of our Parishioners pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day and I would encourage them to continue to do so and offer it up for those who have contracted the virus as well as those who have lost their lives because of it.

My friends in Christ, as we continue to journey through this most challenging time, there are places we can go that will assist us in growing in our faith.

These include (EWTN) and the Salt and Light Television Network. These are available from our local cable provider. Vision TV, also, has the Mass available at various times. In addition, our own Parish website at stjohnsgananoque.ca has information that can be of great help to each of us. We can go to the website of St. Mary's Cathedral at www.stmaryscathedral.ca to view the Mass being celebrated by Archbishop Mulhall. We should remember that St. Mary's is not just the Archbishop's Church, but each and every one of us as well. That is why we should all pray for Archbishop Mulhall, Fr. Shawn and all our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese, as we stay connected to our Cathedral Church at this time.

My Sisters and Brothers, in the Book of Hebrews it states the following: ***"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*** We all pray for the end of this pandemic and hope that the answer to this prayer will come as soon as possible. We need to do, what we are being asked to do, for the greater good of society, and be willing to sacrifice for our own health, as well as the health of others. My hope and prayer is, that over the next few weeks, we can return to something that allows us all to live a more normal life.

My thanks to all who continue to support the Churches of our Parish Family, at this most difficult time and would ask you for your continued prayers.

I wish to assure you of my prayers for you and your families.

Prayers and Blessings in Christ,

Fr. Dale

P.S.: I have included a Parish Registration Form, in this letter. It is important that all families complete this form, whether you use envelopes or not, and return to the Parish Office at: 270 Stone Street, S. Gananoque, On K7G 2A1. Accurate, up to date information, will be on file for all our families, if you have an email, please ensure to include it, by doing so, it gives us permission to contact you by email, the Parish can keep in touch saving mailing costs. Thank you for your assistance.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST/ST. PHILOMENA
PARISH REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

PARISH: **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** ☐ **ST. PHILOMENA** ☐

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Religion: _____

Baptized: Yes ☐ No ☐ Church: _____

Confirmed: Yes ☐ No ☐ Church: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Home Address: _____

_____

Home Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Cell Number: _____

Marital Status: Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Separated ☐

Divorced ☐ Annulment ☐

Date of Marriage: _____ Church of Marriage: _____

Church Envelope Number: _____

SPOUSE

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Religion: _____

Baptized: Yes ☐ No ☐ Church: _____

Confirmed: Yes ☐ No ☐ Church: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Home Address: _____

_____

Home Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Cell Number: _____

CHILDREN (LIVING AT HOME OR AWAY AT COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Name: _____ Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Birthdate (MONTH/DAY/YEAR) _____

Sacraments Received: BAPTISM ☐ FIRST COMMUNION ☐ CONFIRMATION ☐

School Attending: _____ Grade/Year: _____

Lives at Home: Yes ☐ No ☐

Name: _____ Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Birthdate (MONTH/DAY/YEAR) _____

Sacraments Received: BAPTISM ☐ FIRST COMMUNION ☐ CONFIRMATION ☐

School Attending: _____ Grade/Year: _____

Lives at Home: Yes ☐ No ☐

Name: _____ Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Birthdate (MONTH/DAY/YEAR) _____

Sacraments Received: BAPTISM ☐ FIRST COMMUNION ☐ CONFIRMATION ☐

School Attending: _____ Grade/Year: _____

Lives at Home: Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like information on the following Organizations/Ministries:

☐ Knights of Columbus

☐ Catholic Women's League

☐ Parish Council

☐ Property & Finance Committee

☐ Gardeners

☐ Choirs (Saturday and/or Sunday)

☐ Liturgical Ministers
Servers, Readers, Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, Rosary, Funeral Servers

☐ Church Decorators

☐ Carveth Nursing Home Mass

This information is confidential and will be kept only for Parish data base, statistics only to be shared on Diocesan Reports

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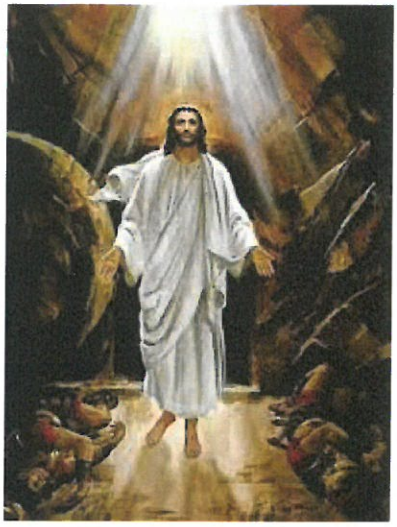
April 8, 2020



"The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.
To Him be glory and power for all ages of eternity,
alleluia, alleluia." (Lk 24:34)

My Friends in Christ,
As we continue to experience the effects of the COVID-19 virus, let us focus on the event that has transformed the hearts of so many throughout the ages.

The Resurrection of Jesus has given light to all of humanity. This event has saved the souls of millions as time has gone on. It has given hope to so many yet Our Lord suffered so very much for all of us.

It began with what we have just reflected upon, Palm Sunday, as we enter into Holy Week. We then pray, as we think about Holy Thursday and the Lord's Supper. After this, we then experience Good Friday and the events leading to the death of Jesus upon the Cross.

Thankfully, the story does not end there. As Jesus' lifeless body was placed into the tomb, the stone was rolled back into position. Yet we read in St. John's Gospel, ***"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the***

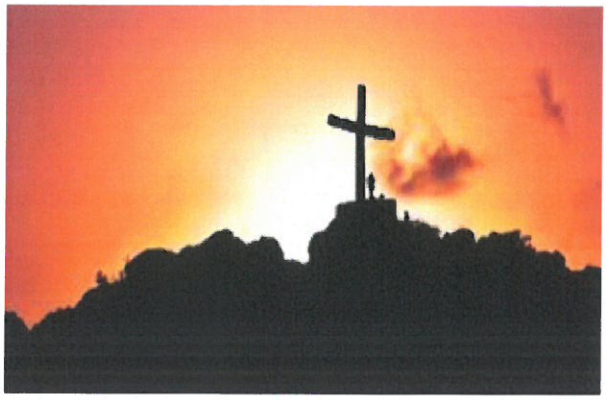
tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them 'they have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him.'" (John 20:1-2)

We, my Brothers and Sisters do know what happened. Jesus had been resurrected from the dead for the forgiveness of the sins of all of humanity. This is what we celebrate and even though we are not together as we were in the past, the love and mercy of God brings us together at this time. Our Lord will stay close to us as we confront the situation we find ourselves in at the present moment.

I would like to wish you all an Easter full of blessings and assure you that you continue to remain in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dale



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March 30, 2020

My Brothers and Sisters,

I extend my best wishes and blessings to you. I hope and pray that you are both healthy and safe at this time. It has been truly amazing how rapidly events are changing with respect to the current situation that we find ourselves in as the COVID-19 virus continues to spread.

We are all members of the family of God and we need to come together during this time. We will get through this, and to do this, we need to stay in prayer, always trusting in God and His love for all of us. As we all know the waters of life can become very rough at times. However, when they do, we can trust in the actions of Jesus when we read, ***"Master, Master, we are perishing! And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; and they ceased, and there was a calm" (Lk 8:24).*** Our Lord can calm the waters of our lives as well, particularly at times such as these.

Each of us have a part to play and that includes being faithful to what we are being asked to do by our public health officials. By cleansing our hands and practicing social distancing, we can co-operate with the grace of God to stop this virus. In addition, we can pray for others including those who happen to get the virus that they will recover; for healthcare workers and public healthcare officers who are leading the battle against COVID-19; for our elected officials who need God's guidance in their decision making; for our schools that our principals, teachers, staff and students will be kept safe and for our Bishops and Priests as they attempt to serve the people of God at this present moment.

As I have said before, our hearts and homes can become places of prayer at this time, we cannot come together at our churches. To assist in this, please check our website at ***stjohnsgananoque.ca*** for additional ways to strengthen your relationship with Our Lord and His Church.

I would like to sincerely thank all who have continued to financially support both St. John's and St. Philomena's at this most serious time. This includes those who use electronic transfer and those who have either mailed or dropped off donations to the church. I am most grateful to you for your efforts. For those who might be considering the use of electronic transfer, we have included the form that allows you to do this.

As we approach the end of Lent and prepare for the Easter Season, let us remind ourselves that we are children of the light. Each of us follows the light to Christ and reflects that light to others. We are living in very difficult times, but we can overcome these challenges by trusting in God's presence in our lives as well as staying in prayer. We have provided you with a special prayer by Pope Francis that we can all pray for an end to the Coronavirus. We can also pray the Rosary in support of this intention as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We can also place a light in our windows to witness to the light of Christ in our lives, as we trust our future to him!

There is also an Act of Contrition included in your package. This is to be said at this time by direction of the Archbishop. If you wish to go to confession, please call and make us aware of that.

I would like to assure all of you of my prayers and support. Each Mass I celebrate privately is offered for the living, sick and deceased members of St. John's and St. Philomena's churches. May you and your families be filled with God's grace as we trust that Jesus will walk with us, not just at this moment but until the end of time.

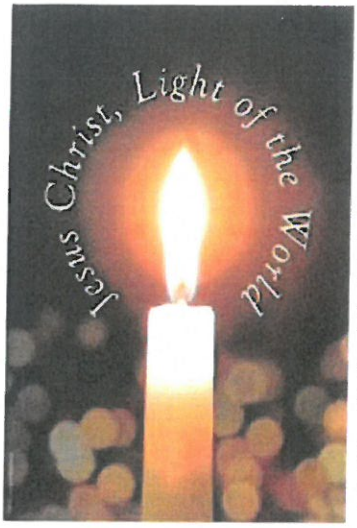
Yours in Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Dale

Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary During Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health
of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus'
pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman
People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



The light of God surrounds us,
The power of God protects us,
The presence of God watches over us,
Wherever we are, God is,
And where God is, all is well.
St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John,
Like unto the prophet Jonas,
as a type of Christ,
Who was guarded for three days and
three nights in the belly of a whale,
Thus shall the Almighty God,
As a Father, guard and protect me from all evil.

Grant me Protection
Grant, O Lord, Thy protection
And in protection, strength
And in strength, understanding
And in understanding, knowledge
And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice
And in the knowledge of justice, the love of it
And in the love of it, the love of all existences
And in that love, the love of spirit and all creation

O my God,
I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments,
but most of all because they offend Thee, my God,
who art all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more
and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

St. John the Evangelist – Gananoque
Pre-Authorized Debit ("PAD") Plan

Payee Information: St. John the Evangelist Church
270 Stone Street S., Gananoque, Ontario K7G 2A1
Telephone: 613.382.2017 Fax: 613.382.5002 Email: stjohnstphil@gmail.com

1. **Please complete all sections in order to instruct your financial institution to make payments directly from your account.**
2. **Please sign the Terms and Conditions on the reverse of this document.**
3. **Attach a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this completed form and return it to the Church via the Offertory Collection, Canada Post or drop off at the parish office.**
4. **If you have any questions, please email stjohnstphil@gmail.com or call the parish office at 613.382.2017.**

Yes - I/We have reflected upon the important value that our parish has for me/us and are making this commitment to support St. John's. I/we understand that the PAD Plan includes contribution to the **regular operating costs and maintenance** of our Parish.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Street Address/City/Province/Postal Code: _____

_____

I/we wish to make direct debit payments from:

PAYOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION / BANKING INFORMATION (please print clearly)

Branch Number	Institution #	Account Number

Name of Financial Institution **Branch**

Branch Address, City, Province, Postal Code

I/we are making the following contributions to St. John the Evangelist Church, Gananoque, Ontario:

(a) Fixed Regular Monthly Offertory Contribution $ _____ on the 15th of each month.

(b) Additional Easter and Christmas Donations of $ _____ each.

I/We understand that a debit (in paper, electronic or other form) shall be fixed on the 15th day of each month as per above amounts beginning on 15th day of _____ (month) 20___ (year).

Please be aware that you will also receive a box of Offertory Envelopes since collections such as New Year's, Catholic Missions in Canada, Good Friday, Fuel, Cemetery, Restoration, etc., would still be needed on those scheduled Sundays.

PLEASE TURN THIS PAGE OVER

I/we as the account holder(s) authorize St. John the Evangelist Church (the payee) to debit my/our account at the above indicated branch of the financial institution, under the terms and conditions agreed to by me/us with the Payee until such time as written notice to the contrary is given by me/us to the Payee.

The branch of the financial institution at which I/we maintain the account is not required to verify that the payment(s) are drawn in accordance with this authorization.

There will be no top ups or adjustments permissible unless specifically approved by me/us.

I/we will notify the Payee in writing of any changes in the account information provided herein prior to the next due date of the pre-authorized debit. Items charged in error will be reimbursed subject to notification by me/us to the branch of account within 90 days under the following conditions:

1. I/we never provided the authorization to the Payee.
2. The pre-authorization debit was not drawn in accordance with this authorization.
3. My/our authorization was revoked.

You may revoke your authorization at any time, subject to providing the parish office with a notice (either written, telephone, or email). This notice must be received by us not less than 10 days prior to the 15th of the month.

I understand that I have certain recourse/reimbursement rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement. I understand that I may obtain more information on my recourse/reimbursement rights by contacting my financial institution or visit the CPA website www.cdnpay.ca.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to the Church via the Offertory Collection, Canada Post or drop off at the parish office.

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March 25, 2020

My friends in Christ:

At this most difficult moment in history, we continue our journey through Lent. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent (known as "Laetare Sunday"), the joy in our hearts continues to grow as we approach the Easter Season.

However, we will experience in a very different way this year, because of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It has been a great loss for all of us not to be able to gather as a Parish Family for Holy Mass.

As we reflect upon this, we might wonder what we can do in light of this situation. What I would suggest is that we turn our homes into "Houses of Prayer". In doing this, we can all grow closer to Jesus in prayer as we offer our prayers for others as well.

There are many ways that we spend time in prayer in our homes. We can pray the Rosary and ask our Blessed Mother for her intercession. We can also take the time to read Sacred Scripture, pray the Liturgy of the Hours, as well as other Devotions of the Church such as the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We also have provided you with a number of television channels and websites so you can watch the Mass. Examples are EWTN, Salt and Light, as well as Vision TV. If your local cable provider happens to be Cogeco, then if you ask to receive EWTN and Salt & Light TV together then there is no cost to do so.

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, when St. John Paul II became our Pope, he gave hope to the world when he told us to "Be Not Afraid". Let us pray at this most challenging time for his intercession and allow these prayers to give us both hope and comfort as we trust God with our future.

Yours in Jesus through Mary,

(Rev) Fr. Dale Wright

Rev. Fr. Dale Wright

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March 19, 2020

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we struggle with the reality of the COVID-19 Virus and the situation that we face because of it, we must keep our faith and trust in Jesus our Lord.

It is a tremendous loss, to not be able to have you come to St. John's and St. Philomena's to Mass and celebrate with you. Yet, Our Lord will be present to us in ways that we can not even imagine.

Jesus, many times in the Gospels, encouraged his disciples to "Be Not Afraid". We can all hope and pray that this Virus will be contained and our lives will return to normal in the next few weeks.

I write these words to all of you on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph. May we all pray for his intercession along with our Blessed Mother's, particularly for those who have contracted the COVID-19 Virus, that they will recover and return to full health.

We also remember in our prayers those who have died and their families who mourn their loss. The Church will be open 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for personal prayer.

You and your families will continue to be in my prayers.

Blessings in Christ

(Rev) Fr. Dale Wright

Rev. Fr. Dale Wright
Pastor