

REFLECTION for Palm Sunday

Fr. Don

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was wonderful! Exciting! Thrilling! Jesus, for this once, was allowing Himself to be openly acclaimed with the Messianic title of *'the King who comes in the name of the Lord.'* In so doing He acknowledged that He was all that this crowd made Him out to be. They had got it right and truly believed that their hopes for salvation were now realized.

There was nothing that could have prepared them for the traumatic shock at what happened to Jesus just a few days later. No-one could have blamed them for not foreseeing that the destiny of Jesus would be fulfilled, not thwarted, on a cross, between criminals on Calvary.

This is the scandal of the Cross of Christ. In bewilderment, we ask how Palm Sunday could turn into Good Friday. How could the jubilation turn so very sour? It's all so terrible and abhorrent.

The reading of the Passion today brings together in a single liturgy two separate, contrary, contradictory, events – adulation when entering Jerusalem and rejection when being nailed to a cross– the Church confronts us, confuses us, with the Mystery that is Holy Week. We are challenged to enter into the anguish of those who loved Jesus and expected so much of Him, and at the same time realize that Jesus was born to be crucified. It was all a revelation/unfolding of the divine plan of God to redeem us; an act of love for sinful humanity.

This is rightly known as the Paschal Mystery. We would have tried to make sense of it, stop it. Like Peter, we would have rejected this path and begged Jesus to choose another. Like Pilate, we would have been convinced that Jesus did nothing deserving of this treatment. Like Mary, we would have had our hearts broken by witnessing such unnecessary torture. Like Simon of Cyrene, we would have tried to help alleviate the pain and suffering experienced by this innocent man. And yet, Jesus Himself tells us that *'He was born for this.'*

Unfathomable love is what God has for us. It is folly in the eyes of humanity. It is inconceivable to our minds that God would choose this as a means of redeeming us. Some would ask, if God is almighty, then why didn't God choose a more divine and otherworldly way.

This is Holy Week. We have just had a mission where we pondered the mercy of God. The name of God is mercy. Let us take some time this week to meditate upon the Passion and Death of Jesus. Try to formulate an understanding of why Jesus chooses to suffer and die as He did by being crucified.

Why did Jesus accept the Cross? And let us ask ourselves why the Cross is such an important sign in our Catholic faith. Others prefer a cross with no corpus (crucified Jesus); but we honor and adore the crucifix. Why? To understand why, is to understand the Paschal Mystery.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish In Love With Christ

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

Curlingparish@hotmail.com
website--www.sacredheartcrparish.ca
Fax: (709) 388-1141

Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - 8:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses in Week Days:
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7 pm
Fri 3 pm

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of the Month,
at 2 pm

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

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

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

March 20, 2016
Palm (Passion) Sunday

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

March 12, 13

Collection	\$ 1,627.00
Building Fund	45.00
Mass stipends	60.00
Votive Candles	63.00
In Memory	20.00
Dev & Peace	100.00

MASS INTENTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

Mar 21	No Mass
Mar 22	Florine Quigley/ +Margaret O'Keefe
Mar 23	Jack Cashin/ Robert Samms
Mar 24	(Holy Thursday) Fr. Aiden Devine
Mar 25	(Good Friday)
Mar 26	(vigil) Michael Dalton/deceased in Dalton and Croft Families
Mar 27	(Easter Sunday) Parish Community

NB: see below for Mass times

OUR EASTER MASS TIMES

Tues and Wed	7 pm
<u>EASTER TRIDUUM</u>	
Holy Thursday	7 pm
Good Friday	3 pm
Good Friday (Stations)	7 pm
Easter Vigil	8:30 pm
Easter Sunday	11 am

LADIES GROUP FUNDRAISER

Many hands make light work! Do you agree with this? Well, here's a chance to get involved in a worthwhile event taking place in our parish. Please consider taking a book of tickets to help the Ladies Group in their effort to raise funds for the parish. The prize is a beautiful hand-made quilt.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

If you wish to donate flowers to be placed on the altar for Easter please contact the parish house this week.

PARISH BINGO

Bad weather forced postponement of our Bingo last week. It has been rescheduled for **Sunday, March 20 at 2pm** in the School cafeteria. Please show your support by attending the game.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP FOR EASTER

This will take place on Monday of Holy Week, March 21, beginning at 9 am.

Everyone who wishes to join us in this work is more than welcome to come. Remember, again, many hands make light work.

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

An order has been placed and we will have more **NRSV Bibles** available soon. They cost \$25; if you want one, please let us know.

We still have some copies left of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. They cost \$20. Every Catholic home should have a copy of both of these books.

BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be on Monday evening, March 21 at 7 pm. It will be in the parish house. Please consider joining us for a time of scriptural sharing. This is an initiative of the parish in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Thanks go out to Fr. Bill Pearce who led this mission. The purpose was to celebrate the Mercy of God during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. By all accounts it was a blessed occasion with an abundance of God's mercy clearly on display.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Our Parish depends financially on your Weekly Offering. The money supports our many activities. Right now, there are, additionally, three special collections to which you are being asked to contribute. These are Development and Peace, the St. Vincent de Paul Refugee cause, and the Holy Lands collection on Good Friday.

We, as a Parish Council, are aware of your limited resources. We hope that these multiple simultaneous requests for financial support don't come too often. Please be as generous as is possible.

FOURTH DEGREE K of C MEETING

Bad weather caused this gathering to be postponed. It will now take place Tuesday, March 22, at 8 pm at All Hallows Parish Rooms. Members are encouraged to attend.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Benoit's Cove is seeking a part time Office Administrator. The preferred applicant will have prior clerical experience including computer accounting along with being a reliable and conscientious person. Serious inquiries can forward a resume to staroftheseabenoitscove@yahoo.ca or mail to

P.O. Box 70, Benoit's Cove, NL. A0L 1A0 on or before March 31, 2016.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

In 2000, Pope John Paul 11 designated the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. To celebrate this event, on Sunday, April 3, at 3 pm in All Hallows Church there will be a Holy Hour. Please join Catholics from all three Corner Brook parishes in honoring this devotion.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Government is being asked to consider recommendations including extending physician-assisted suicide to people with non-terminal conditions, not excluding individuals because of psychiatric conditions and extending the process to "competent mature minors". For links to the full report and to statements made in reaction to it, visit the Diocesan webpage at www.rcchurch.com

THANK YOU

The Parish wishes to acknowledge and thank all those who will help with our liturgical celebrations over the Easter Week. From cleaning, to meetings and preparation, to lectors, to servers, to Eucharistic Ministers, to ushers, to music, and to those who attended, thank you so much. It is by gathering to praise and by sharing in the mystery of our faith in the Lord, that we become a true faith community.

PRAYER FOR YEAR OF MERCY

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