

REFLECTION for Sixth Sunday of Easter 2017

Fr. Don

'Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.'

Increasingly, it is difficult to be a good practising Catholic. Actively professing our faith requires conviction and courage. The church is seen as rigid, many have left, and our youth are not engaged. We are confused; what is the truth, what, and who, should we believe? How do we remain faithful? We are being bombarded.

On the one hand, society has embraced and condones abortion, same-sex marriage, assisted-suicide, and a plethora of other issues. We are part of our society; we cannot bury our heads in the sand.

Conversely, our Church strongly opposes societal stances on these issues and demands our allegiance. We are filled with guilt if we dare doubt. Often, our church leaders seem to be putting us in our places, telling us to do as they say, seemingly asking us to pray, pay, and obey. Living the faith challenges us.

Complicating this whole scenario is the fact that our church leaders have been exposed for saying one thing and doing the other, cries of self-serving are hurled. Hypocrisy has seemingly infiltrated the church. Verifiable instances of this sad truth exist in Rome and right here in our Diocese. Needing it, let's look for spiritual aid:

Blessed John Henry Newman offers some advise. He was an Anglican priest who converted and became a Catholic Cardinal. Famously, he once said, *'ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt.'* He was distinguishing between those who find it hard to accept church teaching and say, *'How can this be'* but whose faith is strong and they stay, and those who say, *'It can't be!'* and walk away. To his mind, it is good to be conflicted about our beliefs because it leads us to work harder at being true believers; not blind followers.

Joy is a Gospel truth. We are reminded of that by today's readings. We must joyfully rise above our doubts.

Faith, hope, and love are theological virtues. These are given directly by God at baptism. These, along with joy and the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, are God's essential gifts based on His loving purposes for our good. If we open our hearts to God, the Holy Spirit will make faith, hope and love grow firm in us; making us joyful.

We are called to simply love God and our neighbor. We should fall on our knees in praise of our God for we are divinely fully equipped to love God/neighbor with all our hearts/minds. Thank our loving Father for this.

St Thomas Aquinas teaches us that, through Baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us the power (capacity) to have faith. This power is another of the divine effects of baptism. But this faith remains dormant until we actualise it by conscious and explicit acts of faith. Faith must, under God's grace, become a personal act, and become an active reality. So, only by our active participation can our faith sustain us. It's that old free-will calling us again.

One of our distinguishing marks of Christians is that they are people of hope. As the Easter Season draws to its close, we are urged to ask ourselves: Do I really have hope? Am I a person of hope? Can I battle through my doubts in church teachings? Hope is based on God, as the Holy Trinity- on our certainty that we are loved by God the Father, and on the resurrection of Christ the Son, and on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In our mad secular society, voices call us to seek our own good; even when it denigrates the other. God is dead, some say. But as Christians, we must respond with gentle yet persuasive faith.

God is alive. Soon we will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. We are beloved children of God and it is in that hope that we will 'hang our hat.' Tell that to the world.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 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

Fax: (709) 785-5025

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

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wed at 7:00 pm, Thurs & Friday 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.

May 21, 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (May 6, 7)

Collection	1572.56
Bldg. Fund	60.00
Votive Candles	26.00
Bingo Proceeds	900.00
Mass Stipends	100.00
Seminary Donations	235.00

MASS INTENTIONS

May 22	No Mass
May 23	No Mass
May 24	Derona Donahue/Jesse Brown
May 25	Deceased in Gallant Family
May 26	Jack Cashin
May 27	Marie Leonard
May 27+	Dana Beales
May 27+	Alex & Bride Hutchings
May 28	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (May 27, 28)

READERS **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

John Carroll **Marie Byrne, Joan Penney**

John Noseworthy **Eileen Moore**

Communion to the Sick **Joan Penney**

Mike Leonard Donna Mitchell, Barbara Neville

Hedy Kenny Anna House

MASS INTENTIONS

We do not have any Mass Intentions at present. We encourage you to request Masses. Many are requesting their Mass on weekends. To accommodate this, you will note that we have several intentions announced then. We cannot guarantee that your intention will be the only intention for which we pray. Week-day requests offer better hope of this occurring.

PASTORAL PLANNING

The Diocese has sent us another questionnaire. Its purpose is for parishes to re-evaluate their vitality. How are things going, what changes are taking place, how can we make our parish more vibrant and active? Copies of this questionnaire have been given to Parish Council members and will be discussed at our May meeting.

On Wednesday May 24, following 7 pm Mass, we will have our General Parish Meeting. At that time, we will consider the health of our parish. To allow your full participation in this meeting, copies of the questionnaire are available at the back. Please take one, answer the questions from your point of view. Then, come to our Parish Meeting and share your thoughts.

SPRING SUPPER & CONCERT

Our Sister Parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Benoit’s Cove, is hosting a **cold plate supper and concert** featuring The Griffins and Local Guests, on **Wednesday, May 31st**. Supper tickets are \$12 or concert only is \$3 at the door. Tickets are available at our parish office. Come out and support our neighbors with some **“Cold Plates & Hot Tunes!”**

DEFIBRILLATOR SOON ARRIVING

The Knights of Columbus will soon install one of these potentially life-saving devices in our church. We wish to thank them for their generosity. Once installed, there will be a few sessions offered on its proper usage.

BLESSING OF OUR CHURCH RENOVATIONS

Over the last year or so we have done a lot of improvements. The windows are new, the Tabernacle has been moved, the choir has been moved, we have moved the Marian Shrine, we have changed the Chapel’s use, the furnace has been upgraded, and we are working on replacing carpet. Thanks to God for the many good things He has done for us is due. **At our May 24 Mass noted above, we will have a Special Blessing and Dedication of all these initiatives.**

SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER

Our Ladies Group will be **hosting a soup and sandwich supper** in the school cafeteria on **Saturday, June 3rd** after mass for \$8 per person. Soup and Sandwich Sign-up Sheet is at the rear of the Church. Includes Tea/Coffee and Dessert. Yum!

VARIETY CONCERT

We will be hosting a **Variety Concert on Friday, June 9th** at Sacred Heart School. Entertainment will begin at 7:30pm.

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.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, May 22 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in ‘breaking open the Word.’

SUMMER STUDENT

The Parish has been approved for a summer student position for 7 weeks by the Federal Government Summer Employment program. Work, which primarily is digital input, begins in late June.

MAINTENANCE PERSON

Still no one has come forward seeking this position. It requires working 50 hours per month and being open to working hours in accordance with our Mass schedule. Is there anyone interested? Please contact the Office.

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.

BINGO

Our next bingo will be held on **Sunday, June 4th @ 2pm**. Donation lists are posted at the rear of the Church.

RECITING THE ROSARY

Our ladies group will be reciting the Rosary on the **13th of each month @ 7pm from June to October**

in Honour of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. All are encouraged to participate.

CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER

Our Ladies Group is **selling tickets on a prize of \$1,000.00**. They have time booked at Colemans and Dominion to sell tickets but not enough people to fill all the time slots. If anyone can help with this endeavor, please call Veronica at 639-7216. **Time is running out so be sure to get your tickets!**

CALLING ALL MEN OF THE PARISH

We will be holding a meeting on **Thursday, June 1st following Mass** to discuss the cleaning of our cemetery and the possible erection of a cross. All are invited to attend.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Father Don Leonard will be celebrating his birthday on **Monday, June 12th @ 5pm** with a **special mass, followed by a potluck supper** at the parish house. We will be celebrating Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate!

Don't forget to bring your favourite dish!

Feast of St. Philip Neri - May 26

This 16th century saint spent his early adult life as a layman leading discussion groups, prayer groups, and aiding the poor. Later, he was ordained. He was renowned for his love of a joke and his wit. Many people wrongly feel that such an attractive and jocular personality as Philip’s cannot be combined with an intense spirituality. His life should change our rigid, narrow view of piety. His approach to sanctity was truly catholic, all-embracing, and accompanied by a good laugh. He always wanted his followers to become more human through their striving for holiness.

JESUS PRAYER

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