

# Sunday Bulletin

## St. John Vianney Church

### OUR MISSION

As followers of Jesus Christ, and as full members of the Roman Catholic Church, we, the Parish Community of St. John Vianney, joyfully proclaim our Saviour risen. Through prayer and sacramental celebration of life in Jesus, we join as co-creators in his mission of justice and peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

### OUR PARISH TEAM

#### PASTOR

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha C.M.I

☎ 705-726-8007 Ext. 202

✉ BKannampuzha@archtoronto.org

#### LAY PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Paul LaPlume

☎ 705 726-8007 Ext 204

✉ plaplume@archtoronto.org

#### OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

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✉ KPrice@archtoronto.org

Wendy Gordanier

☎ 705-726-8007 Ext 203

✉ WGordanier@archtoronto.org

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Marilyn Reesor

☎ 705-726-8007 Ext 206

✉ MReesor@archtoronto.org

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Closed from 12:00pm - 1:00pm for lunch

13 Baldwin Lane, Barrie, ON, L4N 2W1



#### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

Tuesday - Friday @ 9:30am

Saturday @ 5:00pm

Sunday @ 9:30am & 11:30am



#### **CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday @ 4:00pm - 4:45pm

Sunday @ 10:45am - 11:15am



#### **CONTACT US**

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Fax: 705-726-4543

Email: [stjohnvianneyba.archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohnvianneyba.archtoronto.org)

\*\*\*Emergency due to death or serious illness, press 9.

[www.stjohnvianneyba.archtoronto.org](http://www.stjohnvianneyba.archtoronto.org)

## LORD, HELP MY UNBELIEF



Faith is a notoriously slippery customer. It is difficult to understand and difficult to grasp because it seems to come

and go. For this reason, people are afraid of faith or rather of not having faith. It seems to come easily to those people whose faith does not depend on their understanding what it is they believe. Sometimes it seems they are the only people who are certain of their faith. But most of us are waverers.

This insecure type of faith has good biblical precedents and none as relevant to the problem as the story of Thomas in today's gospel. But it would be a mistake to start empathizing with Thomas, because that's not what the story is there for. Thomas, like many of the gospel characters, is a type and what happens to them reflects the various situations we encounter throughout our Christian lives. So Peter denying three times that he ever knew Jesus resonates with us because of the betrayals we have been guilty of or suffered from. Martha and Mary, who epitomize service and prayer and the gap that seems to separate them, are meant to bring home to us the necessity and equality of both.

And so it is with poor 'doubting' Thomas. He is out when the risen Jesus appears to the disciples and so he misses the event. On his return, when the others tell him that Jesus has risen from the dead, he cannot bring himself to believe them. He is so vehement in his disbelief that he tells the others that until he sees and feels the wounds made by the crucifixion nails in Jesus' hands and the gash made by the spear in his side, he cannot believe. We can imagine the others being shocked at his attitude but I wonder what their reaction would have been if they had been in the same position. They had all fled like cowards when Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane so I suspect they would all have behaved in the same way that Thomas did. But this is nothing to be ashamed of. I suspect John, the writer of this particular gospel, is telling us that most people's faith cries out for some sort of proof.

Later, when Jesus appears to the disciples again and Thomas is present, he doesn't berate him because his faith is seemingly weaker than that of the other disciples. In fact, Jesus isn't interested in the others at all at this point. He compares Thomas with those people in the future who believe, even though there is no chance that they will ever see the risen Lord in the flesh. 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe,' Jesus says. We are those people who believe and have not seen. We are those people who, because we have not seen, sometimes find it difficult to believe. And that's not just belief in the Resurrection. It's belief in the whole religious thing, the entire God thing. We believe but we don't know where that belief comes from.

This resurrection appearance story, which seems like failure on the part of Thomas, is there paradoxically to give us encouragement with regard to our own faith. Jesus says that the people who have not seen his risen body yet believe are blessed, are happy. Well perhaps they are but Jesus doesn't say that there are many of them around. Most Christians hang on to their belief, to their faith, because they have caught glimpses of the risen Lord. In our daily lives we occasionally experience something that speaks of God and the risen Jesus. The memory of them lingers in our hearts and it is this that we cannot let go of. We believe, and that is God's gift to us. What matters is not how much or how strongly we believe but that we do believe. It matters that we remember those times when God has been present to us, revealing that there is more to life than betrayal, war, violence, hatred, greed, selfishness and power-seeking.

But we live in hope that our faith will grow stronger as we learn to recognize the presence of the risen Lord in the world. Our faith may be like a grain of mustard seed but we have the promise that if we persevere it will become the greatest of all the trees and see us through. As with the apostle Thomas, it is through our doubt that we will gain our faith. And every so often we will catch a glimpse of God that takes our breath away.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday  
April 15<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm † Edith Gautreau  
Requested by: Family

5:00 pm † Sheila Mary Murphy  
Requested by Leavitt Family

Sunday  
April 16<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am † Gary Guerin  
Requested by: Collingbourne Family

9:30 am † Ed Henderson  
Requested by: Collette Henderson

9:30 am † Irene & Joseph Balogh  
Requested by: The Fatiga Family

9:30 am † Frank Basile  
Requested by: Helen McCorkell,  
Barb Hargrave & Janine Bissonette

9:30 am † Sharon Neally  
Requested by: Linda Lacasse

9:30 am For the special intentions of  
**Mike & Kelly McBride**  
Requested by: Kevin & Laurie Brown

9:30 am For the living & deceased  
members of the CWL

11:30 am † Len Shirose  
Requested by: Christine Liggett

11:30 am † Zack De Castro  
Requested by: Faye Rampadarat

Wednesday  
April 19<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am † Peter Feltracco  
Requested by: His Father



#### NORTHERN REGION WELCOME MASS

St. Mary's Parish will be hosting the Northern Regional Welcome Mass in honour of our new Archbishop, Francis Leo on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

#### WELCOME WEDNESDAY GATHERING

Please join us this coming Wednesday for our Welcome Wednesday gathering! There will be a movie, games, and fellowship. All are welcome!



Please join us after the 9:30 am & 11:30 am Sunday Masses for fellowship & refreshments. Hosts are volunteers from the various ministries. This weekend your hosts are the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We hope to see you there!



### CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU!

It is with great joy that we congratulate those who were initiated into our Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil Mass this past weekend. May their journey inspire us all to renew our commitment to Christ and to seek an ever-deeper union with Him.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all those who assisted during our Holy Week celebrations: Musicians, Singers, Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Office Staff, and Decorators.

Thank you to everyone for your active presence, hard work, and dedication to our parish. What a blessing it is to have such a wonderful spirit of community and service we have in our parish!

I would also like to thank our generous parishioners and visitors to the church for their kind donations and well wishes. I pray that they and all of us will each know the joy of the Resurrection in our own hearts during this season of peace hope and renewed spirit.

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, Pastor



### ACCEPTING FOOD DONATIONS

The St. Vincent De Paul Society is very grateful for the on-going donations from our parishioners. We continue to accept non-perishable food items on Thursdays, between 2 – 3 p.m. in the parish hall. Items in high demand are school snacks, toiletries, cereals, drink boxes, pasta sauces, coffee, tea, canned tuna etc. Your continued support will ensure that we may continue to serve our community. Thank you for your generosity.



### INFANT BAPTISM

Baptismal Preparation Kits (Registration Forms) are available for download from our parish website ([www.stjohnvianneyba.archtoronto.org](http://www.stjohnvianneyba.archtoronto.org)) or for pick one up from the parish office. Baptisms usually take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Attendance at a baptism preparation class (virtual class via Zoom) is mandatory before baptism takes place. Please fill in the applicable form and submit it to the parish office at least 2 months prior to the proposed baptism date and a staff member will call you to discuss dates.



*Please pray for those who are sick:* Mike & Kelly McBride, Saif Mansabdar, Richard O'Brien, Mary Spencer, Joe Bottone, Brian Ballinger, Isabel Crickard & Maria Pasko

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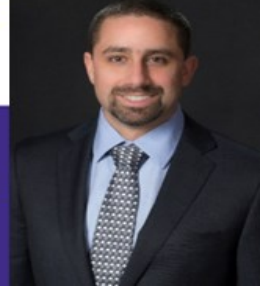
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