

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## PASTOR'S CORNER

**Here is a very important letter from a mother of two small children to her fellow parishioners:**

My children are four and two, and they like going to church, especially Holy Mass. They often ask multiple times a week if we are going to church on Sunday. I am truly grateful that they bother me so much about Sunday Mass. At church, they are learning so much through imitation: signing themselves with holy water, genuflecting, kneeling, standing, sitting. They have learned a number of the responses and prayers for Mass and will sometimes turn to me to ask questions about what is being said.

But they are also four and two, and this means they do not have an hour-long attention span, nor even half an hour some days. And sometimes it is a trade-off between movement and silence: either they can be contained and will be loud, or they will roam in relative silence. I understand these can be distracting, as they are definitely distracting for me, but their growing love for God and the Mass far outweigh the negatives. There are times when I want to cry from frustration for not being able to control them when they are having a rough day, but there are also times I want to cry from joy and love when I see my small children kneeling in front of our picture of Jesus, reciting their prayers. I hope they will always remember that there is a better God to worship than themselves.

When Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Mt. 19:14), *He did not qualify the statement. He did not say "when they are quiet". He did not say "when they are better behaved". He did not say "when they are older, understand more, cry less...etc". I have to imagine the children in question were in some way disruptive too, but Jesus welcomed them in that moment. Perhaps He let the moment become "messy" and loud with the cries and laughter of children. He didn't even tell them to wait until He finished teaching the others, as if the children being with Him were of secondary importance to the education of the adults. We are all His children. And we are all welcomed in every moment with our messes and with all our drama. We adults may not be overtly dramatic as small kids throwing a tantrum, but we are also not told to wait until we have ourselves pulled together, can focus better, understand more, pray with greater intensity, etc. Our children's souls are just as important to Jesus and our Blessed Mother as ours.*

Just one more request: Please know, when you see small children and their parents struggling during Mass, we are doing the best we can while trying to worship and pray with you. Please do not make this an unwelcoming environment, because every look and word can have a huge impact, whether positive or negative. So let us strive to love one another. When a child is interrupting your prayer, praise God that that little soul is there and see it as an opportunity to sacrifice and love in the way that Jesus is asking you to in that moment. Let us strive to have patience and love one another as Jesus has loved all of us.

**P.S.** This is why we have our Sunday Children's Liturgy during the two morning Masses now.



*Fr. Slawek*

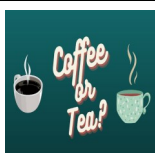
# MAY 25, 2025



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
Holy Spirit Conference

## **BUNDLE UP- JUNE 7-8, 2025**

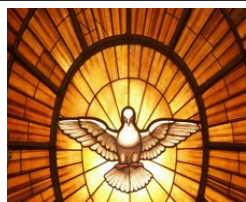
**WE ONLY ACCEPT** – All Clothing, All Footwear, All Bedding any condition. Drapery/Towels. **NEW TOYS ONLY**



### **COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL**

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

Everyone welcome



## **The Novena to the Holy Spirit.**

**Friday May 30 – Saturday June 7, 2025**

In preparation for the feast of our parish on Pentecost Sunday – June 8<sup>th</sup> 2025, we invite all parishioners to participate in 9 days of prayer

**Day 1** - Friday, May 30 – After the 9 a.m. Mass

**Day 2** - Saturday, May 31 – 3:45 p.m.

**Day 3** - Sunday, June 1 – After the 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Masses

**Day 4** - Monday, June 2 – **ON YOUR OWN**

**Day 5** - Tuesday, June 3 – After the 9 a.m. Mass

**Day 6** - Wednesday, June 4 – After the 9 a.m. Mass

**Day 7** - Thursday, June 5 – After the 9 a.m. Mass

**Day 8** - Friday, June 6 – After the 9 a.m. Mass

**Day 9** - Saturday, June 7 – 3:45 p.m.



### **Attention all Parishioners**

**NEWLY APPOINTED PRIEST**

**Eranditha (Eran) Amarasingha**

Rev. Eran Amarasingha will celebrate a thanksgiving Mass on Saturday, June 7— 4:30 p.m. & Sunday, June 8—9 a.m. & 11 a.m. There will be a reception to follow in the Church basement after the 11 a.m. Mass.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

#### **Tuesday, May 27**

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Shirley Lam Shook Yee req.

#### **Wednesday, May 28**

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Frank Fincar req. by the Fincar family.

#### **Thursday, May 29**

9 a.m.. Intention of Sierra Popescu.

#### **Friday, May 30**

9a.m. Private intentions.

#### **Saturday, May 31**

4:30p.m Intentions of Derrick & Beatrice req. by Pearl Norhano.

#### **Sunday, June 1**

9 a.m. Intentions for all Parishioners.

11 a.m. Repose of the soul of Alwin Salvador req. by Carrie Salvador.



### ***Seeing With Heart - A Day of Reflection for Parents of LGBTQ Young Adults***

**Saturday, June 7, 2025:  
9:00am - 4:00pm**

**Manresa Jesuit Spiritual  
Renewal Centre, 2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering**

This day of reflection will provide parents with an opportunity to share their stories, listen to presentations, reflect on the gifts and talents of their children, and participate in group discussions. The day ends with Mass.

We hope to provide a relaxed and supportive environment for parents to meet and interact with other parents, reflect and discuss concerns, learn about resources, strengthen their love, and grow closer to God.

**Fr. Bernie Carroll, S.J.** - Superior of the Pickering Jesuit Community. A suggested offering of \$65 per person. Lunch included.

For more information or to Register: Call **Mike Hyland - 647-296-2499**