

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF



ASSUMPTION
9040 95 AVENUE NW
EDMONTON AB T6C 1Z3

RESURRECTION
10555 50A STREET NW
EDMONTON, AB T6A 2C8

8 May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Mothers' Day

One thing is for sure: Mothers' Day is gonna look different this year!

We're used to having, perhaps, a family visit to our mother or have the children drop by. That's not going to happen for many this year. Some will have a "virtual" visit and see the smiles, but somehow it's not quite the same. Technology is a useful tool, but it doesn't replace the actual presence of a human being, least of all a loved one. "Useful" is good, but in the end, useful isn't enough. We want more than "useful" and "virtual"; we want "real" and "actual".

As many of you know, I lost my mother in October last year, although, in many ways, we had lost her long before, when the cruel illness of dementia robbed my mother of her ability to be present to us, her children. What we desire—no, what we *need*—after all, is "presence", and presence is more than just a computer screen, and it is more, even, than mere physical presence. Presence is a meeting of the minds and hearts. We can stand next to someone on the bus or on the plane, and never be present to them. We can watch the neighbours walk by and never be present to them. We can spend a whole lifetime next to someone, and yet, somehow, have missed knowing who they are.

Presence is a bundle of things. It is awareness, it is affection, and it is type of knowledge. Sometimes we hear about people, maybe a spouse or child or a parent, who says, "I spent all my life with that person, and yet I never knew them!"

Maybe the gift of *this* Mothers' Day is to appreciate "presence" in its fullest sense: a reaching across the void that separates us from our neighbour to discover what God has truly created in them.

In two weeks we will be celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord; the disciples wept because they perceived that Jesus would no longer walk among them. Yet he reassures them that he will always be present with them. And this is not a "virtual" presence, but a "real" presence, ultimately THE Real Presence in the Eucharist under sacramental signs of bread and wine; but a presence, too, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, who continues to walk with each disciple and with all of us, in hidden but real ways, and who inspires us to search deep within to find the tiny seed that God has planted within us as the spark of His own love that draws us to Himself and to each other.

Happy Mothers' Day!

Fr. Philip Creurer

Pastor