

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ PEACE BE WITH YOU

I take part in a book study every Sunday night. I love this group because we study Christian books and stretch our brain as well as deepen our faith. This past Sunday was particularly interesting. Right before we started the conversation about the book, a close friend posed the question: "what's the difference between disciples and apostles?" it's funny because somewhere in my brain I knew the answer but at that moment, I drew a complete blank! Naturally, in this situation I turned to another close friend, Google. I told my friend: "According to Google a disciple is someone who believes in and studies Jesus, as the lord and saviour. An Apostle is someone who was specifically chosen by Jesus to spread the gospel after his death and resurrection."

I find it amazing that I was asked that question a mere two days before writing and submitting this reflection. You might think, "so what? What does this have to do with this week's reflection?" Well in today's gospel, you'll notice that Jesus greets his apostles with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. He also charges his disciples (now apostles) with the mission to continue his work. Jesus was sent by God, and so too does Jesus send his disciples "Peace be with you, As the Father has sent me, so I send you." This continuation of Jesus' own mission is an essential part of the church. For His disciples to accomplish this mission he gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church.

You'll also notice Thomas and his hesitation in believing that Jesus was resurrected. His doubt represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. To quote Fr. Njoku Canice Chukwuemeka, C.S.Sp.: *"Doubt and fear limit the greatest effort and power in the world. They make it difficult for one to believe the wonders that God has worked by resurrecting Christ. Therefore, we must expel the spirit of doubt and fear from our lives in order to experience the power of the resurrected Christ. Also, let us embrace the peace that Christ brings to us this Easter. The power of Christ's resurrection brings healing and peace to our body and soul. It also restores us to life. This was the reason he was resurrected."*

Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Luckily for us, Thomas was given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this information. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed. Again, I'll quote Fr. Njoku Canice Chukwuemeka *"As we bear witness through our words and actions to the resurrection of Christ, let us give thanks to God because, He considered us worthy of sharing in the power of the risen Lord. His love and mercy for us endures forever."* So even if you're like Thomas and you doubt the events that occurred, how has your life changed this past week? Are you now more like Jesus, showing up bringing peace, offering peace, embodying peace? Like the apostles, have you received the gift of the Holy Spirit? Will you go out and continue Jesus' mission?

~Katy Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Second Sunday of Easter 24 April 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



### Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5  
**Phone:** 506-523-6817 ~ **Fax:** 506-717-0245  
**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. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R. 523-9788 Cell Phone: 889-0344

### Immaculate Conception Mass Times

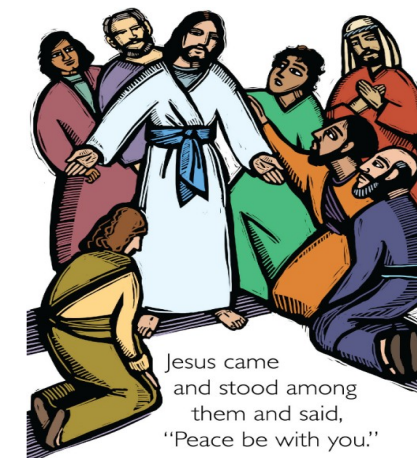
Sunday – 9:00 am  
 Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

### St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

### Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

<b>Mon</b>	1 Peter 5:5-14	Psalms 89	Mark 16:15-20
<b>Tue</b>	Acts 4:32-37	Psalms 93	John 3:7-15
<b>Wed</b>	Acts 5:17-26	Psalms 34	John 3:16-21
<b>Thur</b>	Acts 5:27-33	Psalms 34	Luke 3:31-36
<b>Fri</b>	Acts 5:34-42	Psalms 27	John 6:1-15
<b>Sat</b>	Acts 6:1-7	Psalms 33	John 6:16-21
<b>Sun</b>	Acts 5:27-32 Revelation 5:11-14	Psalms 30	John 21:1-19



Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

John 20:19, NRSV

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$95.00**; Envelopes: **\$455.00**;  
 Share Lent: **\$50.00**; Hospital Chaplains: **\$370.55**;  
 Easter Offering: **\$1,150.00**;  
 New Year's Day Offering: **\$10.00**;  
 Potluck Donation: **\$20.00**; **TOTAL: \$2,150.55**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$64.00**; Envelopes: **\$100.00**;  
 Share Lent: **\$25.00**; Initial Offering: **\$5.00**;  
 Hospital Chaplains: **\$60.00**;  
 Easter Offering: **\$100.00**; **TOTAL: \$354.00**

### St. James Cemetery

Donation IMO Fred Daigle: **\$100.00**;  
 Perpetual Care Fees: **\$200.00**; **TOTAL: \$300.00**

## 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	23	SB	4:00 pm	Teresa Warman†	Dale & Debbie Harnett
Sun	24	IC	9:00 am	Raymond Perry †	Nancy & Joan
Tue	26	IC	4:00 pm	<b>No 4:00 PM Mass on April 26th</b>	
Sat	30	SB	4:00 pm	Rose Jean Cormier†	JoAnn Murphy & Family
Sun	1	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Bill & Stuart

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	30	SB	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	1	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Bob Donna	Adona

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROSARY SCHEDULE

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	24	IC	8:30 am	Gail B.	<b>1st Decade:</b> For our clergy
Sun	1	IC	8:30 am	Maia S.	<b>2nd Decade:</b> For our parishioners
Sun	8	IC	8:30 am	Gail B.	<b>3rd Decade:</b> For our youth
Sun	15	IC	8:30 am	Maia S.	<b>4th Decade:</b> For peace in our world
					<b>5th Decade:</b> 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 – MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP VIENNEAU

To enjoy a more genuine relationship with our indigenous brothers and sisters, we must seek to understand the lingering pain of those who survived residential schools and of those who live with intergenerational trauma. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to look at past events with an open mind, acknowledge our mistakes, and find a new way to walk, neither in front nor behind but, alongside our indigenous brothers and sisters. Wanting to move from words to action, we need to become concretely involved in reconciliation projects. To this end, we will have the opportunity to participate in the May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday collection with the proceeds going to the Reconciliation Fund. The Fund will be managed by a National Board of directors, made up of various leaders, half of them, indigenous, who will be accountable for good governance and transparency in the administration of the funds. I am pleased to inform you that the money raised in our parishes will be returned to the diocese, enabling us to support local projects along with our four local Mi'gmaq communities. Next week, I will provide you with additional information to help in the planning of your donation come May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Special envelopes have been distributed to parishes for this collection.

~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

**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.devp.org](http://www.devp.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](mailto:catechism.set@gmail.com) or Trevor at 857-4879 or [trevord.diocese@gmail.com](mailto: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.

