

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – THOSE WHO WANDER

On January 19, a family of four were found frozen to death on the Canada-US border in Manitoba. It was a shocking and startling headline I spotted when perusing the CBC app on my cell phone. I felt sick. How could such a thing possibly happen in this land of opportunity? A land which had called the Patel family to immigrate, just as it had called my ancestors and the ancestors of any of us not of Indigenous descent in this country. Since then, I have been unable to get them out of my mind.

“A wandering Aramean was my father,” Moses tells the people they should respond in the first reading on this First Sunday of Lent. Moses and Abraham, the Aramean he is referring to, certainly understood the reasons why one leaves the country of their birth; they also experienced the challenges leaving can create. Wandering ... looking for “a land flowing with milk and honey.”

When I think of my ancestors crossing the Atlantic from Ireland in the 1800's, I expect they also faced many trials in their journey to Newfoundland – hardships I cannot comprehend the ability to survive. How difficult it must be to leave your home, the people you love, the culture you understand, the friends you have grown up with. How desperate must you feel to abandon what you know for the unknown, leave everyone behind in your search for something better ... seeking out opportunities for you and those you love. To wander ... as the Patel family clearly wandered, no doubt disorientated, ill prepared for winter in Canada. It is heartbreaking.

The Preparatory Document for the 2021-23 Synod, *For a Synodal Church* states: “The tragic condition faced by migrants in all regions of the world shows how high and strong the barriers dividing the single human family still are.” From the comfort of our 21st century North American homes, we sit in complacency with often little appreciation of how very blessed we are – this place where ready access is generally available to the food, medicine, education we and our children need. Not all have these comforts, but lots do; and it is not often a Canadian feels a need to take such risks to improve their lives. The only wandering many of us do, is around Costco. So it is hard for us to relate to the motivation of the Patel's, who by all accounts had jobs, homes, and family support in their home state of Gujarat. Still look around you – look at the increasing numbers of new Canadians, all who have left their land of birth for something better. Look at the other journeys that have been taken this winter.

“Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble,” the Psalmist writes. As people of faith, we believe that God is indeed with us, not only when we are in trouble, but always. Diocesan Coordinator for Justice and Solidarity Gladys LeBlanc, recently reminded the English Deanery Pastoral Council, that “God sees what is going on; we aren't being left to fend for ourselves.” That is the hope, she says, that we are called to give during these particularly challenging and troubling times. That hope is a whisper sometimes, hard to hear, hard to perceive, hard even to accept.

Some wanderings bring chaos and disruption; some wanderings bring death; some wanderings end in that land of milk and honey; but all wanderings begin with hope. It was hope that brought a family from India to Canada ... and somehow, it will be hope that will help us get through these days too.

~Ellen Bennett, Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

1st Sunday of Lent
6 March 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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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

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18	Psalm 19	Matthew 25:31-46
Tue	Isaiah 55:10-11	Psalm 34	Matthew 6:7-15
Wed	Jonah 3:1-10	Psalm 51	Luke 11:29-32
Thur	Ecclesiastes 12:14-25	Psalm 138	Matthew 7:7-12
Fri	Ezekiel 18:21-28	Psalm 130	Matthew 5:20-26
Sat	Deuteronomy 26:16-19	Psalm 119	Matthew 5:43-48
Sun	Genesis 15:5-12 Philippians 3:17-4:1	Psalm 27	Luke 9:28-36



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$95.85**; Regular Env: **\$605.00**;
 New Year's Env.: **\$100.00**;
 Donation: **\$150.00**;
 Donations for Oil Tank Replacement:
\$270.00; **TOTAL: \$1220.85**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$25.00**; Envelopes: **\$195.00**;
TOTAL: \$220.00

St. Peter's Cemetery

Donation *IMO* David Harnett: **\$100.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$130.00**

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	5	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Norma McNairn
Sun	6	IC	9:00 am	Cathy Roach†	Norma McNairn & Family
Sun	6	IC	4:00 pm	In Honour of St. Anthony for Favour Received	A Parishioner
Tue	8	IC	4:00 pm	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Blaine
Sat	12	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Gertrude Connolly
Sun	13	IC	9:00 am	Lionel Comeau†	Wife & Family
Sun	13	IC	4:00 pm	Eric Johnson, Sr.†	Elva & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	12	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	13	IC	9:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Pat Donna
Sun	13	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 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.



The dates for Lent and Easter change all the time. Who determines when these feasts will be celebrated each year?

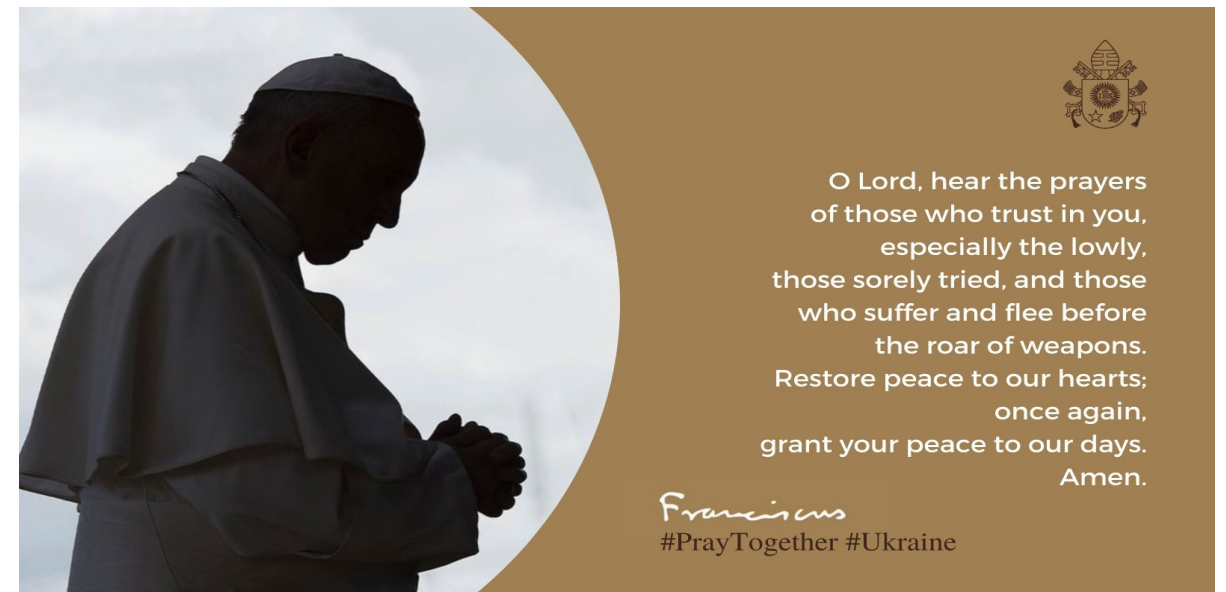
Though there is some divergence in parts of the Christian world, our celebration of Easter is on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox, which we ordinarily refer to as the first day of spring, is on or about March 21st. The dates for Lent, Ascension and Pentecost are determined by counting backward or forward from the date of Easter. Lent is a more penitential time than Advent, but both seasons prepare the faithful for a big feast. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (Sundays are not officially considered days of Lent). During this time, Catholics are asked to pray, fast, and do good works (alms). The Season of Lent culminates at Easter, officially ending on Holy Thursday at sunset, when we enter into the Easter Triduum.

(Source: *Catholic Q&A: Answers to the Most Common Questions About Catholicism* [2002], by John J. Dietzen.)

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: A MOVEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. We partner with organizations in the Global South that promote alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures and support women in their quest for equality and justice. With the help of our 11,000+ volunteer members, we inform Canadians about the root causes of impoverishment and mobilize them to act for change. Our Lenten campaign, *People and Planet First*, offers you the opportunity to help protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems from corporate abuse. To learn more about and to join our movement, visit devp.org.



O Lord, hear the prayers
 of those who trust in you,
 especially the lowly,
 those sorely tried, and those
 who suffer and flee before
 the roar of weapons.
 Restore peace to our hearts;
 once again,
 grant your peace to our days.
 Amen.

Franciscus
 #PrayTogether #Ukraine