

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ THE RESURRECTION

We have something in our Roman Catholic faith called the “hierarchy of truths.” In other words, while we believe many things to be true, some just carry more importance than others. In a hierarchy, the most important stuff is found at the top, and the less important stuff is found further down the ladder. I actually prefer a dartboard to a hierarchy. The bullseye of the dartboard is the absolute truth of all truths—that Jesus Christ is risen. If he is not risen, then our faith is in vain says St. Paul (1 Cor. 15:14).

The death and resurrection of Christ are not simply events that happened to Jesus 2000 years ago. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the pattern of all life. Nothing emerges without first dying. Everyone of you reading these words has already partaken—whether you are aware of it or not—in many little “deaths” and many little “resurrections.” They are test runs, rehearsals for your final death and ultimate resurrection.

If Jesus simply lived and died, he would be, at best, remembered as another great prophet of Israel. Our conviction, like those of the Early Church, is that the Risen Lord forever among us. Jesus’ own resurrection gave notice that death would no longer have power over us. Our death, like Jesus’ death, is no more than a “change of life.” You have all heard the priest pray these words at a funeral Mass: “life is changed, not ended.”

There are three accounts in the gospels where Jesus raised people from the dead. He raised the daughter of Jairus (Mk. 5:21-43), the son of the widow of Nain (Lk. 7:11-17), and, of course, Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44) who had been in the tomb four days. These events, as powerful as they were, are qualitatively different than the Resurrection of Christ. Unlike Christ’s Resurrection, these three were more akin to what we call resuscitation, although that doesn’t fully capture it either. These three would live a while and then have to die again. Jesus, on the other hand, had his body-person transformed forever.

What a transformed body looks like is beyond my imagination. Everyone who saw Jesus in his resurrected state were so caught by surprise that even they were hard pressed to described him. Unlike a mortal body, he could pass through walls (Jn. 20:19), walk alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13-35), and offer his mortal wounds to be touched (Jn. 20:19-29). Many gave their lives in witness to this truth. We even confess in the Apostles Creed that we fully expect “the resurrection of the body” for ourselves at the end of time.

It wasn’t just the fact of the Resurrection but, moreover, the experience of the Risen Lord that launched the Christian faith and founded the Church. Of course, the experience of the Risen Lord at Easter must be rounded out with the experience of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Spirit is not bound by time and space like flesh is. I’m sure you have all experienced the spirit of a loved one no longer with you in the flesh. I have. That’s the tip off that resurrection is real and that death is a doorway from life to greater Life. The Jesus of history and the Christ of faith are one and the same person. Don’t try to understand what will always remain mystery. Instead, hunger for an experience of the Risen One in your midst. He’s not in the tomb. In his resurrected state, Jesus is about the land doing what he always did.

~Fr. Phil Mulligan, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Unit



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 17 April 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5
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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. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R. 523-9788 Cell Phone: 889-0344

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

Sunday – 9:00 am
 Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

	Acts	Psalms	Gospels
Mon	Acts 2:14-33	Psalms 16	Matthew 28:8-15
Tue	Acts 2:36-41	Psalms 33	John 20:11-18
Wed	Acts 3:1-10	Psalms 105	Luke 24:13-35
Thur	Acts 3:11-26	Psalms 8	Luke 24:35-48
Fri	Acts 4:1-12	Psalms 118	John 21:1-14
Sat	Acts 4:13-21	Psalms 118	Mark 16:9-15
Sun	Acts 5:12-16 Revelation 1:9-19	Psalms 118	John 20:19-31



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$80.00**; Envelopes: **\$1,445.00**;
 Share Lent: **\$175.00**; Needs of Holy Land: **\$100.00**;
 Hospital Chaplains: **\$220.00**;
 Easter Offering: **\$145.00**;
 Mass Stipends March: **\$33.00** **TOTAL: \$2,198.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$15.00**; Envelopes: **\$125.00**;
 Share Lent: **\$5.00**;
 Mass Stipends March: **\$12.00**; **TOTAL: \$157.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Donation IMO Josie McGlynn: **\$10.00**;
 Misc. Donation: **\$5.00**; **TOTAL: \$15.00**

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	16	IC	8:30 pm	Easter Vigil	
Sun	17	SB	10:30 am	Marie Guidera †	Claire Murphy
Tue	19	IC	4:00 pm	Roseline Martin †	Huguette
Sat	23	SB	4:00 pm	Teresa Warman †	Dale & Debbie Harnett
Sun	24	IC	9:00 am	Raymond Perry †	Nancy & Joan

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	23	SB	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	24	IC	9:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Pat Vina	Adona

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROSARY SCHEDULE

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	24	IC	8:30 am	Gail B.	1st Decade: For our clergy
Sun	1	IC	8:30 am	Maia S.	2nd Decade: For our parishioners
Sun	8	IC	8:30 am	Gail B.	3rd Decade: For our youth
Sun	15	IC	8:30 am	Maia S.	4th Decade: For peace in our world 5th Decade: For the intentions of parishioners

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

PLEASE NOTE FR. BERNARD WILL BE AWAY FROM APRIL 24TH-29TH, SO THERE WILL BE NO 4:00 PM MASS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH IN REXTON.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND Thanks to the federal inquiry known as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which took place between 2008 and 2015, we now have a better understanding of what happened to Indigenous people in our country. The Commission in question recorded the testimonies of hundreds of residential school survivors. This same Commission issued 94 calls to action in order to right the legacy of the residential schools and to promote a road to reconciliation in Canada. Some of these calls for action were specifically addressed to the Catholic Church. It is long overdue for Canadian society and the Church to pay genuine attention to Indigenous people and their culture as well as the challenges they are facing. In recent decades, the Catholic Church has made efforts at reconciliation. It is now seeking to embark on a journey leading to reconciliation and solidarity. During this Holy Week, let us pray to the Lord to help us move forward together towards healing and reconciliation. ~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

JOB OFFER - PART TIME MANAGEMENT POSITION The Archdiocese of Moncton is seeking candidates to fill the position of Manager of Our Lady of Calvary Cemetery on a part time basis. The interested candidates must be proficient in both English and French and have demonstrated management experience. Candidates may submit their resume to the Moncton Archdiocese Reception Office at 224 St George Street Moncton, Attention: Financial Administrator, by April 8, 2022. A job description is available by email: annettel.diocese@gmail.com

ONLINE COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE Development and Peace is taking online donations to help the thousands of people affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine. You can make a donation on our website (www.devpo.org), by calling 1 888 664-3387 or by sending us a cheque by mail (1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3rd floor, Montreal, QC, H3G 1T7) made out to Development and Peace and marked "**Ukraine Emergency**". Thank you for your generosity in showing your affection for the women, men and children injured or forced to flee their homes.

MONDAY @ THE MOVIES Our next Mondays @ The Movies will take place on Monday, April 25th at 10:30 AM (via Zoom) when we will discuss faith themes in the (2002) New Zealand film Whale Rider. Contact Trevor for more information or to register.

VBS EXPRESS Vacation Bible School This year's Vacation Bible School will take place 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm on Zoom from June 6th-9th. The theme is **MONUMENTAL: Celebrating God's Greatness**. Register with Karen at 387-4198 or catechism.set@gmail.com or Trevor at 857-4879 or trevord.diocese@gmail.com. Due to limited space, the registrations must be received by May 1st, and there will be a \$20 registration/place-holding fee that will be refunded at the end of the program.

