

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ ARE YOU ABLE TO DRINK THE CUP THAT I DRINK?

Be careful what you wish for. That’s what popped into my head on reading the Gospel this week. It’s a little startling to hear the request James and John make of Jesus – this apparent grab for power. Even more startling if you read the verses prior to the ones we hear proclaimed from Mark’s Gospel.

“You do not know what you are asking,” Jesus says. But in fact, they SHOULD know what they are asking, because they have JUST been told. “Jesus took the 12 aside ... and began to tell them what was to happen to him” upon arrival in Jerusalem where they are headed: “... the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him and spit upon him, and flog him and kill him...” (Mark 10:32-34) Pretty explicit, I’d say.

Though it is James and John who make the request, none of the apostles – those closest to Jesus through all his ministry, those who left everything behind to follow him – understand, or likely accept, what Jesus is telling them. We know this because once the remaining 10 find out what James and John have done “they began to be angry with” them. Why wouldn’t they have simply said: ‘You got this James and John? Marvellous; we’ll take one of the next projects then.’

The greatness of Jesus is an anomaly of that time; frankly it is an anomaly of our time also. This is a greatness that opens one up to persecution and pain. It is a greatness of service, not glory. It flies in the face of what we deem power to be – not a place of privilege, but a place of hardship. The greatness of Jesus is an acceptance of the Cross and all that brings, as described by Isaiah in the first reading. This is difficult stuff – difficult to understand, difficult to accept, difficult to live.

We are living in challenging times with complicated rules, complicated reactions, complicated decisions to make, made even more complicated because the rules, the reactions, the decisions are frequently changing. The most prevalent feeling in the world today I believe, is anger – those who are vaccinated are angry at those who are not and those who are not vaccinated are angry because they are feeling pressured to be vaccinated. It seems so clear cut to those who support vaccination: either you are vaccinated, or you can’t come in. It seems so clear cut to those who oppose vaccination: you are taking away my rights by forcing this on me.

I have no intention of weighing in on this debate here. Jesus told us, “Whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave to all.” He also gave us only two commandments to follow – love God and love your neighbour as yourself. This commandment appears in all four Gospels.

In the second reading, Paul reminds the Hebrews “we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but ... one who ... has been tested as we are.” Jesus is fully human and fully divine. I suspect that James and John wanted the divine piece of that, but as impossible as it is to comprehend or explain, in Jesus, humanity and divinity are intricately one and the same. Jesuit priest John Kavanaugh says we tend not to be very good at being humans, never mind wanting to be gods. So, let’s leave it to God then, shall we? ... and simply love our neighbour, seeking no glory.

“Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?” Jesus asks John and James. “We are able,” they reply. But are they? And more importantly, are we?

~Ellen Bennett,
Archdiocese of Moncton Office for Evangelization and Catechesis



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
17 October 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

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Office Hours:

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

Priest-Moderator: Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R. 523-9788 Cell Phone: 889-0344

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

Sunday – 9:00 am & 4:00 pm (until further notice)
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

<i>Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week</i>			
Mon	2 Timothy 4:10-17	Psalms 145	Luke 10:1-9
Tue	Romans 5:12-19	Psalms 40	Luke 12:35-38
Wed	Romans 6:12-18	Psalms 124	Luke 12:39-48
Thur	Romans 6:19-23	Psalms 1	Luke 12:49-53
Fri	Romans 7:18-25	Psalms 119	Luke 12:54-59
Sat	Romans 8:1-11	Psalms 24	Luke 13:1-9
Sun	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Hebrews 5:1-6	Psalms 126	Mark 10:46-52



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$15.00; Regular Envelopes: \$925.00;
Needs of Cdn. Church: \$10.00; Propagation
of the Faith: \$10.00; Christmas Offering:
\$20.00; Mass Stipends Sept.: \$21.00;
HST Rebate: \$1025.16; **TOTAL: \$2,026.16**

St. Peter's

Loose: \$25.00; Envelopes: \$56.03;
Mass Stipends Sept.: \$12.00; **Total: \$93.03**

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	16	SP	4:00 pm	Ed Connolly†	Stella & Yvon
Sun	17	IC	9:00 am	William & Norman Hines†	Bill LeGoff
Sun	17	IC	4:00 pm	Bernard & Serena Hudson†	The Family
Tue	19	IC	4:00 pm	Anne Robichaud†	Jeanne Warren
Sat	23	SP	4:00 pm	John & Catherine Daigle†	Claire Murphy
Sun	24	IC	9:00 am	Special Intention	A Parishioner
Sun	24	IC	4:00 pm	Alma Hébert†	Huguette & Alverie

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	23	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	24	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Pat Corinne Gloria
Sun	24	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Bob

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO FR. PAUL BOMBARDIER, C.Ss.R., who will be with us from October 14th-25th while Fr. Bernard is away. Welcome, Fr. Paul!

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS There will be mass held at Immaculate Conception on Monday, November 1st, 7:00 pm. Following mass, Fr. Bernard will bless the cemetery.

CEMETERY BLESSINGS IN SOUTH BRANCH, BASS RIVER & KOUCHIBOUGUAC The cemetery blessing for South Branch will take place 20 minutes prior to mass on Saturday, October 30th. The Kouchibouguac Cemetery will be blessed on Monday, November 1st at 1:30 pm. The cemetery blessing for Bass River will take place on Tuesday, November 2nd at 2:00 pm. In case of inclement weather, the blessing for Bass River Cemetery will take place on November 3rd at 2:00 pm.

VOTIVES Please note that effective immediately the cost of purchasing a 5-day votive **will increase from \$4.00 each to \$5.00 each.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLMS BOYS RUGBY TEAM is holding a bottle drive to help pay for uniforms and equipment! On Wednesday, October 20th from 4-7 pm in the school parking lot they will be set up to receive your donations. You can drive in and drop off, or if you are not able, you can call Cheryl at 427-6670 and someone will pick up your donation.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY On October 10th, Pope Francis formally opened a two-year process called "a synod on synodality," officially known as "Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church." Pope Francis referred to the synod as a "time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers," Francis said. The following prayer, attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560-636), has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years.

*We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.*

*With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.*

*We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.*

*Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.*

*All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.*