

Fr. Martin's Reflection – March 31, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her daughters and sons, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

The above prayer is the opening prayer of the vigil for Holy Saturday night and is followed by the blessing of the fire symbolizing the light of hope – the light of life – the resurrection of Jesus.

We have so many questions about life – why am I tall or small, slim or plump — illness, recovery or death? Science has answered so many of these questions, but the one that science hasn't answered or is unable to answer, 'is there life after death?' This is one of the big questions and one God wanted to answer. The only way that it could be answered with credibility was for God to become human and experience death as we do, to enter into the grave as we do, but here is where it differs for God, the Father, raises his son, Jesus, from the dead. This is what we commemorate, this is what we celebrate, and this is what our faith is built upon – the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise given to us by Jesus, 'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.' (Jn 14:3)

Twice a year I take the opportunity to thank the many people who take a very active part in our parish life and make so many things happen. I would like to thank all who work in the Parish Office; you truly are an amazing team of people. On so many occasions you go beyond the call of duty to make sure everything flows as it should. I have no doubt all in the parish appreciates all you do.

We've had a very busy Lent. I hope you were able to experience some, if not all, of the events that were taking place. Our Lenten Soup and Scripture program was another wonderful success. Thank you to all who prepared soup and helped out in anyway. You all should be very proud of what you have done and achieved. Thank you as well to our priests and deacons and all involved in the Lenten Stations of the Cross and Holy Hours. They have meant so much to so many people.

A special thanks to our *all-year rounders*: those involved in the Music Ministry, our Ushers, our Eucharistic Ministers, our Lectors, our Altar Servers, our RE teachers, classroom assistants and hall monitors. I want to show appreciation to our parish organizations; the Altar and Rosary Society, Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary, St. Vincent de Paul Society, our parish Food Pantries, Liturgy Team, Welcoming Committee, Bereavement Committee, and Funeral Support Team, thank you for all you do for God's people.

Finally, to you the people of God, thank you for all your help and support in making Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, a warm and welcoming parish. May the risen Christ dwell within you always.

Fr. Martin