

Canadian Martyrs Church

100 Main Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2

613-232-5347, office@canadianmartyrs.org, www.canadianmartyrs.org

Our community respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the unceded ancestral lands and waters of the Algonquin people, on whose territory we live, pray, work, and grow in faith and understanding.

Mass Schedule

Tuesday-Friday at 11:30am

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 10:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday-Friday at 10:45am

Saturday at 4:15pm

or call the office

Pastor

Fr. Tim Coonen, OMI

Administrative Assistant

Heather Duggan

Pastoral Associate

Sr. Matilda Owolagba

Director of Religious Ed.

Adele Casuga Lalonde

Pastoral Council

Sue-Anne Hess

Meetings: 1st Thurs., 7:00pm

Finance Committee

Joseph Duggan

Development and Peace

Contact office

Weekly Gatherings

Christian Meditation

Dorothy Wood

Mondays, 3pm

Lectio Divina and Meditation

Maureen Cerroni

Tuesdays, 8pm

Evening Prayer

Pierre LaViolette

Thursdays, 6:30pm

Sunday Liturgy of the Word

Sundays, 11:30am

[Via Zoom](#)

Ascension of the Lord

May 20/21, 2023



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church, that she may truly model Jesus through the teachings found in Laudato Si' and bring about ecological conversion, changing hearts and minds to lovingly care for creation, we pray to the Lord.

For peace and a de-escalation of tension between world powers, that God will guide the work of international leaders as they seek peaceful resolution to conflicts and disagreements around the world, we pray to the Lord.

For those impacted by the devastating Alberta wildfires, may God grant them encouragement, strength, fortitude, patience, and insight as they struggle with their many losses, we pray to the Lord.

For all of us, may the Lord Jesus, the pure Word poured out from the heart of the Father, help us to make our communication clear, open, and heartfelt, we pray to the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Carol Bazinet, Isabella Boles, Devin Bursey, Sandy Cano, Frank Chauvin, Kevin Dashney, Eileen De Rosayro, Ken Hart, Eileen Kearns, Sharon Kelly, Marigold Kenney and Jeff Stadtmueller

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., May 20 Peter Burns by Maryalice Nugent; **Wed., May 24** Carmel Thorne by Gerarda Staples & family; **Fri., May 26**

Private intention by Yvonne Bennett; **Sat., May 27** Lorna Kelly by Jane Bergin-Molino & Mary Bergin-Emery; **Sat., June 3**

Edith Colton by Maryalice Nugent

Mass intentions are available for weekday Masses and Saturday Mass for a \$15.00 stipend. Please contact the parish office.

Our Parish News

SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday Liturgy of the Word **will be cancelled** this Sunday, **May 21**. You are welcome to join us virtually for “Lunch and Learn” where we will be watching the film, *The Letter*. You can watch the movie on [Youtube](#) and join us for the discussion using the [usual Sunday Zoom link](#).

LAUDATO SI' WEEK

Laudato Si' Week 2023 will be celebrated **May 21-28**, to mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation. This global celebration will unite Catholics to rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing *Laudato Si'* to life, and show how the protagonists of *The Letter* are already doing so. Come join us after Sunday Mass on **May 21** for a viewing of *The Letter*. *Laudato Si'* encourages us to see how “everything is connected.” The way we treat the Earth, our common home, is a reflection of how we treat each other. Caring for each other means caring for the home we share.

MASS ON THE GRASS

Mark your calendars! Mass on the Grass returns on Sunday, **June 18th!** **Please sign up on the sheets at the back of the church and at the entrances to the church.** We need to know how many hamburgers and hotdogs to buy. **We are also looking for a few volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up.**

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The Pastoral Parish Council and the Pastoral Team sincerely appreciate all the volunteers who devote their time and energy to making our parish such a strong community. In appreciation for the work done by our volunteers, there will be a special blessing for all our volunteers at the Masses on the weekend of June 10/11, with a special reception to follow the Mass on Sunday, **June 11.**

A TRUTH & RECONCILIATION PRESENTATION: “THE SHADOW OF WARSHIP”

Spaces are still available! [Register for this presentation](#) on **June 3**, 10am - 1pm, at the parish centre. Donna Naughton, Anishinaabe Kwe from Pic River First Nation and Executive Director of Kateri Native Ministry, and Gerry Kelly, Manager of Spiritual Programs at Galilee Center, present “The Shadow of Wardship” to deepen our understanding of the legacy of Indigenous people living under government wardship.

VOCATION REFLECTION

“Flip It Upside Down”

by Darcie Lich, Oblate Associate, Vocation Team
But, the best part about reading this story backward is that it paints, very clearly, a picture of our own vocations. You see, at the very beginning of the scripture passage, it says “the eleven disciples went to Galilee...” But, if you keep reading further backwards in this Gospel, you'll find that there are usually twelve disciples mentioned. That means there is a space for us in this calling. We've been given the same job: teach, baptize, make disciples, and do it by going out to the world. Because we, ourselves, are the twelfth disciple. Sometimes, the best sources of clarity and insight come from a painting that gets flipped upside down. Read [the full reflection here](#).

OBLATE SPIRIT MAGAZINE

This issue represents a significant change for OMI Lacombe MAMI as this will be one of two issues that will be distributed electronically in order to reduce printing costs. You are welcome to read the May 2023 *Oblate Spirit* by [clicking here](#).

LE CENTRE OBLAT: A VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Since February 2019, the three Oblate provinces in Canada have established a collaborative ministry called Le Centre Oblat: A Voice for Justice. The Oblates prioritized work in four areas: ecological justice, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, solutions to poverty, and challenging unjust practices of some Canadian extractive industries in countries of the Global South. If you would like to receive the Centre's bilingual, bi-weekly electronic newsletter (monthly during the summer months), simply send a request to centreoblat@omilacombe.ca.

MEETINGS/EVENTS

May 21: Lunch and Learn, 11:30am

May 28: Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10am

June 3: The Shadow of Wardship, 10am

June 11: Volunteer appreciation, after 10am Mass

June 18: Mass on the Grass, 10am

Diocesan and Community News

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2023

[Click here](#) to read the Pope's Message for the 57th World Day of Social Communications which is celebrated on **May 21**. This year's theme is "Listen with the ear of the heart". The message urges communicators to communicate cordially and never pursue hostile communications.

WONDER WALK

Come celebrate God's Creation during *Laudato Si'* Week, May 21-28. The Care for Creation Team of Holy Redeemer Parish is organizing a one-hour Wonder Walk at Old Quarry Trail (corner Eagleson and Hazeldean Rd.) on Thursday, **May 25** at 6:15pm. This is a family-friendly gentle hike in nature. Bring your walking shoes or boots. Bug spray and water bottles are recommended. Come join us for an educational and spiritual experience in the forest. Meet us in the parking lot of Old Quarry Trail at 6:15pm. Weather permitting. For info: creation@ottawacornwall.ca

THE CHURCH & TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Free webinar on Saturday, **May 27** at 2pm with Fr. Daryold Winkler and Peter Bisson SJ that will reflect on the challenges of reconciliation, the after-effects of the Doctrine of Discovery and of Canada's assimilation policies on Indigenous peoples, ongoing obstacles to reconciliation, as well as on opportunities to advance it. Visit concernedlaycatholics.ca to register.

A ROSARY FOR SUDAN

With multiple ceasefires having failed in Sudan, it is time for what Pope Francis has called "prayer for the Lord of peace to intervene where men and women are powerless to bring about peace." Please join Development and Peace for a pan-Canadian online bilingual Rosary for Peace in Sudan at 12pm on Saturday, **May 27**. [Register here](#).

MHI TULIPATHON

Support the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI). MHI currently has 179 units housing 300-400 tenants who were in danger of becoming homeless. With two new projects in the planning stages, that number will double in the next few years. [Online fundraising](#) continues to June 30. Sunday, **May 29** at 2pm is the Tulipathon Celebration Walk at Dow's Lake. Join the walk or donate to support affordable housing in Ottawa.

SAFEGUARDING CREATION COURSE

How can I integrate the message of *Laudato Si'*? In my personal life? at church? in the world? By the end of this free mini-course you will be able to: name the 5 major concepts of the encyclical; identify 3 new insights; cite 10 surprising facts; explore the structure of the encyclical to better understand its meaning and clarify the meaning of 'integral ecology'. [Enroll for free](#) and take this course during *Laudato Si'* Week or whenever you have time!

DAY OF RECONCILIATION

Day of reconciliation for handicapped adults and seniors hosted by the Legion of Mary members at St. George's Parish, 415 Piccadilly Ave, **June 17**, 9:30am to 1:00pm. Legion of Mary prayers, rosary and confessions. This will be Fr. Michael El-Nachef's first Mass after Ordination. Lunch provided. For more info contact: Cheryl Clingaman, 613-728-5687 cclingaman@gmail.com

WALK FOR THE CENTRE: SAVE THE DATE!

Walk for the Centre is back for its 8th year! Walk the scenic route, along the Queen Elizabeth Pathway starting at City Hall, on **October 1** in support of the newly named Centretown Community Food Centre. Please save this date! Thank you for your support!

Events at Galilee Centre, Arnprior

May 25-27: *Opening to Goodness* Spring Retreat

May 28 - Blessing of the Gardens, 12- 3pm

\$5 BBQ lunch, entertainment & presentations by the Butterflyaway and Longer Table projects.

June 22: BBQ Summer Luncheon, Reservations Required

July 1: \$10 Strawberry Social, 1pm

August 20-27: 7-day Directed Retreat

September 15 - Fr. Ron Rolheiser Public Lecture Event, 7pm, "Walking in Light and Walking in Darkness"

Cost: \$35 in person or virtually

September 16-17: Fr. Ron Rolheiser Retreat: "Spirituality and the Seasons of our Lives". More info: [click here](#).

To register for events at Galilee Centre, 398 John Street, North, Arnprior ON, call 613-623-4242, ext. 21 or email info@galileecentre.com.

For info and cost of programs: www.galileecentre.com.

The Mystery of Presence and Absence in Love by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Someone needs to write a book with one of these titles:

The Metaphysics of a Goodbye, The Anatomy of a Farewell, The Pain of Moving On, or, better still, A Spirituality of the Ascension. Why such a book?

Because we experience many painful goodbyes in life.

There are so many times when someone we love has to go away, or we have to go away. There are many times when, for whatever reason, someone has to move on and irrevocably change a relationship. Almost always this is painful, sometimes so painful that it leaves us feeling restless and empty, as if all the colour, energy, and joy have gone out of our lives.

The pain in this kind of letting go is often excruciating, as parents know, but to refuse is to truncate life. But, as we know, usually this isn't the end of the story. Most of the time, after the restless, dark heartache of a painful goodbye has worn off, we experience the opposite, a deep joy in sensing, now, our loved one's presence in a different way. Parents, for example, experience this when their children grow up and leave home to start lives of their own. At first, when a child leaves home to go to college, to get married, or to take a job elsewhere, we are often left with a restless heartache that leaves us feeling empty. But, after a while, especially when our child, in the full bloom of adulthood, comes back to visit us, our heartache can just as quickly disappear because our loved one, now no longer a child, can offer us a richer love and presence than he or she could when they were little. The pain of losing someone turns into the joy of finding something deeper in the one whom we thought we had lost.

When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his ascension, he told them: "It is better for you that I go away! You won't understand this now. You will grieve and have heavy hearts, but, later, this will turn to joy and you will understand why I have to do this, because, unless I go away, I can't send you my spirit."

These are the unspoken words that children say to their parents when they leave home to begin lives on their own; these are the unspoken words we say to our friends when we have to move on from a certain circle of friendship to get married; these are the unspoken words spouses sometimes say to each other when they have to grow in ways that, at the end of the day, will make their marriage stronger, but which, on a given day, leave their partner with a heartache; and these are the unspoken words we say to each other every time we have to say a goodbye, even if it's just to go off to work for the day: "It is better for you

that I go away, even if there is sorrow now!"

The paradoxical interplay of presence and absence in love is a great mystery. We need to be present to each other physically, but we also need to be gone from each other at times. We bring a blessing both when we visit someone and when leave after the visit is over. Presence is partly predicated on absence and there is something of our spirit that we can only give by going away. Why is this so?

Because absence is sometimes the only thing that can purify presence. When we are physically present, there are always certain tensions, irritations, disappointments, flaws in our bodies, and faults in our character that partially block full love and blessing. That's why we rarely appreciate our loved ones fully, until they are taken away from us.

Absence can help wash clean. What the pain of absence does is stretch our hearts so that the essence, the beauty, the love, and the gift of the one who is absent can flow to us without being colored by the tensions, disappointments, and the flaws of everyday life. As well, the other's absence can work to stretch our hearts so that we can receive him or her in a way that more fully accepts and respects who he or she really is. That's why our children have to go away (and we have to feel that bitter heartache) before we can accept that they are no longer children, but adults like ourselves, with lives of their own.

The mystery of saying goodbye is really the mystery of the Ascension, the most under-understood mystery both inside and outside of religion. The Ascension is about going away so that our loved ones can fully receive our spirit. It's about the mystery of saying goodbye, when goodbye isn't really goodbye at all, but only love's way of taking on a different modality so that it can be present in a way that's deeper, purer, more permanent, less-clinging, and less-limited by the tensions, disappointments, inadequacies, wounds, and betrayals that, this side of eternity, forever make our intimacy a work in progress.

MONTH OF MARY PRAYER

We give you thanks, Lord, for the gift of life, for the beauty of creation, for your advent by Mary, for the revelation of the Father's love, for your presence among the poorest of the poor and in the Eucharist, for promising to be with us always, until the end of time.



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Parishioners can now quickly donate to the church with their mobile devices. Just scan the QR code and donate securely through the parish's Canada Helps page.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PARISH REGISTRATION: The registration form is available at the back of the church or can be filled out online at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/register/>.

DONATIONS: PAD forms are available on the Welcome table if you wish to make donations to the church through direct deposit. If you wish to donate via credit card, you can through Canada Helps on the secure link at <https://canadianmartyrs.org/donate/>. Please call the office if you would like a box of offering envelopes. Thank you!

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please call or email the office to inform us of shut-ins or people in hospital so that we can arrange a visit, bring Holy Communion and administer the Sacrament of the Sick if desired.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact the office a minimum of 3 months before the baptism. Baptismal instructions are required.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Contact the office to set up the initial interview. It is recommended that the first contact be a minimum of 6 months before the wedding.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES: The minutes of Pastoral Council meetings are available at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/pastoral-council-minutes/>

FOOD CUPBOARD: Non-perishable food items for the Centretown Community Food Centre are collected on an on-going basis. Please place food items in the crates in the church foyer.

MILK BAGS: Milk bags are collected for making into sleeping mats. Please bring in your milk bags (outer coloured bag) and put them in the baskets under the table in the hall near the breezeway.