

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: EASTER REPENTANCE?

The days are getting longer and warmer. We have had flocks of evening grosbeaks and redpolls at our feeders. Spring is here! It is a time of hope, of excitement, of possibility ... And yet, the dominant emotions that I am seeing and hearing all around me are discouragement, sorrow and frustration. It is hard for many of us to see what we have because we are so acutely aware of what we are missing. Even Easter seemed to fall short of what it used to be. We celebrated to the best of our ability; and we were glad that we could gather this year. But with everyone spread apart and wearing masks, with no processions, with no sprinkling rite, with no choir, the joy has felt muted. As I sat down to read the scripture passages for this Sunday, I couldn't help thinking that it was going to be hard to write a reflection because it doesn't feel like the Easter season. And then I read today's readings.

Somehow, in a lifetime of hearing these same readings every three years, I had missed the fact that they hold a space for a much wider range of emotions than I normally associate with Easter. Joy, exhilaration and excitement are natural and authentic responses to the resurrection, but these emotions alone are not sufficient to hold the fullness of the Easter story. In today's gospel Jesus' apostles and others are sharing accounts of seeing the risen Lord, yet when Jesus appears in their midst, it is not joy, but terror followed by doubt that fills them. And when they finally realize that it is Jesus and he really is alive the conversation turns not to exuberant celebration but to a discussion of suffering that precedes resurrection and to a repeat of the proclamation that began the gospel, a call to repentance now paired with a proclamation of forgiveness.



I usually think of the call to repentance as a Lenten call, not an Easter call. But today, I realized that it is also the perfect Easter call for times like these. Easter repentance is not a call to see the faults; it is a call to compassion. Compassion is one of the great spiritual gifts that has been around forever but has recently been "discovered" by neuroscientists and healthcare professionals. The root meaning of the word compassion is "to suffer with." Compassion requires three things: 1) awareness of suffering; 2) an emotional connection with the one who is suffering and a sharing/companionship in the suffering; and 3) a desire to reduce the suffering. Numerous studies show that offering compassion to others and to ourselves has a significant positive effect on both our physical and mental well-being.

The risen Jesus is a visible reassurance that suffering will not have the final word. Therefore, rather than run from suffering, we can turn toward it and change it. To repent is to see the suffering, to see the suffering that causes us to make destructive choices and to see the suffering that is caused by those choices. To repent is to allow ourselves to truly feel the suffering, to open our hearts even in the midst of the pain, to love the one who is suffering. And finally, to repent is to desire to reduce the suffering, to offer comfort and connection. To repent is to follow Jesus through suffering to new life.

So back to the discouragement, sorrow and frustration that seems so prevalent right now. The Easter message is not that they have been eliminated. The Easter message is that I can meet these difficult emotions with love and compassion and I will find new life even in these difficult times.

~Pam Driedger, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Third Sunday of Easter
April 18th, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

Phone: 523-6817 ~ Fax: 523-6868

Email: icprexton@rogers.com

Web: <https://ourladyofhope.weebly.com/>

Office Hours:

Tuesday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm,
Wednesday & Thursday - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Priest-Moderator:	Fr. Bill Bernard, C.Ss.R.	523-9788 (house)	233-6587 (cell)
Assistant:	Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R.	523-9788 (house)	

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

Sunday - 9:00 am & 4:00 pm

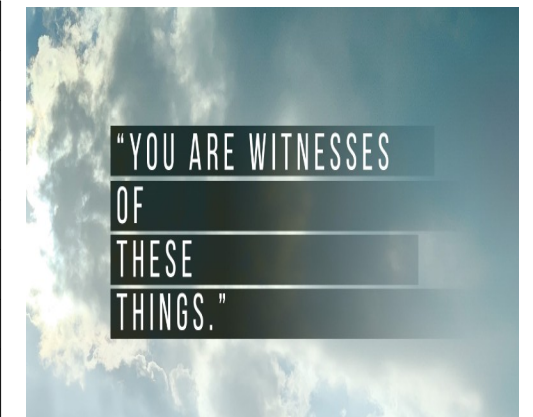
Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Times

Saturday - 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

	Acts	Psalm	John
Mon	Acts 6:8-15	Psalm 119	John 6:22-29
Tue	Acts 7:51-8:1	Psalm 31	John 6:30-35
Wed	Acts 8:1b-8	Psalm 66	John 6:35-40
Thur	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 66	John 6:44-51
Fri	Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 117	John 6:52-59
Sat	Acts 9:31-42	Psalm 116	John 6:60-69
Sun	Acts 4:8-12 John 3:1-2	Psalm 118	John 10:11-18



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$12.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$632.00**;
Easter Offering: **\$35.00**; Good Friday (Hospital
Chaplains): **\$20.00**; Mass Stipends: **\$51.00**;
Misc. Donation: **\$100.00**; CEWS Subsidy: **\$527.32**
Hall Rental: **\$95.00**
TOTAL: \$1472.32

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$47.35**; Regular Envelopes: **\$240.00**;
Easter Offering: **\$20.00**; Good Friday (Hospital
Chaplains): **\$10.00**;
TOTAL: \$317.35

Regional Mass Account

TOTAL: \$70.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Please note your envelope donations can also be left in the locked box outside the parish hall.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	17	SP	4:00 pm	Richard Murphy†	John & Evelyn
Sun	18	IC	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	18	IC	4:00 pm	Special Intention	A Parishioner
Tue	20	IC	4:00 pm	Roseline Martin†	Huguette
Thur	22	IC	4:00 pm	Fr. Michel Mercier†	Geralda Comeau
Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	25	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Bill & Stuart
Sun	25	IC	4:00 pm	Johnny LeGoff†	Bob LeGoff

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Stella
Sun	25	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Gloria Corinne Judi
Sun	25	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Stephen Bob Stephanie

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Alverie Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle, Brenda Beers, and all residents in special care homes.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED at Immaculate Conception to fill various roles for both the 9:00 am and 4:00 pm masses. We are in particular need of ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, GREETERS and MASS COORDINATORS. You may want to commit to once a month, twice a month, or more if you wish. If you think you may be called to one of these important ministries, contact the parish office or speak to Fr. Bill or Fr. Bernard.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Who is My Neighbour: Exploring

Fratelli Tutti Last chance to register for this session with Dr. Andrew Wilson is Monday, April 19th. You can attend either in person or virtually on Tuesday, April 20th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. as Andrew explores these and other questions surfacing from Pope Francis' encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti. A frequent presenter for the Office of Faith Development, Andrew is associate professor of religious studies at Mount Allison University, Sackville. In person participation will take place at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Riverview, where all COVID-19 protocols will be respected. To register contact Ellen at 857-9952.

Monday at the Movies Everyone is invited to join our film discussion series this Easter season designed to connect popular films to our faith. On April 19th, we will meet via Zoom at 10:00 am to discuss the film The Green Mile (1999), based on the novel by Stephen King. On May 3rd, we will meet via Zoom at 6:30 pm to discuss the film Signs (2002) starring Mel Gibson. For each session, participants will have watched the film ahead of time. Contact Karen for more information and to register at or ihmccatechism@rogers.com or 387-4198. Mondays at the Movies is a collaborative effort between St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit and the Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Youth Faith Development.

PRAYER TO

Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace,
mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.

Amen.

Prayer: © Libreria Editrice Vaticana
Front Image: *Joseph and the Child* © Gisele Bauche

CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES
CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA



CANADIAN CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS