

REFLECTION for 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

There is no god besides you, Lord... Let anyone with ears listen

Most of us pray daily: *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.* This reminds us that the kingdom of God exists, it is ours to discover. We should long for and seek to become part of the Kingdom of God. Why seek the Kingdom? How are we to know what constitutes the kingdom of God? In no one place in the bible do we get a clear description of it, but from the totality of scriptures we can glean a good and inviting vision.

We find that God's is a kingdom where not only love, but truth and life, holiness and justice, love and peace, and mercy and compassion, reign supreme. It is where we *'do onto others as we would have them do onto us.'* Our King is Jesus, who with the Father, loves all creation unconditionally. We discover that Jesus came to restore and establish anew the Kingdom which begins in this life and finds its completion in the next life.

Jesus succeeded in making the coming of the kingdom a reality. Again, from the totality of his Gospel message, to dwell in the kingdom, we are called to live in the present, to have a sense of awe and wonder, and to have our lives rooted firmly in our dependence on the love of God. Life in His kingdom is attainable. We bow to our King, accepting that we have work to do in bringing the kingdom to fruition in us and in our world.

Here is Pope Francis' idea of the kingdom of God on earth: *'when one thinks of the perseverance of many Christians, who struggle to raise their family, who care for children, care for grandparents, and arrive at the end of the month with only a few dollars, but who pray with faith, hope, and love, there is the Kingdom of God, hidden, in the holiness of daily life, everyday holiness. Because the Kingdom of God is not far from us, it is near! This is one of its features: it is close to us every day. Like a mustard seed, the Kingdom is humble yet becomes great by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is up to us to let it grow in us, without boasting about it. Let the Spirit come, let it change our soul, and let it carry us forward in silence, in peace, in tranquility, in closeness to God, to others, in worship of God, without great fanfare.'* Yes, God comes to the humble and poor in spirit.

Do we yearn for the coming of the kingdom as preached by Jesus? As Christians, we should. Do we believe that God's kingdom has come? We are tasked with striving to create it, to nurture it, to take our place in it, and to evangelize others to enter it. If we believe that we are living in the Kingdom already, then we must be prepared for a mixture of good and bad people, saints and sinners. Like the farmer, we can be wrong in distinguishing the one from the other. Love everyone, forgive everyone, leave judgment to the King.

Have you ever wondered why so many Christians view the Church as a slog, their Christian obligations as chore, and their responsibility to advance the Gospel as burdensome? Is it not because they have not yet wholeheartedly embraced Jesus and his Kingdom? The Kingdom is here, there, and everywhere.

The parables today are telling us about the Church, the kingdom of God on earth. The Church is a grace, but involvement in the Church does not mean automatic entry into the kingdom. Life in the Church is demanding, like the growing of crops. It is Jesus Christ who sows the seed, which is the word of God. It grows, but weeds, which seek to displace and destroy the kingdom of God on earth, also grow freely. *Meditate on what follows.*

Early Christian writers compared the blood of Christ to the water which falls on the soil and gives life to the crops; they said that the blood of the martyrs, who, gave their lives for the kingdom of God, watered the soil of the Church, and brought forth new life. It's now our turn. We must be watchful to maintain and protect this new life in the Kingdom; the gospels urge us to be alert, to be vigilant, to be open to the Holy Spirit within us.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025

Curlingparish@hotmail.com
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wed, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Fri at 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

July 23, 2017

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (July 22, 23)

Regular Collection	\$ 1351.30
Building Fund	\$ 10.00
Cemetery	\$ 15.00
Votive Candles	\$ 28.00
Garden Party Donations	\$ 75.00
Mass Requests	\$ 30.00
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	\$ 1509.30

MASS INTENTIONS

July 24	No Mass
July 25	No Mass
July 26	Nora Griffin
July 26+ Sarah/Joseph Lewis, Thomas/Ann Quigley	
July 27	Ralph & Mary O Quinn
July 28	Bernadette & Anthony George
July 29	Nora Griffin
July 29+	John Mendes
July 30	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (July 29, 30)

READERS EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Art Hall	Joanne Connolly, John Carroll
Edna Dwyer	Frank Lewis
<i>Communion to the Sick</i>	Joe/Marie Byrne
Mike Leonard	Don Gallant, Barbara Neville
Debra Allen	Hedy Kenny

NEW MINISTRIES SCHEDULE AVAILABLE

Because our present schedule ends in a few weeks, we have prepared one for the rest of August and September. This will allow Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers to be in place until the transition of priests is complete and Parish Council and its Committees start up again.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, July 24 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.'

OUR CHURCH HISTORY PHOTOS

We have prepared all the photos which you have provided over the past few years. We are looking for some showing CWL activities for the 10 years it thrived in our parish. As well, we need some for

Scouts and Guides, and any others showing parish events through the years.

CEMETERY COLLECTION

We did not take a collection at the Cemetery Mass. But if you wish to donate to the upkeep, please place your donation in the weekend offering. As you can see, it is in good repair.

JUST A REMINDER

Next weekend is Fr. Don's last one with us as pastor here at Sacred Heart. Please try to come to celebrate his retirement. If you can, we would encourage all to come down to Our Lady Star of Sea church in Benoit's Cove on Saturday at 7 pm. There will be social immediately following the 6 pm Mass. The social will be in the parish hall which is downstairs.

FEAST OF ST. ANNE/QUAIPIU MASS

We are hosting this special celebration with a **4:30 pm Mass on Wednesday July 26**. The Qalipu First Nation Band will take a prominent part in the Mass. It will be followed by a Soup/Stew and sandwich supper in the parish house. Please join us and the Band to honor good St. Anne.

TABERNACLE ART WORK FOR SALE

We have three of the medium prints left. These sell for \$45.00. To order one, please sign the sheets which are available at the back.

CEMETERY MASSES UPTOWN

Townsite Cemetery – **Monday July 25 at 7 pm**
Mt. Patricia – **Wednesday July 26 at 7 pm**
In the event of rain, these Cemetery Masses will be celebrated in the Parish Church.

CHURCH FLOORS TO BE RE- CARPETED

Our carpet is now taken up and been removed. The contractor is coming on Monday to begin installation in the main body of the church. They will also install durable non-slip vinyl in four side-rooms- two at the back and two at the front. We wish to again extend a large THANK YOU to all who came to remove the old carpet. New week you will see the end result.

CEMETERY RECORD FOR UNKNOWN

We have many unmarked gravesites. This summer we are asking families with loved ones buried in unmarked graves at Mt. Cecilia to submit their names. We plan to erect a large memorial plaque displaying these names. Given the circumstances, it is the best option for memorializing them available to us. Please support this effort.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The Society is still looking for new members. And there is a need for used furniture. Call: 638-9010 for more information. They thank you for your generous support of their 4th Sunday collections.

FEAST of ST. JAMES the APOSTLE July 25

Saint James the Apostle, brother of Saint John and one of the three who spent time with the Lord on significant occasions, was a fisherman called by Jesus to follow him. He and Saint John were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" by Jesus. Most likely, he was the first apostle to be martyred, and witness to the faith with his blood. In Acts 12:1-3a, we read: *'About that time King Herod laid hands upon some members of the church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also'*.

FEAST OF ST. ANNE and ST. JOACHIM July 26

St. Anne is the patron saint of First Nations peoples. For them, today is a sacred holy day. We join in their celebration because we believe that Jesus is truly God and truly human, and this feast of his grandparents is a testimony to our faith. While the names of Joachim and Anne may be legendary, we know that Jesus had grandparents, the parents of Mary. This is the 'feast of grandparents'. It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience, and

appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

TO BE A SAINT. HERE'S POPE FRANCIS' ADVISE

"In his holy Church, the Lord chooses some people to manifest her holiness more clearly, to show forth that it is He who sanctifies; that no one sanctifies himself; that there is no course for becoming a saint; that to be a saint is not a matter of acting like 'God's gift'. Instead, holiness is Jesus' gift to his Church; and to show this, he chooses people in whom his work of sanctification is clearly seen. The difference between heroes and saints is witness- the imitation of Jesus Christ, taking the way of Jesus Christ. St. Paul was persecuted, beaten, judged, and ended his days with a small group of friends in Rome, a victim of those to whom he ministered. Thus *Paul "deceases, deceases, deceases", according to the rule of holiness*. We will certainly not become saints unless we allow our hearts to be converted along this path of Jesus: by daily carrying the cross, the ordinary cross, the simple cross, and allowing Jesus to grow. If we do not take this road we will not be saints, but if we do travel this path we will bear witness to Jesus Christ, who loves us. And we will bear witness that, while we are sinners, the Church is holy, she is Jesus' bride.



JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.