

1. From Fr. Yake's Desk - A Reflection on the Paschal Mystery

Instalment #1

In an Easter homily, former Archbishop of Toronto, Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic, began, "The resurrection makes Christ who he is. The resurrection makes us who we are." These powerful statements offer profound insight into the Easter event as revealing the identity of Jesus of Nazareth as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity and they draw the baptized into that mystery.

As Bishop Champagne of New Brunswick tells us in his Easter message <https://youtu.be/tAE0lBouunQ> Eastertime lasts for fifty days in order to permit Christians an extended time to absorb the implications of the resurrection. Of course, included in this reflection of the resurrection is the cross. Sometimes Easter can herald relief from the dark Lenten focus on sin that culminates in the horrific torture-to-death of the Good Shepherd. But a consideration of the resurrection needs to include the cross because the cross of the messiah is precisely what the Father has affirmed in raising Jesus from the dead. The early Church resisted any mention of the cross because culturally its meaning of humiliation seemed opposed to how Jesus and 'the good news' were to be perceived. Yet in our time the cross is our sign that is deserving of veneration.

Ambrozic emphasized that Jesus who was dead is now alive, he is no longer among the dead; he is eternally alive with God. What does that mean? How are we to understand what the resurrection of Jesus has done for us?

It means that Jesus' entire earthly life: his sermons, his conversations and wisdom, his miracles and love of the poor, his forgiveness of sinners, and healing of the sick and afflicted, all that was his ministry and humanity, including his suffering and death, are gathered together by his resurrection and given to the Father. Jesus' rising to be with God eternally means God's acceptance of Jesus' entire life and mission, and so *they* are, as is Jesus, eternally alive before God. Because of the resurrection, Jesus' whole earthly experience remains perpetually alive before us as a present and available reality. Jesus continues to be dead to all sin and self-seeking, of all that is not God; his death too is eternal, forever expressing his love for the Father. All that Jesus was in terms of his love for God and us, and his hatred for sin, are permanently present realities. Note that at Holy Mass we celebrate the cross of Christ, and in the breaking of the bread that is mingled with the blood of Christ we ritualize the resurrection so that at Holy Communion we receive the resurrected Lord as the promise of our own resurrection.

St. Paul recognized this mystery, as for example, he affirms, "...it is not longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me;" (Gal. 2: 20) a powerful insight into Ambrozic's statement, "The resurrection makes us who we are." Paul saw that as a sinner it is difficult to evaluate the degree to which one loves God and neighbour. What the cross of Christ makes certain is that it expresses the total love that Jesus Christ had for the Father and for us. Jesus' love was so immense that he was not satisfied that he loved the Father and us enough in his one human nature. To meet his needs to love the Father as God's infinite beauty, goodness and mercy justly deserve the Messiah wants the baptized to repeat his love for God and neighbour in their humanity.

This is the challenge of Christianity, not to love God as we can, but to love God and neighbour to the same extent as Christ-crucified; in every action and decision of our lives to abide by the rule of obedience inscribed on a bracelet that some wear, WWJD? Achieving our own resurrection depends on our acceptance of Jesus' challenge to imitate him and in practice this involves us in embracing the cross. St. John Vianney (The Cure of Ars) put it, "We must suffer if we love and love if we suffer," or, "Learn how to suffer and you will not have to suffer" (from the Acts of John [not in the bible]) Suffering is key to the mystery of Jesus Christ, not un-redemptive suffering that is meaningless, like living hopelessly in an abusive relationship, but redemptive suffering that is redemptive because it is an expression of love.

2. From the Diocese

"It is clear that we need to **stay home** following the directives and guidelines of the Premier and the Nova Scotia Chief Medical Officer of Health, as well all official advisories from our federal and provincial governments ... As a people of faith with the help of the Holy Spirit we will get through this together."

- Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

As a result of the growing public health crisis posed by the Covid-19 virus, all public celebrations of Masses and events remain cancelled until further notice, and churches, parish offices and diocesan offices remain closed to the public.

For Bishop Kirkpatrick's letters, updates, links to online/television Masses and other information on Covid-19:

<http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/index.php/covid-19>

Options for Masses:

Mass for Shut-Ins:

Sundays 11:30 on CTV

Recorded episodes on our [Diocese of Antigonish Youtube Channel](#)

Mass from St. Ninian Cathedral

Sundays 8:30 am on [98.9 X-FM](#)

See other links on our website:

<http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/index.php/covid-19>

Other ways to keep in touch:

[Diocese of Antigonish Facebook Page](#)

[MyParish App](#), with messages, daily readings, Mass for Shut-Ins and more

Free to download and use on your smart phone or tablet

Alpha Online

to connect with youth and parishioners

Alpha Canada webinars are available to watch anytime:

<https://www.alphacanada.org/webinars>

- 1) Empowering & Developing leaders using Alpha
- 2) How to run an Alpha online
- 3) Building an effective prayer team
- 4) how to create a culture of invitation in your church

Alpha Canada is offering two sessions on **How to launch Alpha online:**

Session 1 was on April 8th, 2020 at 6:00 PM Eastern (7 pm Atlantic time)

Session 2 is April 16th at 6:00 pm (7 pm Atlantic time). The two sessions are a comprehensive model of online Alpha. You will need to attend both sessions to receive the full benefit of the information shared. If you are unable to attend the sessions they offer the webinars on their site.

To register: <https://www.alphacanada.org>

Questions? Contact norma@dioceseofantigonish.ca

3. Help Our Parishes

As Masses and events have been cancelled until further notice due to the public health threat of Covid-19, our parishes are losing important sources of collection and fundraising income. The diocesan Business Office is accepting donations for parishes during this time.

[Donate online](#) or mail your cheque (please do not send cash) to:
Diocese of Antigonish, PO Box 100, Sydney, NS B1P 6G9