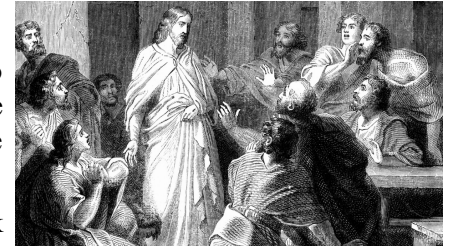


A Reflection from Fr. Joseph



I don't like horror or ghost movies, and I've often wondered just what it is that people who claim to have seen ghosts actually see. I have a friend who works at the airport, and she believes that there are ghosts haunting the airport. Whatever ghosts actually are, they are objects of fear, and I suppose that is partly because they are signs of the grave.

But there is something else that is true about ghosts. In the standard kind of stories, we talk about them, they are not just frightening, but also pitiable. They are often thought to be tortured souls, bound to the earth by some terrible act, for which they must be punished or seek revenge. They are not alive; they do not share the joys or even the sorrows of others. They are not loved and do not love. They are hollow, barely existent, utterly cut off from vitality.

The disciples, in our Gospel, are frightened because they think they are seeing a ghost, and Jesus reassures them in a straightforward way: He has flesh and bones. He's alive. He's not a sign of the tomb. He's a sign of life.

That is why today's gospel text makes this important point, in recording Jesus' invitation to his disciples to "touch" and "see" for themselves, so that they will be certain that he is not a ghostly apparition because "a ghost has no flesh and bones." The body that emerged from the tomb on Easter morning was seen, heard, and even touched on many occasions after the Resurrection. To stress the point further, he asked for something to eat. In fact, Jesus ate food at least four times after the Resurrection. But even more, Jesus shows that he is not like a ghost, cut off from humanity: he eats *with his friends*. The Christian church, therefore, has from the beginning confessed that the same physical body of flesh that was laid in Jesus' tomb was raised immortal.

Just as the ghosts of our stories give a *show* of being human, but with no substance. So, our sins pretend to be the actions of human beings, but at heart they are hollow. What makes an action a sin is that it lacks something essential, something which would make the act human: compassion or justice or whatever. And the more we are in thrall to sin, the more ghostly we become, dead and dry and pitiable.

But Jesus has risen from the dead, the first fruits of the new creation. Christ is a new creation because he refused to be a ghost. He was not a ghost in his earthly life: he lived a real, rich, full human life. Nor could death make him a ghost: the grave could not swallow up such vitality. God raised him from the dead, and so gave us a new way to be alive.

By sharing in his life, living not for us but for him, we can throw off our chains, and instead of pretending to be alive, we can actually live. But being alive as a human being means living in a world of love and truth, a world where we can be bound to each other by love instead of self-interest and coercion, a world ruled not by words that make us important or powerful but by words which reveal who we are and finally, instead of hollowness, give us meaning.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Apr. 15th** - Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29
- Tue. Apr. 16th** - Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35
- Wed. Apr. 17th** - ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA, memorial
Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40
- Thurs. Apr. 18th** - Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51
- Fri. Apr. 19th** - Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59
- Sat. Apr. 20th** - Acts 9:31-42; John 6:53, 60-69
- Sun. Apr. 21st** - 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 4:7-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18



ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Apr. 17th - 7 :30 PM** - Volunteers
- Sat. Apr. 20th - 5:00 PM** - A & A Taban, C & C Tang, J.Tuguinay.
- Sun. Apr. 21st - 9AM** - Isaiah, Jonah & Norah Chao, S.Cheung, A.Lee, A & A Chan. **11 AM** - K & K Bui, N & N Sanchez, A & A Babas, W.Pham. **5 PM** - C & J Le, C.Akol, J.Roque, J.Paja, D.Dang, J.Cayabyab, Z.Bambilla.



A 2nd collection will be taken up next weekend, at all the Masses, for the Work of Vocations.

SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- **No school:** this coming Friday, Apr. 19th.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' But they were startled and frightened..." - Luke 24:36-37

Throughout the day we have many opportunities to "see the face of Jesus" in others and to "be the face of Jesus" to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide "peace" to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength and courage to live a "God-centered" life and not a "self-centered" life.

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Marriage Anniversary Mass 2024

"Love isn't easy. No. But the most beautiful thing that a man and a woman can give each other is true love, for a lifetime."
- Pope Francis

On Sunday, May 12, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will be honouring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Port Coquitlam at 1:30 p.m. Registrations received by Friday, April 19, will receive their certificate at the Mass. Learn more and register at family.rcav.org/mam

Applications Open: Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary

The Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary recognizes high school students making a difference in their parishes, schools, communities and homes. Two Grade 12 students will be selected to receive an award of \$500 each for their post-secondary schooling. Learn more and apply at rcav.org/youth-ministry

Official Enshrinement of San Pedro Calungsod

The Cebuano Society of Canada, in collaboration with the Filipino Catholic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, invites devotees and all faithful to witness the official enshrinement of St. Pedro Calungsod, Filipino patron saint of migrants and youth. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, and Bishop Julito Cortes, D.D., of Dumaguete, Philippines, will preside over the Holy Mass. On Friday, April 19, 6:00 p.m. at St. Monica's Parish in Richmond.

MAY 9TH. We are very excited for the upcoming annual March4Life this year. It will be a full day, beginning with Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Delta (3900 Arthur Drive, Delta) with Mass at 9:15 - Archbishop Miller presiding. From there, we will catch the 11:00 am ferry to Victoria, where we will participate in the March and return on the 5:00 pm ferry. We have an exciting lineup of speakers at this years event

Sweet Surrender: The Joy of Entering God's Will - Easter Retreat for Divorced and Separated

The word surrender doesn't usually evoke excited anticipation or desire in us. And yet, our faith tells us that surrendering our will to the Lord is the central path to life and fulfillment in Him. In this retreat, we'll explore what surrender really means and explore concrete, real-world ways to come into direct contact with our Lord and His will, while discovering the joy and peace that true surrender brings.

On Saturday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Burnaby. Cost is \$20. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events

Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

One of the fundamental answers to abortion is prayer. Join your voice with ours as we pray on the first Saturday of each month for a new culture of life. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Vancouver, we will begin with Mass, followed by the rosary and other prayers either at a church with Adoration or at a local hospital. All are welcome!

The next Mass and vigil takes place on May 4 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish in Vancouver. Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events

Hope on the Horizon: Catholic Street Missionaries Summer Outreach

Hope on the Horizon is an outreach program designed to introduce young adults aged 19-30 to the life of a street missionary, sharing a life of prayer and service with others and bringing the love of Jesus to the homeless. For two weeks, participants will live a communal life, praying, learning, and reaching out to our homeless friends on the streets. In addition, there will be human, apostolic, spiritual and intellectual formation. We will also enjoy recreational activities together. From August 6 to 21 in Vancouver. Program fee is \$650, including food and accommodation. Candidates will receive mentorship on how to raise funds for the program fee. Sponsors will be issued a tax receipt. Registration deadline: Tuesday, April 30. Learn more and register at:

catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THE UPCOMING MARCH4LIFE IN VICTORIA, BC ON THURSDAY,