

May 12, 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.”
John 10: 27-30

“Speaking Truth From This Side Of Hell”

A priest was asked to conduct the funeral of a woman he did not know very well but whose family lived in the parish. The woman, who was in her seventies, suffered from a particularly painful wasting disease. The pain became so great that one night she stepped out of bed, put on slippers and a dressing gown, let herself into the back garden, climbed the fence, walked into the local lake, and drowned herself.

The priest listened to her husband tell the story. At the funeral the priest talked about the things “we knew and the things we didn’t know . . . We didn’t know what anguish was going through her mind, but we did know how deeply she was loved and will be missed. We didn’t know what could bring her to such despair, but we did know that her life was beautiful and that those who knew her loved her and would always cherish what she meant to them.”

A week after the funeral, the priest visited the widower to see how he was doing. The priest expected the usual conversation about the funeral and how the family appreciated what he and the parish had done for the family — maybe even say how well the priest had spoken, given the circumstances.

But that’s not how the conversation went. The widower looked straight at the priest, head still and eyes unblinking, and said, “What you said was completely wrong. You said, ‘We don’t know what was going through her head when she got out of bed and walked down to the lake.’ That’s not true. I know exactly what she was thinking. She’d tried before, and afterwards she told me what it was like. I know what she was thinking. I told you that when you came to see me last time. But you weren’t listening, were you? Maybe you didn’t want to listen.”

The man’s tone was more weary than angry, as if the priest was just one of a series of people who hadn’t really listened, either to her or to him.

What the pastor learned that day has stayed with him for the rest of his ministry. He writes:

“My role is not to make things better, because that leaves the person more isolated than before. Instead, my role is to stand beside them as they face the hardest things in their life, one of which may turn out to be their fear that they could get to such an isolated place that they might consider something awful and destructive. If it’s awful, I don’t say, ‘Maybe it’s not so bad’; I say, ‘It seems very painful. I wonder which is the hardest part. Maybe you can try to put it into words so I can share the thing that’s giving you so much pain to be thinking about on your own.’

“If you have a choice between giving someone false hope and giving them the truth, always give them the truth. Once they realize the hope is false, they’ll be worse off than before. But if they can name and face the truth — and find that they’re still here and they haven’t scared you away — then they may learn the path to life: if we stay with the truth and walk through it, then we can come out the other side and find we’re still alive. If they do that, they’re on the other side of hell, and hell can’t hurt them in the same way as before.”

[From “Is love stronger?” by the Rev. Samuel Wells, The Christian Century, April 18, 2018.]

That’s the role of “shepherding” that Jesus calls each one of us to take on: to walk and lead one another through the steep paths and dangerous ridges we all must walk, not diminishing the danger or pain but helping one another make our way through it. The challenge of taking up the Good Shepherd’s staff is to face the truth despite our own fears, to search for God’s light (if only a flicker) in the midst of overwhelming darkness, to reach out to grab another despite our own tenuous grasp. In our own acts of generosity, love and forgiveness, we echo and give voice to the Risen Christ and the good news of hope and grace that is Easter resurrection.

www.connectionmediaworks.com

May 12, 2019
4th Sunday of Easter

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ

Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Jennie Colbourne

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Friday: 9:00-1:00 pm

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

curlingparish@hotmail.com
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

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

Reconciliation: By request

Mass During the Week: Tues & Thurs at 7:00 pm
Wed & Fri at 10:00 am
First Fridays - 2:00 pm at the Lohnes Complex

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: Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

St. Vincent de Paul: To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.



RECEIVED WITH THANKS

(May 5, 2019)

Regular Collection	1,679.35
Parish Insurance	20.00
Building Fund	210.00
Votive Candles	86.00
Mass Stipends	60.00
Bingo Proceeds	1,063.75
Easter Flowers	20.00
St. Vincent de Paul	10.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, May 13	No Mass
Tues, May 14	Late James Park
Wed, May 15	Late Joe Gallant
Thur, May 16	Late Laura Wells
Fri, May 17	Late Fr. Don Leonard
Sat, May 18	Late Leo Wheeler
Sun, May 19	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

May 18	
Basil English Linda Tarbett	Donna Mitchell Eileen Moore Joan Penney
May 19	
Wayne Dicks Amelia Dicks	Elizabeth Carew Doreen Jones Patsy Payne
Communion to the Lohnes Complex	
Tony Griffin	

BIBLE STUDY: We continue to meet every Sunday at 7:00 pm in the Church meeting room. Everyone is welcome.

MOTHER'S DAY: Today we remember with gratitude our mothers and all who have shown us a Mother's love. By their love and sacrifice, they have played such a big role in seeing us on our way.

We also remember those who have gone before us that they may know eternal happiness in the Kingdom of God. Happy Mother's Day, Mom.

FAREWELL ROBYN GALLANT: We wish farewell to Robyn as she takes up a new permanent fulltime position in an office in Corner Brook. Over the last 14 months she has been a dedicated office administrator and co-worker at Sacred Heart Parish. We wish her well in this new career move and we will miss her friendly manner. The part-time office administrator position will be advertised within the month. Thank you, Robyn, and may your new position be a source of blessing.

WELCOME: We welcome Jennie Colbourne as our interim office administrator. Jennie comes with a background of office work in other parishes and she will be with us until a new office administrator is hired. We hope she enjoys her time with us.

FOOD BANK NETWORK: 'Spring Into Action' Food Drive - **May 13th at 6:30 pm.** There will **not** be any neon-coloured stickers delivered to homes this year. We are asking that you put your food donations in a grocery bag and place on your doorstep **before 6:30 pm.** Volunteers will collect all bags and will **start at 6:30 pm.** If your house is missed, please call 634-5204 or 634-5398 **after 6:30 pm** on May 13. Thank you. From January to April this year, our food bank responded to 671 food requests. Help us to continue to feed families during the summer months. Thank you for your continued support!

4YOUTH: Today we celebrate Mother's Day, a day set aside to thank our mothers for giving us life, for raising us, for being our constant support and for the many things they do for us. It is appropriate that Mother's Day is celebrated in May, since this is the month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of us all. As we take time today to honour our earthly mothers, let's not forget to honour our Mother Mary, the epitome of motherhood. There are some beautiful prayers to Mary that you could say this month, such as the Hail Holy Queen (also called the Salve Regina) and the Memorare (a prayer seeking help). You can find these prayers on the Internet or you can listen to them on YouTube. Two beautiful hymns in praise of Mary that you could also watch on You Tube are



Magnificat by David Haas or Hail Mary-Gentle Woman by Michael O'Brien. (Maybe you could watch these today with your Mom!)

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS: On the weekend of May 11-12, there will be a special collection for ecclesiastical students. The money collected will be used to help support Vocation Ministry as well as for the training of priests for our diocese. This collection is held annually on the fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Vocations Sunday, a day when all Catholics are encouraged to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

QUILT TICKETS: Our Ladies Group now have tickets on sale on a NL King Size Quilt. Tickets are available from any member of the group or at the parish office. Please support their efforts.

MARY'S KITCHEN: Our Parish is responsible for the month of **MAY.** We are in need of volunteers for desserts and serving. The sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: The St. Vincent de Paul Society is desperately in need of Furniture. Dressers, tables, chairs, bed frames and mattresses. If you have any to offer please call 638-9010, we will pick up.



NATIONAL WEEK FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY: The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) has designated the week of May 12-19, 2019 as the seventh National Week for Life and the Family. The theme of this year's Week is "Listening to the Gospel as a Family". As Bishop Lionel Gendron, President of the CCCC, states in his message for this National Week, "Jesus tells us in John's Gospel that he desires for us to have an abundant life (Jn 10:10). The fullness of life we are to experience is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Father's loving plan for humanity, families are called to share in and be a sign of his life-giving presence." To read Bishop Gendron's complete letter, go to www.rcchurch.com

HUMOUR: Dermot's Story - Dermot McCann forgot his lines in a Sunday school play. Luckily his mother was in the front row specially to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Dermot's memory went completely blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, 'I am the light of the world.' Dermot beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice announced, 'My mother is the light of the world.'