



SAINT PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, WILDFIELD

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Friday 27 October 2023

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Benefactors of St Patrick's Parish,

On behalf of Fr Abraham and the Staff and volunteers of St Patrick's, I am very pleased to welcome you to our "Loaves and Fishes Gala" 2023. I am deeply grateful for your presence this evening, and for all each of you are doing to advance the development and building of our new parish church.

In a particular way, we welcome our new Archbishop, His Grace Francis Leo. Since his arrival in Toronto in March of this year, he has worked extremely hard to get to know the Archdiocese, its people and parishes, its institutions and its many ministries. His presence here this evening is a further sign of his commitment to serving the People of God in the Archdiocese and of his commitment to us, as parishioners and supporters of St Patrick's Parish. Your Grace, your joy and humility are an encouragement to each of us as we work to build up Christ's Church – and our new parish church – in this part of Brampton. We thank you for being with us this evening, and for your prayers for us. Be assured of our prayers for you and your important ministry of shepherding the Archdiocese of Toronto. We look forward to your learned words this evening.

This evening is an event of hope: in a world increasingly marred by war, violence and anger, where threats to our well-being seem too frequent, where divisions multiply and where we do not hear enough positive and joyful, we proclaim our hope: hope for the present and the future, hope for our families and children and beloved seniors, hope for the struggling (mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually). Our hope is firm because it is based on our faith in Jesus Christ. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to *a living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice!" (1 Pet 1:3-6). So, let us rejoice and move forward in hope, generously sharing all that we have and all that we are as a people of faith and hope, building Christ's Church and living His Gospel.

A final word of gratitude to our sponsors and benefactors, upon whom we depend and whom we entrust to the Lord. We cannot do it without you. And thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this evening a joyful and hope-filled celebration.

With the assurance of my prayers for you and your loved ones, and with every good wish, I bless you in the name of the Lord.



Msgr Owen Keenan

Pastor

St Patrick's Parish



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