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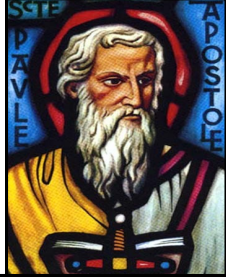
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# St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

3224 Dundas Street West,  
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## EASTER SUNDAY

### Gospel Summary

On Friday afternoon when Jesus died, the women had not been able to finish the customary preparation for burial. The Sabbath began at sundown on Friday, so Mary of Magdala hurried to the tomb Sunday morning to complete her task. She found the tomb empty. Certain that Jesus' body had been stolen, she ran back to get the other disciples. Peter and the other disciple also found an empty tomb but with Jesus' clothing rolled neatly and placed where his body had been. The disciples still didn't understand about the resurrection and Mary wept. As she cried, two angels appeared asking why she was crying. She then saw a gardener and asked him where the body might be. When he called her by name, Mary immediately recognized Jesus.

### Reflection for Families

Most parents have discovered by now that things aren't always as they seem. A poured out bottle of laundry detergent wasn't really mischievous behavior, but rather an attempt to surprise you with a generous gift of service. Or secret whispers are not an attempt to hide some wrongdoing but rather an effort to plan a surprise for you. Things weren't as they seemed to Mary Magdalene either that first Easter morning. Our errors in perception often work to remind us that God's plan is not always obvious, but that we are challenged to trust in the promise of the resurrection.

### Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Place symbols of Easter such as lighted candles, eggs, and lilies on your dinner table today. Discuss how these items might have become symbols for Easter. What do they suggest to us about the gospel story we read today? How can we be symbols of the Easter message to each other and those outside our family?

### Discussion Starters

1. The symbol that means the most to me at Easter is . . . because...
2. Mary Magdalene recognized Jesus' voice when he called her name. One time I know Jesus called *my* name when . . .
3. I will share the Good News of Easter this week by . . .

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## Visit Our Website!

You can register for Sacraments, become a member of our parish community, get information on upcoming events, and much more. Visit our website at [stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org](http://stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org) or simply scan the QR code below:



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, April 19

8:00pm

*Holy Saturday*

- For the people of the Parish

### Sunday, April 20

*The Resurrection of our Lord*

9:00am

- For the people of the Parish

10:30am

- +Emanuel, Carmela, Tessie & Joseph Psaila
- +Carmel & Edmond Scicluna
- +Mary & Joe Mifsud

12:00 noon

- +Joe Sammut

### Monday, April 21

*Easter Monday*

9:15 am

- +Mike Muscat

### Tuesday, April 22

9:15 am

- +Lawrence Fenech

### Wednesday, April 23

9:15 am

- +Frank & Gustav Grech

### Thursday, April 24

- +Alfred Fenech

### Friday, April 25

- +Shaun Fernando & Kingsley Tranchel

## From our Pastor's Desk...

### He is Risen! Alleluia!

This glorious Easter season fills my heart with joy and a touch of sadness. Joy, because we proclaim the victory of our Risen Lord over sin and death, and sadness, because this marks my final Easter message to you as your pastor.

Reflecting on my time here since arriving on **Friday, January 6th, 2023**, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the love, faith, and community I have witnessed and shared with you. Your **encouragement, prayers, and support** have been an incredible blessing to me, and I will always carry with me the beautiful memories we have created together.

This parish holds a special place in my heart as a testament to the richness of **faith and cultural heritage**. A deep love for your homeland, a steadfast commitment to the faith, and an open embrace of people from all walks of life marks the Maltese-Canadian spirit of St. Paul the Apostle. You have built a welcoming and loving community that embodies the spirit of Easter—new life, hope, and unity. How fitting it is to recall the story of **St. Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta, as recounted in Acts 28:1-10**. The warmth and hospitality shown by the people of Malta to Paul and his companions serve as a powerful reminder of our call to live as Easter people—extending Christ's love and care to all, especially to those in need.

Easter is a celebration of hope that transcends the struggles and uncertainties of life. In a world that often feels weighed down by suffering and division, we rejoice in the truth that **Christ is risen! He is our hope and our salvation**. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered sin and opened the door to eternal life for us all. As St. Paul beautifully writes in **Romans 5:15**, "...how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!"

Let this Easter season inspire us to deepen our trust in God's providence, even as life leads us to new and unexpected paths. Just as I embrace my upcoming **pastoral assignment at the end of June**, I ask for your prayers that I may continue to serve our Lord faithfully.

Though my journey with you is nearing its end, I carry with me the hope of visiting you again in the future. Until then, may we continue to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection by living as witnesses to Christ's love, sharing the Good News, and building one another up in faith.

I pray that you and your families experience the peace, joy, and renewal that Easter brings. Please pray for me as I will pray for you. May the Risen Lord bless you abundantly, now and always.

With heartfelt gratitude and Easter joy,

**In Christ, Fr. Roy**

**EASTER IS THE GREATEST FEAST OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR** St. John Chrysostom called Easter the "Feast of feasts." Whereas Lenten fasting takes forty days, Easter feasting takes a full fifty days! What does it mean to feast? Feasting is not just about what we eat, although there are many wonderful foods associated with the Easter feast. According to the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council, feasts are religious anniversaries commemorating the great events of salvation history and the communion of saints. Feasts are to be observed with rejoicing. It is our religious duty to feast, that is, to rejoice during the holy days of Eastertime as surely as fasting is our religious duty during Lent.

April 20, 2025