



Focus on the Word

5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Acts 9.26-31; 1 John 3.18-34; John 15.1-8

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Amen.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. *Romans 8:1-2*

Parish Week / Sunday, 2 May 2021

Saturday, 1 May / St. Joseph the Worker

- 8.00 am Mass: † Deceased members of the Bastiampillai & Alagaratnam families (Caroline)
 5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Gracias Andreas & family)

SUNDAY, 2 MAY / EASTER 5-B

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

- 9.00 am Mass: Int. 40th Wedding Anniversary, Senen & Erma Ortega
 10.30 pm Mass: † Alex Rodriguez (D'Souza family)
 12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Arnjyen)
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday 3 May / Ss. Philip & James, apostles

- 8.00 am Mass: † Genoveva Sousa (Ondine)
 7.00 pm Mass: † Bruce Freeman
 7.40 pm Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent meeting

Tuesday, 4 May / Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis

- 8.00 am Mass: † Bobby Villa-Real (Diaz family)

Wednesday, 5 May

- 8.00 am Mass: † Joseph Hahn (Christa)

Thursday, 6 May / St. Francois de Laval

- 8.00 am Mass: † Noel Fernando

Friday, 7 May

- 8.00 am Mass: † Abba Chachati (Esme & Victor)
 6.00 pm Holy Hour
 7.00 pm Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (Audrey Caza)

Saturday, 8 May / Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Audrey Caza (Andres & Raquel Diaz)
 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Lily Mandyam (friends)

SUNDAY, 9 MAY / EASTER 6-B

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *Mother's Day*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Pasqualina Della Vista (Grande family)
 10.30 pm Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)
 12.00 pm Mass: † Michael D'Mello (Esme)
 1.30 pm Infant Baptism
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Pray for the Deceased

Sister Mary Connsolata Fok

The victims of the civil unrest in Venezeula



Altar Servers

NEW SERVERS

Every year, during the Easter Season, we invite students who have made their 1st Holy Communion to consider helping the Parish by becoming Altar Servers.



This year, due to the pandemic, we will wait to see what procedure will be in place after the current *Stay at Home* order expires on 20 May. Stay informed by reading the website and this Bulletin.

What Is Stewardship?

It is with gratitude and thanksgiving to God that we, his children, utilize a portion of our gifts as blessings: *Time, Talent, and Treasure*, to enable the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth.



COMING UP

55e21

16 May	2 nd Collection: Pope's Pastoral Works
30 May	2 nd Collection: <i>Maintenance</i>
4 June	Wedding: Phillip Anthony – Anne Bermas (3:00 pm)
7 June	Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
9 June	Wedding: Robert Luxmore – Katrina Mulla (12:30 pm)
13 June	- 2 nd Collection: MaryGrove ; Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
20 June	2 nd ShareLife Appeal
27 June	2 nd Collection: <i>Maintenance</i>

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

No Public Masses: During the current pandemic lockdown, there are no public Masses. Our Church is open for personal prayer every day from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. The *Mass Intentions* that were booked before the *Stay at Home* was imposed will all be honoured by the Priests in their private Masses. See the website bulletin.

ShareLife 2021

ShareLife Agencies need your support during the pandemic

Vita Centre is an agency funded by ShareLife that provides support, education and counselling for pregnant and parenting women in Peel.



Vita Centre, Mississauga

“We give heartfelt thanks to all the heroes who donate to ShareLife. Your support makes it possible for vulnerable parents to have the supports and resources that allow their children and themselves to thrive.”

– Tanya Pereira, Vita Centre

Thank you very much for supporting our parish’s ShareLife campaign. Thus far we have raised [insert parish total \$] toward our goal of [insert parish goal \$].

Cardinal Collins reminds us that it is people of faith who run shelters and food banks, help refugees to begin a new life, and reach out to the ill and abandoned.

The social service agencies supported by our ShareLife collection live the Gospel value to “love everyone as I have loved you” through their daily programs and services. In this Covid-19 pandemic, our support for the ShareLife campaign is critical to making these programs possible.

You can contribute to ShareLife through Pre-Authorized Giving. Please consider a monthly contribution to ShareLife using PAG. You can learn more about PAG at sharelife.org.

20 June 2021, is our next ShareLife Appeal. Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

Sacramental Preparation

We have reached the month of May, a time of special devotion to our **Blessed Mother**, to whose loving care Jesus entrusted his disciples. We continue to plan celebrations 1st HOLY COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION, vital events in the lives of our Youth.

From 7 to 17 April, we provided 1st Communion Masses for the Grade 3 candidates from St. Maria Goretti School, who were ready for this Sacrament in 2020, until the pandemic shutdown. See the photos from these Masses in the website bulletin of 25 April.

We will monitor the situation while the current *Stay at Home* order is in place, during which we cannot offer public Masses. When it is possible, we will organize the 1st Communion candidates from **St. Albert School**, and then all the **Confirmation** candidates.

At this time when the candidates are able to come to Church with their families for their Sunday blessing (and for Confession and Communion for those above Grade 3), we can resume with care the *Sunday Mass Slip* procedure. See the website bulletin for more details, since most students received their slips early in 2020.

The *Saturday* 1st Communion Class will resume shortly.

The *RCIC Youth* will have their next meeting at 10 am on 1 May.

RCIA, RCIC



Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children

Pray for all in our parish R.C.I.A. process, who preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation; as well as the youth in our parish R.C.I.C. process.

The RCIA meets regularly on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm, and the RCIC meets periodically on Saturday mornings; their next meeting is on 1 May.

Bundle Up Sunday

To be rescheduled



The BUNDLE UP Sunday to benefit the *St. Vincent de Paul Society* will be rescheduled, since all clothing pickups have been suspended for the duration of the *Stay at Home* period. The Bundle Up Sunday was to be held on 25 April. Please watch the COMING UP calendar for the new date.

Stewardship 2020 Receipts, 2021 Envelopes

The *Charitable Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2020 are in the Vestibule, as well as the *2021 Sunday Offertory Envelopes*. They may be picked up during Church opening hours.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship! This is an act of honour to God, our Creator.

We hope and pray that all Parishioners are staying healthy – both physically and spiritually. Please let us know if the Parish can help you during these difficult times.

Our Parish relies on the support of our Parishioners to function. Without the weekly offertory collection during this COVID 19 crisis, the Archdiocese has ways that we can continue our support.

→ **P.A.G.** You can contribute through *Pre-Authorized Giving*.

All that is required is that you complete a *Letter of Authorization* at the Parish Office, and bring one *voided cheque*. Contributions are withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month.

Remembering the Parish in your Will

Your parish has been there for you and your family during the most important moments of your lives. Make sure your Catholic community is active and alive for years to come.

Please consider your Parish in your *will* or through a *planned gift*. A Bequest is a beautiful way to express your faith and gratitude for a lifetime of blessings – a lasting legacy of love that will help the Church continue to serve future families with its many ministries.

For more details, please call the Parish Office at 416-261-0076 and ask for the Pastor, **Fr. Edwin**; or contact **Peter Okonski**, Manager of Planned Giving and Personal Gifts, at 416 934 3400, ext. 519; or by email at development@archtoronto.org. All calls are confidential.

Confirmation Preparation Resource (1)

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit
in the Scripture Readings for
the 5th Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Acts 9.26-31

2nd Reading: 1 Juhn 3.18-24

Gospel: John 15.1-8

*Jesus is the Vine, and
we are the branches.*

As we approach the culmination of the EASTER SEASON in the great FEAST OF PENTECOST, our Scripture readings focus on the descent of the Holy Spirit that awaits us in this miraculous event. For instance, in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8, we hear how believers received the Holy Spirit after St. Peter and St. John laid their hands on them.

In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), we read:

“The *imposition of hands* is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the Sacrament of CONFIRMATION, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church” (CCC 1288).

The profound Biblical roots of the Sacrament of Confirmation allow us to reflect on its significance in our own lives, 2,000 years later.

Similarly, The Second Vatican Council says that through “the Sacrament of Confirmation, [the Baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit” (*Lumen Gentium*, 11).



*"I will pour out My Spirit
on all flesh" Joel 2:28*

The Feast of Pentecost

With this in mind, there is comfort in knowing that through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit has strengthened us. In life, when it is difficult to persevere, or worries surrounding a pandemic or other trial weigh heavily, let us continually ask the Holy Spirit to carry us forward.

The Holy Spirit longs to dwell within us all. Let us pray for courage among all the faithful. In particular, let us pray that the young people whose Confirmation has been postponed will have their desire for the Holy Spirit grow during this time of waiting.

To summarize: In the Acts of the Apostles, we hear the Biblical roots of Confirmation, as believers received the Holy Spirit after Peter and John laid their hands on them. The Second Vatican Council says that those who receive the sacrament “are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.” When we find it difficult to persevere, or our worries surrounding the pandemic weigh heavily, let us continually ask the Holy Spirit to carry us forward. In a special way, let us pray for the candidates for Confirmation for whom the Sacrament has been postponed. May they grow in their desire to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and may they practise courage during this time of waiting.

With contributions from Craig Fernandes

Confirmation

Gift of the Holy Spirit

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and the EUCHARIST comprise the SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION. Confirmation completes Christian initiation, and strengthens the Candidates by the gift of the Holy Spirit. They are witnesses of Christ, bound to spread and defend the faith by their words and deeds.

Origins of the Sacrament

The Old Testament prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the awaited Messiah for his saving mission. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his Baptism in the Jordan by John was the sign that this was the expected one: the Son of God, who would communicate the Spirit to the entire messianic people. On Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, the Apostles began to proclaim the mighty works of God, and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be a sign of the messianic age.

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the doctrine on Baptism and the Laying on of Hands is listed among the first elements in Christian instruction. The Laying on of Hands is recognized as the original sign of the Sacrament of Confirmation, which perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church.

The Bishop

The original ministers of Confirmation are the Bishops, the successors of the Apostles. They have received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. (The Bishop may transfer this mandate to the local Parish Priest.) The Sacred Chrism used for the Anointing was blessed at the Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral during the previous Holy Week.

The Sponsor

The Sponsor is a fully-initiated member of the Church who:

- ❖ Represents the community; ❖ Will support the parents;
- ❖ Testifies that the Candidate will be a witness for Christ.

The original Godparent may perform this duty; or another adult who serves as an example of Christian living.

The Name

The Confirmation Name is the Christian *Baptismal* name, or the name of another *Saint* who will serve as a lifelong patron and prayer partner to the newly-confirmed.

Effects of Confirmation

The purpose of the Sacrament is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as it was given to the Apostles on Pentecost:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind...divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability. (Acts 2.1-4).

The entire Church benefits by Confirmation: it conveys the grace of *Pentecost*, enabling us to live with the fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Generosity, Goodness, Perseverance, Mildness, Faith, Modesty, Contenance, Chastity.

Confirmation has several important effects:

- (1) **It makes us more aware of God;**
- (2) **It releases the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:** Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Understanding, Courage, Piety and Reverence of the Lord.
- (3) **It unites us more firmly to Christ;**
- (4) **It binds us more perfectly to the Church;**
- (5) **It gives us strength to spread and defend the faith by our words and actions in order to:**
 - ✘ be true witnesses of Christ;
 - ✘ confess the name of Christ boldly;
 - ✘ never be ashamed of the Cross.

Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism, and imprints a spiritual mark or permanent, indelible character on the Christian's soul. A Candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith; be in the state of grace; desire to receive the Sacrament; and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both in the Church and in the world.

The Liturgy

Confirmation is ordinarily celebrated within the context of the Holy Mass. Following the Proclamation of the Word of God, the Sacrament is administered in this order:

Presentation of the Candidates

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*Laying On of Hands*¹

*Anointing with Sacred Chrism*²

¹ LAYING ON OF HANDS: The Bishop faces the people and introduces the prayer. Then he (and any concelebrating Priests) extend their hands over the Candidates, and ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon them.

² ANOINTING WITH CHRISM: Candidates walk to the Sanctuary. The Bishop goes to them individually, takes some Chrism, addresses them by their Confirmation Name, and makes the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads.

Bishop: “ _____ , be sealed with
the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Newly Confirmed: “AMEN.”

Bishop: “Peace be with you.”

Newly Confirmed: “AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.”



Sacramental Preparation

We have reached the month of May, a time of special devotion to our **Blessed Mother**, to whose loving care Jesus entrusted his disciples.

²⁵ Standing near the cross of Jesus were his **Mother**, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

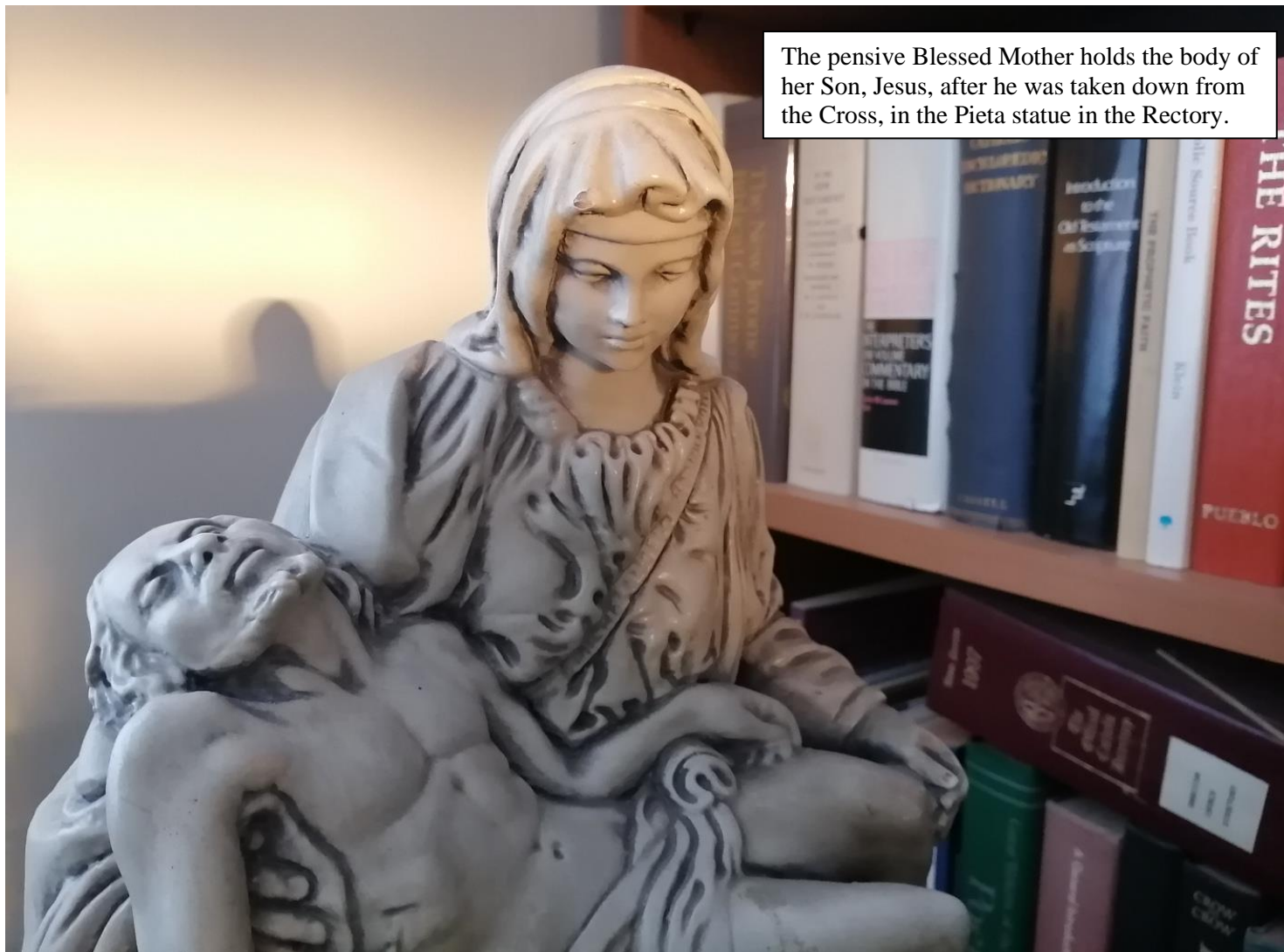
²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the **disciple** he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."

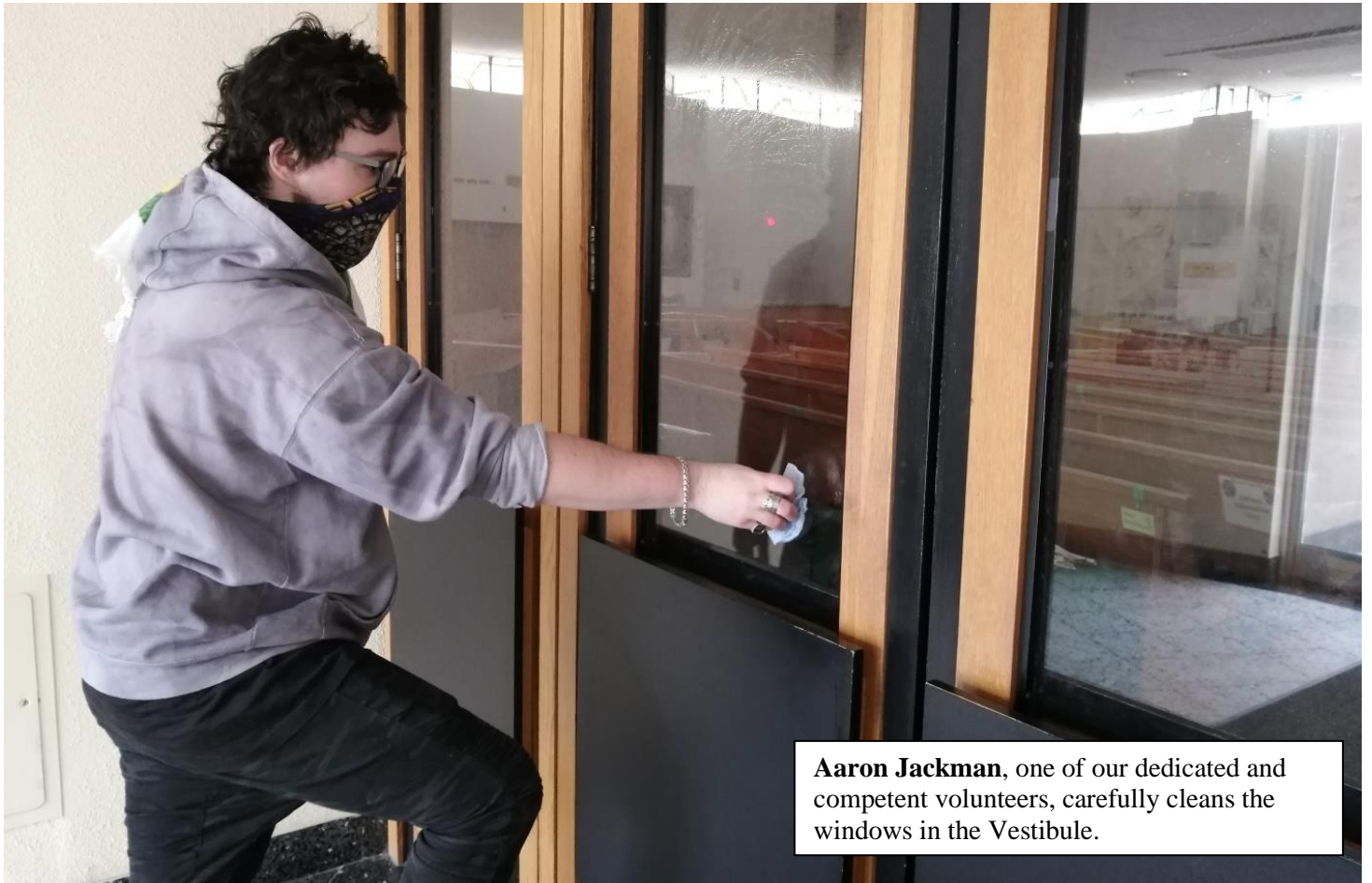
²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. [*John 19.25-27*]

Mass Slips

At this time when the candidates are able to come to Church with their families for their Sunday blessing (and for Confession and Communion for those above Grade 3), we can resume with care the *Sunday Mass Slip* procedure. Most students received their slips early in 2020, before the pandemic shutdown.

When we enter the Church, we need to sign in at the Table near the hand sanitization station. On Saturday and Sunday, there will be a box on the Table marked, "Mass Slips." When you have signed in, and before you enter the Church to pray and receive Holy Communion, place your Mass Slip in the box. At the present time, Candidates only need to write their name, and the day and time of their Church visit. Spare slips will be available at the Office for Candidates who have misplaced their originals.





Aaron Jackman, one of our dedicated and competent volunteers, carefully cleans the windows in the Vestibule.





Jiji Gabales receives a blessing on her birthday, 22 April 2021.



Don and Jacqueline Gonzales prepare for their 25th Wedding Anniversary, 26 May 2021..

Office Team members diligently serve the Parish on Easter Sunday.



Lois Godwin gratefully donates bread on the anniversary of the birthday of her deceased mother, **Margaret Soosaimpillai**. On 21 April 2021, Margaret would have reached 84 years of age.