



# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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EASTER LETTER OF 2023

March 28, 2023

## “COME ON HOME”

Dear Members of St. Francis Parish,

I have entitled my Easter Letter this year, “COME ON HOME”, because I have been told that only 60% of Parishioners within the Diocese of Hamilton have returned, post Covid, to celebrate Sunday Eucharist. I want to make sure that those of you who have not yet returned know that you are missed! We extend our hearts and hands to invite you to Come Home, and look forward to welcoming you to Sunday Eucharist, which is “The Font **FROM** which, and **TO** which, all the life of The Church flows”.

What better time to return HOME than Easter (or during the Easter Triduum)! All the details as to the dates and times of each of our celebrations are within our Sunday Bulletin.

We have such Good News to share with you in announcing, once again, the Easter Gospels; how Jesus suffered and died for us, and has risen from the dead!

The Easter Gospels are such wonderful sources of hope, faith, encouragement and empowerment. As we stand before the empty tomb in wonder, we do not necessarily see indisputable evidence of what happened. Sometimes we feel that forces of hatred, sinfulness, oppression and death are more powerful than forces of life, hope, justice and love. Only those who accompany Jesus to the cross, who face their own fear, sinfulness and mortality, are truly open to the Easter message: that Christ has overcome the world! As we stand before the empty tomb, we believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ within the conviction of our own hearts. This conviction becomes flesh in the way we live in relationship to the world and one another.

We are a Resurrection People called to embrace the suffering of the world and to live in hope in the midst of darkness. May the grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit inspire and empower us to carry this faith to all the world, so others see and believe.

If situations have changed for anyone, such that they can no longer come to St. Francis, please let the Parish know so we can update our records.

On behalf of our Parish Team, we wish you every grace and blessing of the Easter Season. Best wishes to you and to all those beloved to your heart.

In Christ Risen,

Fr. Murray McDermott C.R.  
Pastor