

REFLECTION for Ascension Sunday 2017

Fr. Don

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

The early apostles and disciples should serve as great examples/inspiration for us. We think it is difficult to spread the Good News in today's secular world. We often lack the conviction and boldness necessary to be true Christians; charged with *'going out into all the world to witness.'* Just put ourselves in their shoes.

They had witnessed the cruel crucifixion and death of Jesus; He is taken from them- their hopes are dashed. They were despondent, but then He arose from the dead as promised. Imagine their joy. Then, mysteriously, but gloriously, He leaves them again. Just when their joy was seemingly complete and they were ready to follow him in establishing his Kingdom, he ascends to the Father. Surely, their faith was tested.

What is it that sustained/renewed them in their faith; why did they go forward professing Jesus and the Good News? Well, the answer my friends is written in the wind- the ruah- the gentle breeze, the wind of change, the wind of hope, the wind of love. *Ruah* means both wind and breath. In scripture, they are symbols of the Holy Spirit. In John 20.22, we read *'when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'* The Spirit is empowering, it invigorates, it commissions, and it emboldens our faith.

The Holy Spirit is God in another form- the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus had completed His earthly ministry. He wished to return to the Father; but *'He did not leave us orphaned.'* Our strength and power to live and breath the Good News comes from Jesus; it was His divine gift of love to us.

At the ascension, Jesus was lifted/taken up, but He has not deserted us. He made it possible for his Spirit to enter us. In this way, it is possible for each of us to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into instruments for Christ. We are his voice, his hands, and his heart. Our actions become vibrant in a new way by the Spirit of the God we love and serve. Through humble submission, we become Christ in, and to, the world.

Jesus emphasises that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him, then He commissions the disciples (that's us) to make disciples of all nations, and He assures us that He will be present to us until the end of time. Christ, through the Church and so through us, is present and active in our world.

The signs of this Holy Presence in our world are ours to create and to radiate. The Sign *par excellence* by which Christ remains present and active among us, working with us, is the Eucharist. At Mass, we experience Jesus in the Word and in the Body and Blood. Once nourished by both forms, we become joy-filled signs.

We must work out what we mean by joy. Joy involves celebrating what is good in the present and having hope for what is good in the future. Joy is liberating. It gives us the possibility of dreaming what being fully alive in Christ means. What is it like to be people of trust? What is it like not to fear unemployment or sickness? What is it like not to fear death? What is it like to see those silver linings? Joy involves hope.

We have hope because Jesus is ascended into heaven, and where He has gone we hope to follow.

So, as Pope Francis reminded us, *"Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead"*.

We are called to be Christ's disciples by becoming witnesses, and by confronting worldly ways, and by bringing hope, healing, and new life-life in Jesus-life in the Spirit, life that is fully alive in Jesus.

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.sacredheartcparish.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 10 am, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Friday at 2 pm (Lohnes)

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 28, 2017

Ascension Sunday

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (May 20, 21)

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| Collection | 1361.60 |
| Bldg. Fund | 30.00 |
| Votive Candles | 13.00 |
| Mass Stipends | 70.00 |
| Pope's Pastoral Works | 30.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | 110.00 |

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| May 29 | No Mass |
| May 30 | No Mass |
| May 31 | 10 am Basil Donahue |
| May 31+ | Recovery of Amelia Dicks |
| June 1 | Tom, Mary, Gerry Battcock |
| June 2 | 2 pm Bridget Blackwood |
| June 2 | Int. Rita Hall/ John Mendes |
| June 3 | Edward Hutchings |
| June 4 | Parish Community |

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (June 3, 4)

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|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>READERS</u> | <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u> |
| Art Hall | Mary-Jo Perrett, Joanne Hackett |
| Edna Dwyer | Joanne Connolly |
| <i>Communion to the Sick</i> Joe/Marie Byrne | |
| Janet Jackson | Patsy Payne, Elizabeth Carew |
| Joan Penney | Brian Sparkes |

HOLY HOUR THIS SUNDAY

Due to last week's holiday, our Holy Hour will take place **this Sunday afternoon at 2 pm** in the church. We will recite the Rosary as part of our May Marian devotion.

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. Please support this activity.

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 29 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.'

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Our next meeting, the final meeting until September, will be held on **Monday June 5 at 7 pm**. Members are asked to make a special effort to attend.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

We still have no maintenance person. However, we have someone who may be interested in the job. In the meantime, parish maintenance must be the concern of us all. If you have some time, or could you make some time, to come help clean the church inside or to tend the grounds outside. The flower beds will soon need some tender care. Thank you in anticipation of your help.

OLD PARISH PHOTOS

It has taken a while, but we are now in the process of sorting the photos we have received to display them. We have some depicting our former pastors, some for the prayer group, snow walks, social club, Christmas socials, processions, and more. If you have some old photos that you think could enhance our display, please bring them to us. Contact the Parish Office.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Father Don 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!

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.

BINGO

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

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 7 pm Mass** to discuss the cleaning of our cemetery and the possible erection of a cross. All are invited to attend. We need your voice and your hands.

HAVE YOU GOT A GREEN THUMB?

It's time to get our flowers in order! Get out your top soil and some pretty blooms; let's make our beautiful church grounds a little more colourful!

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. Call the parish office to reserve your plate. Come out and support our neighbors with some **"Cold Plates & Hot Tunes!"**

REFLECTION FOR FEAST OF VISITATION, May 31

One of the invocations in Mary's litany is "Ark of the Covenant." Like the Ark of old, Mary brings God's presence into the lives of other people. As David danced before the Ark, in our gospel, John the Baptist leaps for joy. As the Ark helped to unite

the 12 tribes of Israel by being placed in David's capital, so Mary has the power to unite all Christians in her son. We intercede to Jesus through her. At times, devotion to Mary may have occasioned some divisiveness, but we can hope that authentic devotion to her will lead all to Christ and therefore, to union with one another.

POPE JOHN PAUL 11 on MARY'S ASSUMPTION

'The Church proclaims Mary free from original sin by a unique divine privilege. This does not lead to the conclusion that she also received physical immortality. The Mother is not superior to the Son who underwent death, giving it a new meaning and changing it into a means of salvation...To share in Christ's Resurrection, Mary had first to share in his death. We have no information on the circumstances of Mary's death. This silence leads one to suppose that it happened naturally...As to the cause of Mary's death, the opinions that wish to exclude her from death by natural causes seem groundless. St Francis de Sales maintains that Mary's death was due to a transport of love. He speaks of a dying "in love, from love, and through love", going so far as to say that the Mother of God died of love for her Son Jesus.'

World Communications Day, May 28

Social media surrounds us wherever we go and we can use it to help spread the Good News of the Gospel, to help create a just society and to learn more about our own faith. When we respect the people, we are communicating with (even if we don't share their opinions and beliefs). When we refuse to spread malicious gossip, when we use social media to highlight injustices in the world, when we encourage or comfort people, when we share the goodness and beauty we see around us, we are doing our part to spread the joy and hope of Christianity.

JESUS PRAYER

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