



Reflection from Fr. Mike

Our journey through the Easter season continues as we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Jesus' words in the Gospel are very comforting, "Do not let your heart be troubled". But how do we overcome fears and anxiety in the midst of so much unknown around us? That's what trust in God is all about. I truly believe that God does God's part in caring for us. I have seen that happen again and again. Our challenge is how we live out that trust. The message of the Gospel helps us understand that caring for those in need, being present to the forgotten and continuing to be a source of hope no matter what the situation are ways to trust the Lord. Our community of St. James has modelled that trust during this pandemic. We continue to support the good works of the parish, reach out to the lonely and bring God's Hope through our actions.

During this pandemic, we celebrate Mother's Day. We have a greater appreciation of those on the "front lines"- medical personnel, health care workers, grocery clerks, maintenance staff and those who work tirelessly for others. I think mothers are also on the "front lines". They are guiding and caring for their families, becoming academic teachers for their children and maneuvering many different roles as they care for others. We are certainly grateful for them on this Mother's Day.

My own mother was an example of that. She had a deep belief that if she would just turn her life over to God, God would take care of her. As we grew up, she would share her faith with us. She spoke strongly about the need to trust God. As a child, I thought that was all about piety. But I learned over the years believing that was her true belief. As she lived out each day, she cared for and guided a large family believing that God would do God's part. That is the kind of trust and love with which I was raised. I am grateful for that. My parents were good and faithful stewards who taught us everything was a gift, and we had a responsibility to share those gifts.

May we continue to live out our trust in God. We pray for God's guidance and strength upon all those mothers whose lives are overly burdened now. May we continue to be a source of hope and comfort for all. May we also trust in God's goodness, guidance and love.

Blessings, Fr. Mike