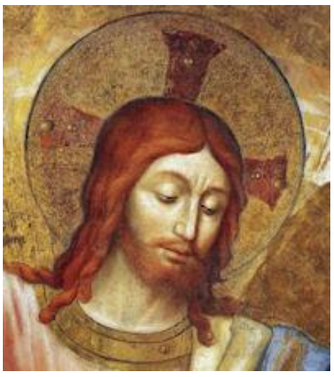


Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

No Mass this weekend, Fr. Yake is not feeling well.

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34*. In today's extract, the prophet is foretelling the setting up of a New Covenant, to replace the Old Covenant made between God and his Chosen People on Mt. Sinai, a covenant which the Chosen People had not kept. The New Covenant would not be written on tablets of stone but on each individual's heart. It would be a covenant of love rather than one of obligation.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews 5:7-9.* The purpose of this letter is to confirm the converts in the Christian faith which they have accepted.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 12:20-33.* On the first Palm Sunday, as Christ entered Jerusalem not as a conquering king on a charger but "riding on an ass" to show that he was the humble servant of all men, he clearly foresaw the sufferings and torments that would be his in that city, before the week was out. Among those who waved palm branches to honor him and who sang aloud: "Hosanna to thewas out. Among those who waved palm branches to honor him and who sang aloud: "Hosanna to the son of David, Hosanna in the highest," there were perhaps some who, urged on by the leaders, would be shouting the following Friday, "away with him, crucify him," and "we have no king but Caesar." Such was the fickleness of human nature then. Unfortunately it has not changed much, if at all, in the two thousand years that have since elapsed. We are still fickle when it comes to choosing between Christ and the things of this world. Yet he knew all of this, and was still willing to carry the cross for us who are such unworthy mortals!

This very thought should put us all to shame, for what repayment does the very best of us make for the incredible love he has shown for us? We grumble and complain when some small cross is laid on our shoulders; we are full of laments if life is not running smoothly for us; we cannot understand why God should let certain things happen to us, his friends! But see for a moment what the lot of his beloved Son was on earth. Born and reared in extreme poverty; insulted and offended by those he wanted to teach; quickly forgotten by those he benefited by his miracles; hounded by his enemies and betrayed by one who had been his disciple for over two years and who had sat at table with him that same night; deserted in his moment of trial by those very ones who had sworn undying allegiance to him. Then followed the torments wished on him by his enemies—those he had come to save; the mock trial and illegal condemnation; the scourging at the pillar; the crowning with thorns; the carrying of the cross and finally the three hours of intense torture and agony while his body hung on the cross! The next time we are tempted to grumble and complain about our sad lot. Let us look thoughtfully at a crucifix for a few moments!

"He who loves his life loses it," this is a truth stated by Christ at the solemn moment when he was speaking of the purpose of his own painful death. He died so that we might live, not for sixty or even a hundred years on earth, but forever in heaven. We can, we know, lose the eternal life Christ won for us if we are too attached to our transitory, earthly life. If we love our own comforts, pleasures, temporal gains, our own worldly will, more than we love our unending, happy future, then we are loving our earthly lives wrongly, and we are gravely risking the loss of the future, true life.

If, on the other hand, we do our best to be faithful servants of Christ, we shall always judge all our actions with eternity in view. We can use the things of this life which God gives us, and still be close followers of Christ. The lawful possession of the goods of this world, the enjoyment of the licit pleasures of life, are allowed to the fervent Christian. If these possessions and pleasures are accepted with Christian gratitude, they will become stepping-stones that will help us across the river of life to our everlasting home beyond.

Each one of us should look fervently and devoutly on the crucifix today, and try to compare our willingness to suffer those crosses sent to us by God, with the crushing cross and passion our Savior Jesus Christ gladly accepted for us and not for his own sake. Do not let the conclusion you draw stun you into inactivity, but rather let it shock you into a new outlook on life; a new resolve to serve, follow and imitate our loving Christ more closely in future. So may it be for all of us.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection

March 10th

Envelopes	**$250.00**
Heating	**$50.00**
	$300.00

Notices:

1: Last Sunday in Vestry: March 17th would be the last Sunday in the Vestry. We will be moving back into the main church for next Sunday Palm Sunday.

2: Community Drop-in All are welcome on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am - 11:30 am at the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department for a social gathering. The coffee pots will be hot and the conversation will be flowing. Sponsored by the Bras d'Or Lakers Club.

3: Fish Cake Supper - Friday March 29th, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Eat In or Take Out - Fish Cakes, Homemade Beans, Chow, Biscuits, Cost $12.00, Johnstown Parish Hall. If you would like to donate a package of salted cod bits, or would like to order a meal please contact the following:
Louise: 902-535-3107
Barbara: 902-828-2079
Rita: 902-631-0209
Edie: 902-322-6543
or email louisecampbel@gmail.com

4: Holy Week Celebrations

Chrism Mass Monday, March 25, 2024, at 3:00 pm
Celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral
Notes: Parishioners of all parishes are welcome to join all Holy Week celebrations: Following the instructions on the Sacred Triduum from the Clergy Days, November, 2023, and with the Bishop's permission, the following schedule is close to the ideal.

This year the Sacred Triduum will be held at St. John the Baptist Church.

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)
Thursday, March 28, 2024
SJB 4:00 PM

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
Friday, March 29, 2024
SJB 3:00 PM

Note: Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. There should be no physical contact with the Cross, but veneration may be expressed by a reverent bow or a genuflection.

The Resurrection of the Lord
At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
Saturday, March 30, 2024
SJB: 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 31, 2024
SH 9:30 AM
HGA 11:00 AM

5: March 17 is Solidarity Sunday This Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace **—** Caritas Canada's Reaping our Rights campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity. Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world.
"Development and Peace — Caritas Canada accompanies, supports and respects our institutional autonomy. It creates a climate of trust. I thank our sisters and brothers in Canada for their solidarity, a solidarity that generates life opportunities, that accompanies the dreams of women and men, of families, of communities and territories. Thank you!" **—** Eva Colque, Executive Director, Fundación NUNA, a partner in Bolivia Help create hope and dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at devp.org/give. Thank you for your solidarity!

6: From Bishop Kirkpatrick
Share Lent Campaign Development and Peace – Caritas Canada (DPCC) 2024

My Dear Clergy and My Dear People Development and Peace was established in 1967 by the Canadian Bishops to help build a better world by engaging people in the work of bringing about a more just sharing of the gift of God's creation and resources of the world with the most impoverished of our brothers and sisters. At the heart of Development and Peace's transformative work are the education, action, and fundraising campaigns that bring

thousands of Canadians together every year. Development and Peace launched a five-year theme under the banner - Create Hope. This year's specific theme Reaping our Rights echoes Pope Francis's words in Laudate Deum: "Everything is connected" and "No one is saved alone." We are asked to work together as we consider human rights and environmental rights.

This is why we invite you to become involved with Development and Peace to help such people in the Global South, "Reap their Rights." We are invited to share our solidarity with those who defend the lands, waters, and forests that sustain them, as well as the culture, history, and identity that defines them. You are invited to learn more and sign a letter to the Honduran Ambassador to Canada. Plans are on-going to submit the Letters to the Ambassador on the International Day of Peasant Struggle, on April 17 https://devp.org/en/campaign/stand-for-the- land/act/ On March 17, we will celebrate Solidarity Sunday. I invite you to help Create Hope by giving generously support the 2024 Share Lent collection in our diocese. You are invited to donate through your Share Lent envelope or online. If you have not yet ordered the free Share Lent materials for your parish, you can do so at Resources Lent 2024 | Development and Peace – Caritas Canada (devp.org)

If you have any questions about the campaign or the Share Lent materials, you are invited to contact our Regional DPCC animator, Adah Ogbe at aogbe@devp.org. Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

Fraternally,
+ Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick Bishop
Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick Bishop of Antigonish

7: Tentative list of events that will take place at the Johnstown Parish Hall. More information will be added later. Additional events could be added.

Sunday July 7 - Strawberry Festival - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sunday July 7 - Guadalupe Mass - 2:00 pm
Sunday August 11 - Cemetery Mass - 9:30 am
Sunday August 11 - Pancake Breakfast - 10:15 am
Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am