

REFLECTION for 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

Come to me, all of you...for my yoke is easy and my burden is light

The symbolic yoke is used by Jesus to depict heavy spiritual burdens we carry around with us. The fact is a yoke is a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to the plow or cart that they are to pull. That's a physical yoke, but for those trying to keep the faith there is that spiritual yoke. This yoke, as imposed by the Pharisees, was a burdensome yoke of self-righteousness and legalistic law-keeping with more than 600 ordinances. Jesus realized that LOVE is all that really matters.

So, the yoke of Jesus is light and easy to carry because it is the yoke of repentance, faith, and love, followed by a firm commitment to follow Him. Recall the Footprints in the Sand poem- Jesus even carries us at times.

It takes courage, faith, and humility to allow Christ to live out his will, his rule of Love, in our life. But he tells us today that it is only when we yield/depend on him that this 'newness of life' becomes a reality in us. It requires a child-like faith. It involves trusting in Jesus and surrendering to Jesus. If we submit unconditionally to Jesus, each of us will experience a total interior renewal which the Gospel calls a metanoia; it is a radical conversion, a profound change of mind/heart. It's seeking the mind of God; allowing our will to be God's will.

Philip Yancey, in his book Reaching for the Invisible God, gives this sound advice: *'Somehow we must learn to distinguish between appropriate child-like behavior, a prerequisite for entry into the kingdom of heaven, and inappropriate childish behavior, a mark of stunted personal/spiritual growth.* Child-like behavior is good. Those of us who are parents can easily distinguish child-like behavior from childish behavior. We see our children doing child-like things and find them endearing, lovable, and put them in the family album. Child-like behavior is a beautiful part of the maturing process. But childish temper-tantrums, throwing things, stubbornness, and yelling, are not tolerated; parents seek to modify such behavior. Such modification is done by loving parents.

Well, God is our Father; St. Paul refers to God as Abba- Daddy. It is only natural for us to accept God as Father since He is also our Creator. Our behavior is visible in his sight. The Word who became flesh knows our weaknesses. Out of love, he desires us to be yoked disciples- yoked to Christ, from whom comes our help.

The learned and the clever probably think it is foolishness to be child-like. But remember, to be child-like is to receive the Word with openness and trust. It is unconditionally believing in the Father. It represents an innocence of sinfulness and dependence on God. It is being free from all those external and internal voices nagging at us. It presents a soul that is pure and uncluttered, and a heart set on pleasing our Father.

It is then, in being a child of God, that this verse in Matthew makes perfect sense. *'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.'* We are opened to the understanding of the love that exists between the Father and his Son Jesus. Thankfully, through the Spirit, we are changed and transformed by this. Humbly, we acknowledge that God's dominion extends *'from sea to sea...to the ends of the earth.'* Jesus brings freedom. We are set free to live by the Spirit, to transform ourselves and the world; to live in true Love. Human wisdom, of the childish type, tells us that freedom is a private thing, me against the world, refusing to submit to those who would control me. As in many things, it takes the foolishness of God to teach us that true freedom is to be had through being yoked to Jesus. Only in Jesus will we find true rest and refreshment. *'Brothers and sisters, you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit.'* We are debtors to Christ.

We worship and love God because he has loved us *first*, and that makes it all possible. Truths involving Love can be hidden from the wise and the learned. But we, as beloved children of God, follow Jesus because *'he is gentle and humble in heart, and we will find rest for our souls- his yoke is easy and his burden is light'*.

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

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

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wed (in Cemetery), 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 9, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (July 1, 2)

Regular Collection	\$ 1617.40
Parish Dues	\$ 100.00
Building Fund	\$ 110.00
Cemetery	\$ 15.00
Mass Requests	\$ 30.00
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 20.00
Book Donations	\$ 137.25
	\$ 2029.65

MASS INTENTIONS

July 10	No Mass
July 11	No Mass
July 12	Anthony & Annie Gillis
July 13	Samual & Mary Ellen Wiseman
July 14	George Janes
July 15+	Michael & Ada George
July 15	Jerry Gillis
July 16	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (July 15, 16)

READERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Art Hall	Joanne Hackett, Donna Mitchell
Edna Dwyer	Joanne Connolly
<i>Communion to the Sick</i> Gerard Brake	
Gen Quigley	Elizabeth Carew, Brian Sparkes,
John Carroll	Patsy Payne

MORE LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

We will soon be creating new ministries lists for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for the fall season. If you would like to volunteer, please let the Office know. Training and investiture will be provided.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, July 10 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in ‘breaking open the Word.’

FLOWER GARDEN

Please help us by bringing perennials to plant. We ask that you donate them either in support of the beautification or in memory of a loved one. We thank John Hancock who has overseen the planting of annuals in the Cross again this year.

TABERNACLE ART WORK FOR SALE

Limited edition Prints of the beautiful painting which adorns our tabernacle are being made available. The small prints will cost \$30.00. The medium prints are \$45.00. To order one, please sign the sheets which are available at the back. These would make a nice addition to your home or make a great gift for family living away.

OUR CHURCH HISTORY PHOTOS

Katie and Matthew have prepared all the photos which you have provided over the past few years. We have hundreds. To aid in this project, we are invited volunteers to come forward to help in identification of these pictures/ events. Contact the Office if you are interested in helping. **BTW, it’s not too late- if you have some old photos that you think may belong in this project, please bring them to us for inclusion.**

CHURCH FLOORS TO BE RE- CARPETED

Thank God, we have a little money, and a generous donor, to allow this project to proceed. We have contracted a flooring company to replace our old carpet with new, Also, we are placing high-quality durable non-slip vinyl in our side-rooms. Work will begin in a few weeks. There will be some disruption. Hopefully, this will be minimal.

MT. CELILIA CEMETERY MASS

We will gather in the cemetery this **Wednesday July 12 at 7 pm**. Please notify any friends or relatives who might want to attend. Also, it is an opportune time to inspect and repair family gravesites. We have soil available for those needing it to fill in graves which have settled.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP

We will be cleaning the cemetery on Monday, July 10th. Bring your mowers and whipper snippers and help prepare for our cemetery mass. Many hands make light work.

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.

CEMETERY MASS IN BENOITS COVE

Tuesday July 18 at 7 pm in the old cemetery. A short prayer service will follow in the new cemetery.

CEMETERY MASSES UPTOWN

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

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.

RETIREMENT PARTY

Star of the Sea Church in Benoit’s Cove will be hosting a retirement pot luck for Father Don on Saturday, July 29th, following 630 Mass. All are encouraged to attend! Don’t forget to bring your favourite dish!

FEAST of ST. VERONICA GIULIANI July 10

It is said that when her mother was dying she called her 5 daughters to her bedside and entrusted to each of them one of Jesus’ five wounds. Veronica was entrusted with the wound below Christ’s heart. She became a nun and at the age of 37, she received the stigmata. Why did God grant the stigmata to Francis of Assisi and to Veronica Giuliani? God alone knows the deepest reasons, but the external sign of the cross is a confirmation of these saints’ commitment to the cross in their lives. The stigmata that appeared in Veronica’s flesh had taken root in her heart many years before. It was a fitting conclusion for her love of God and her charity toward her sisters.

FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT JULY 11

He is the father of modern monasticism. He wrote his famous Rule that gradually developed and prescribed a life of liturgical prayer, study, manual labor. Pray and Work is the motto of those who follow **Benedictine** spirituality. Here are two of St. Benedict’s quotes:
‘Idleness is the enemy of the soul; and there-fore we ought to be employed in manual labor at certain times, at others, in devout reading.’
‘Whenever you begin any good work you should first make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection.’

FEAST OF ST. BONAVENTURE JULY 15

Saint Bonaventure was in many ways the second founder of the Franciscan Order. Through his teaching, writing, and mysticism, he captured the spirit of Saint Francis and renewed the order accordingly. He so united holiness and theological knowledge that he rose to the heights of mysticism while remaining a very active preacher and teacher, one beloved by all who met him. To know him was to love him. Pope Francis is of this Order- the **Franciscans**.

PONDER THIS FROM ST. BONAVENTURE:

Three things are necessary to everyone regardless of status, sex, or age: truth of faith which brings understanding; love of Christ which brings compassion; endurance of hope which brings perseverance. No adult is in a state of salvation unless he has faithful understanding in his mind, loving compassion in his heart, and enduring perseverance in his actions.



JESUS PRAYER

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