

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ BREAKING THE EUCHARISTIC BREAD

There is a parable that I heard some years ago from [John Shea](#) about a Cretan peasant. It runs this way:

*There once lived a peasant in Crete who deeply loved his life. He enjoyed tilling the soil, feeling the warm sun on his naked back as he worked the fields, and feeling the soil under his feet. He loved the planting, the harvesting, and the very smell of nature. He loved his wife and his family and his friends, and he enjoyed being with them, eating with them, drinking wine, talking, and making love. And he loved especially Crete, his tiny, beautiful country! The earth, the sky, the sea, it was his! This was his home.*

*One day he sensed that death was near. What he feared was not what lay beyond, for he knew God's goodness and had lived a good life. No, he feared leaving Crete, his wife, his children, his friends, his home, and his land. Thus, as he prepared to die, he grasped in his right hand a few grams soil from his beloved Crete and he told his loved ones to bury him with it.*

*He died, awoke, and found himself at heaven's gates, the soil still in his hand, and heaven's gate firmly barred against him. Eventually St. Peter emerged through the gates and spoke to him: "you've lived a good life, and we've a place for you inside, but you cannot enter unless you drop that handful of soil. You cannot enter as you are now!"*

*The man was reluctant to drop the soil and protested: "why? Why must I let go of this soil? Indeed, I cannot! What's inside of those gates, I have no knowledge of. But this soil, I know, ...it's my life, my work, my wife and kids, it's what I know and love, it's Crete! Why should I let it go for something I know nothing about?"*

*Peter answered: "When you get to heaven you will know why. It's too difficult to explain. I am asking you to trust, trust that God can give you something better than a few grains of soil."*

*But the man refused. In the end, silent and seemingly defeated, Peter left him, closing the large gates behind. Several minutes later, the gates opened a second time and this time, from them, emerged a young child. She did not try to coax the man into letting go of the soil in his hand. She simply took his hand and, as she did, it opened and the soil of Crete spilled to the ground. She then led him through the gates.*

*A shock awaited him as he entered heaven ... there, before him, lay all of Crete!*

When Jesus gave us the Eucharist, he left it to us with the words: receive, give thanks, break, and share. With these words, he was referring to a lot more than ritual and rubrics for the reception of the Eucharist at a liturgy. These words contain an entire spirituality in that they lay out the way that we must live all of life. The story helps us to understand what is meant by one of those words, break. How do we break so as to become a Eucharistic person? Parable and story can touch deep affective levels in us and move us in rationally inexplicable ways, and so a story of this kind shouldn't be given too much explanation. It should be more an object for meditation than explanation. Nonetheless, a tiny application might be helpful.

When Jesus links the idea of "breaking" to the Eucharist, the rending and breaking down that he is talking about has to do with narcissism, individualism, pride, self-serving ambition, and all the other things that prevent us from letting go of ourselves so as to truly be with others. Buddhism suggests that everything that is wrong the world can be explained in one image, that of the group photo. Whenever anyone looks at a group photo, he or she always first looks how he or she turned out and, only afterwards, considers whether or not it is a good picture of the group.

**Breaking the Eucharistic bread has a whole lot to do with looking first at how the group turned out.**

St. Augustine, in his Eucharistic homilies, was fond of telling people: "if you receive this well, you are what you receive. ... For the loaf that contains Christ is made up of many individual kernels of grain, but these kernels must, to become the loaf containing Christ, first be ground up and then baked together by fire."

~Fr. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 3 July 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton



**Parish Office:**

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

**Phone:** 506-523-6817

**Email:** [icprexton@rogers.com](mailto: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

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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

**Immaculate Conception Mass Times**

Sunday – 11:00 am

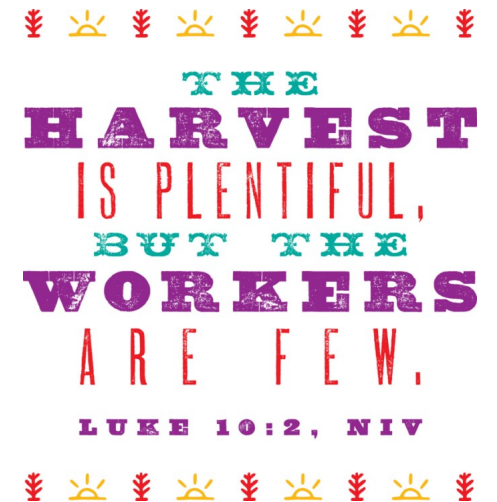
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

**St. Peter's Mass Time**

Saturday – 4:00 pm

**Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week**

<b>Mon</b>	Hosea 2:16-22	Psalms 145	Matthew 9:18-26
<b>Tue</b>	Hosea 8:4-13	Psalms 115	Matthew 9:32-38
<b>Wed</b>	Hosea 10:1-12	Psalms 105	Matthew 10:1-7
<b>Thu</b>	Hosea 11:1-9	Psalms 80	Matthew 10:7-15
<b>Fri</b>	Hosea 14:2-10	Psalms 51	Matthew 10:16-23
<b>Sat</b>	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalms 93	Matthew 10:24-33
<b>Sun</b>	Deuteronomy 30:10-14 Colossians 1:15-20	Psalms 69	Luke 10:25-37



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$70.00; Envelopes: \$805.00;

**TOTAL: \$875.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: \$20.00; Envelopes: \$150.00;

**TOTAL: \$170.00**

Thank you

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	2	SB	4:00 pm	Josie McGlynn†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	3	IC	11:00 am	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Blaine
Tue	5	IC	4:00 pm	Katharine Tramley†	Huguette
Sat	9	SB	4:00 pm	Brenda Warham†	Claire Murphy
Sun	10	IC	11:00 am	John Flynn†	Jeanne Warren

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	9	SB	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	10	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Donna Bob Gloria

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	3	IC	10:30 am	Gail	<b>1st Decade:</b> For our clergy <b>2nd Decade:</b> For our parishioners <b>3rd Decade:</b> For our youth <b>4th Decade:</b> For peace in our world <b>5th Decade:</b> For the intentions of parishioners
Sun	10	IC	10:30 am	Maia	
Sun	17	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	24	IC	10:30 am	Maia	

## WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

**THERE IS A PROMISE OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN JOSEPH JEAN (JOHN) LAURENT BOURQUE (MCKEES MILLS) AND MARIE ALICE RENÉE (DIANE) AMYOT (MCKEES MILLS). THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE WILL TAKE PLACE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN REXTON ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>.**



**OUR SYMPATHY GOES OUT** to the families of those from our faith community who have recently died, including Owen Sullivan, Rose-Marie Doucette, and Albert Mattinson.



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH SOCIALS** Our next parish social will take place on **July 17<sup>th</sup>** following mass with another to follow on **August 21<sup>st</sup>**. There will be a basket for freewill offering, with all funds raised going to the parish. We are also looking for volunteers willing to assist with the clean-up afterwards, and also to help sell tickets for the Quilt Raffle. For more information, contact Maia Scoretz at [family@forourlady.com](mailto:family@forourlady.com), 778-804-8370 or 506-688-6061. *Please note it is not necessary to bring food if you wish to come, everyone is welcome!*

**PARISH QUILT RAFFLE** Tickets are now available for the Immaculate Conception Quilt Raffle! The cost is \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, and can be obtained by dropping into the parish office. The quilt was hand-crafted and donated by the Quilting Ladies of the parish. Anyone interested in selling tickets for the fundraiser should contact the parish office. Winner will be drawn Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MASS AT CHAPEL POINT** Fr. Bernard will celebrate mass at St. Patrick's Church (Chapel Point) on Saturday, July 23 at 4:00 pm. There will be no 4:00 pm mass held in South Branch on this date.

**STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY** We are looking for a summer student to serve as groundskeeper for Immaculate Conception Parish. The position involves work in the cemetery and parish halls. For more information or to submit a resume, please contact the parish office.

**THE FAMILY OF THE LATE WAYNE COCHRANE** invite friends to join them in a Celebration of Life to be held at Thompson's Funeral Home in Richibucto on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm.

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Monday @ The Movies** is a discussion group that meets regularly to talk about faith connections in popular movies. Our next movie discussion will take place on Zoom on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am when we will talk about the (2004) independent comedy, *Napoleon Dynamite*. For more information or to register, contact Trevor at 857-4879 or [trevord.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:trevord.diocese@gmail.com).