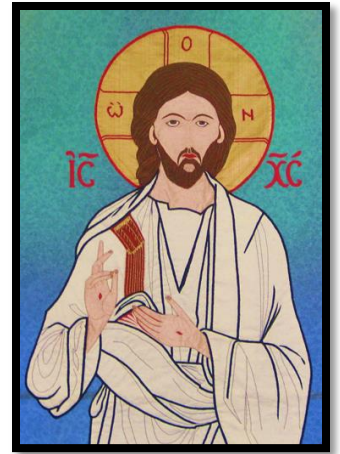


Lent and Easter 2018

Dear Members of the St. Kevin's Parish Community,

We are once again grateful for the opportunity to write to you during this Sacred Season of Lent, as we journey towards Easter, the most solemn feast of the Church Year. When it comes to the season of Lent, we often find ourselves thinking of this season as a rather dim period: a time of austerity, a time of scrutiny, a time of deprivation, a time where we are challenged to fast and seek penance. But the work that we do during Lent, the looking inward and the self-reflection, is really a necessary prerequisite to truly experience the wonder that is Easter. Lent is not an end in itself nor can we look at Lent as an isolated season. Lent leads us towards something much greater.



Without the experience of Lent one can never really understand the magnitude and the significance of the Resurrection. Pain is necessary to feel oneself heal; hunger is needed to feel the nourishment of food; loneliness is vital to realizing the splendour of love; and struggle is crucial to any achievement. In the same way, Lent reminds us that it is only through death that we are born to eternal life. Knowing that new life arises from death, as Easter follows Lent, allows us to rejoice and appreciate the Resurrection – the very foundation of our faith. In this way, Lent is really a means to an end to take us on a journey towards Easter and beyond – from darkness into light.

It is our prayer that you will participate in our Easter celebrations this year as ready and worthy followers of Jesus joyous in the celebration of the gift of eternal life. Easter then is a time of great joy and astounding hope for all of us. Easter reminds us that it is our duty as Christians to live the Easter message in the days and weeks to come. We are called to bring new life into the lives of those around us: our family members, our friends, our neighbours, our coworkers, and even strangers we may never meet again. Our every word of comfort, every deed of kindness communicates the new life of the Risen Christ. Just as we will light the new fire and our Paschal Candle at our Easter Vigil, may a new fire be lit in each of us. And like the disciples who unknowingly crossed paths with Jesus on the road to Emmaus soon after his Resurrection, may our hearts also burn as Jesus walks with us.

As we always emphasize in our letters, St. Kevin's is your spiritual home of love and of hope. Please make the effort to join us for Easter Mass. Included with this letter is the schedule of our services for Holy Week and Easter. May you and your loved ones have a very gratifying Lenten journey and a blessed Easter.

Reflecting on Share Lent – Together for Peace

The Parish's annual *Share Lent* collection for Development and Peace is a powerful symbol of hope and becomes the most important expression of almsgiving that we have over the course of each year. The theme for this year's Share Lent is **Together for Peace**. Peace on a global scale begins by first growing in our hearts, minds, and attitudes. It is through small everyday actions that world peace is made possible. Development and Peace partners take such fruitful actions. They are instruments of peace and beacons of hope in our world. These partnerships and the work achieved through them are made possible thanks to our solidarity, our donations, and our generosity. You will find the *Share Lent* envelope in this mailing. Please use it and **be as generous as you can**. As usual, the *Share Lent* collection will take place **Palm Sunday weekend— March 24/25**. You may also bring your Share Lent contribution to any Sunday Mass during the Easter Season. We thank you for your continued support of Development and Peace.

Yours in the peace of Christ,

Father Vijai Amirtharaj, CSC

Father James T. Mulligan, CSC

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK 2018

- **Passion Sunday / Palm Sunday - March 24th - March 25th**
Mass Times: Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 Noon; 5:00 p.m.
Palms will be distributed to each person as they enter the Church and blessed during the Liturgy.
- **Sacrament of Penance: Monday, March 26th Communal Celebration at 7:30 pm**
Communal Preparation with several priests for confessions.

Sacred Triduum

- **Holy Thursday - March 29th**
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.
Reception of Oils; Washing of Feet; Commissioning of Ministries – all parishioners involved in any ministry are encouraged to participate in this beautiful liturgy.
Hours of Adoration: 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday - March 30th**
Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 12 Noon and 3:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.
- **Holy Saturday – March 31st**
Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. Blessing of the new fire and Paschal Candle
and Initiation of Catechumens/Candidates **[NO 5:00 p.m. Mass today]**
- **Easter Sunday – April 1st**
Masses at 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 Noon; 5:00 p.m.–Initiation of the RCIC children