

March 22 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Jesus heals the man born blind.

John 9: 1-41

Portraits of a small Southern town

Newnan is a small city 40 miles southwest of Atlanta. It prides itself on its quiet charm and small-town friendliness. But the good people of Newnan were stunned two years ago when a neo-Nazi group decided to hold a rally against illegal immigration and the removal of Confederate monuments. The leader of the group said they preferred to hold the rallies in predominately white towns. As it happened, only a few dozen white nationalists attended the rally.

But the experience made the residents of Newnan realize how much their little city had changed in the 21st century — and many in the community wanted to embrace that change. So, a year after the fizzled Nazi rally, the town put up 17 large-scale banner portraits: images of the ordinary people who make up Newnan.

The banners hang from brick buildings around downtown. There's Helen, an African-American woman who for years worked at a sewing factory. There's Jineet, a waitress who arrived in Newnan carrying her Mexican traditions and dreams. There's Wiley, a white factory worker who packed blankets at a local mill until his death in 2017. And there's Aatika and Zahraw, sisters born in Georgia of Pakistani parents — both girls wearing hijabs in their portrait.

The portraits were meant to be inclusive, to upend preconceptions and unravel cocoons people had created within the community. The portraits did that — but also exposed old tensions and the suspicions of Newnan's newest citizens. Newnan's population has grown from 12,000 twenty-five years ago to almost 40,000 today. The group that commissioned the banners knew that the picture of the two Muslim sisters would be especially controversial, but they refused to pander to irrational fears.

The portraits, which will hang in Newnan until June, have already had a lasting effect on the town, prompting deep conversations between people who had never met. "The truth is, these conversations are hard and uncomfortable and awkward but we need to lean into it," points out the pastor of the local Presbyterian church says.

One of the community leaders who commissioned the installation concurs.

"People needed to open their eyes and see what a beautiful diverse place we live in."

[*"Imperfect Union: How 17 Outsize Portraits Rattled a Small Southern Town"* by Audra D.S. Burch, *The New York Times*, January 19, 2019.]

Just as the Newnan community came to realize, the "light of truth" both illuminates — and blinds. It reveals the love of God in our midst, but in that same light, our unChrist-like behaviors and attitudes are seen for what they are. What we "see" in the light of Christ can be difficult to realize: suddenly we see beyond labels and stereotypes, self-interest and old scores to recognize the love of God we have failed to see or have refused to see. This Lent may we dare to embrace the light of God in his Christ, a vision of faith that illuminates the darkness of selfishness and hatred with the light of justice and compassion.

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March 22, 2020

4th Sunday of Lent

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ

Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Dianne Russell

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

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www.sacredheartrcparish.ca



Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.

Reconciliation:

By request

Mass During the Week:

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Marriages:

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

Baptisms:

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

St. Vincent de Paul:

To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

March 15, 2020

Regular Sunday	\$1322.35
Building Fund	20.00
Lent Folders	40.00
Mass Stipends	110.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tues, 7 pm	Late Jim Moore
Wed, 10 am	Late Jim Cashin
Thur, 7 pm	Late Jack Cashin
Fri, 10 am	Late Bernard Joyce
Sat, 4:30 pm	Late Edward Noseworthy
Sun, 11 am	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

March 28	
March 29	
Communion of the Sick	



CORONA VIRUS - Over-Reaction versus

Precaution: While we do not want to overreact to the current fears around Corona Virus, we do want to take all precautions. For the foreseeable future, **communion will not be distributed under both forms** but only under the form of the hosts. **The sign of peace** will no longer encourage the shaking of hands but suggest a slight bow, fist bump, elbow touch, etc. while saying peace be with you. We have also removed the **Holy Water fonts** from the main doors. Until more is known these practices will continue in effect.

CONFIRMATION: Due to the restrictions surrounding the Corona Virus (Covid-19), all confirmation classes are postponed. The celebration of confirmation is also postponed.

PARISH MISSION: Due to the restrictions surrounding the Corona Virus (Covid-19), the celebration of the Parish Mission is also postponed.

NET MINISTRIES: Due to the restrictions surrounding the Corona Virus (Covid-19), the visit of the NET MINISTRIES is also postponed.

EASTER FLOWERS: Because masses and services for Holy Week have been cancelled, we have also cancelled the ordering of Easter flowers.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION: We Pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

THE DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS: Due to the restrictions surrounding the Corona Virus (Covid-19), the celebration of the Chrism Mass is also postponed.

BINGO: Cancelled

ST. VINCENT de PAUL - Meeting: Cancelled

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Meeting:
Cancelled

The Memorare

Remember O most loving Virgin Mary that it is a thing unheard of, that anyone ever had recourse to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession and was left unaided. Filled therefore with confidence in your goodness, I fly to you O Mother, Virgin of virgins, to you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner. Despise not my poor words O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear and grant my prayer. Amen

"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps....."

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

Humour:

Knock, knock. Who's there? A little old lady.
A little old lady who?
Hey, I didn't know you can yodel!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Spell. Spell who?
ok, W-H-O.

What happened when the strawberry tried to cross the road? There was a traffic jam.