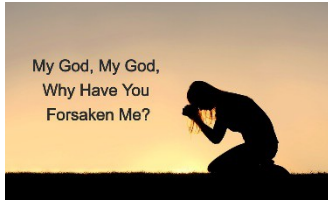


**EXPLORING OUR FAITH – My God, my God...**



Years ago, when I was the catechetical coordinator at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, the parent of a child in year 5 called me with a question from her son. They had been to mass on Palm Sunday, and hearing in the Gosepl the same words used during the responsorial psalm – “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” – the child asked, ‘Since Jesus is the Son of God, and knows everything, why would he say that when he knows God had not abandoned him?’ All those years ago, it struck me as a fairly weighty question for a 10

year old to ask, and frankly, I still think it is. At the time I had to seek a response from someone else because that was a question I had never considered before. And the answer I received, despite thinking it somewhat trite, was the one I passed along to the mom: ‘Jesus was quoting Psalm22 which begins in despair, but ends on a high note.’ Take a look at the Psalm, and you will see what I mean.

Many years later, at a workshop on the Psalms facilitated by Dr. Fiona Black and Rev. Dr. Hugh Farquahar I received a much better explanation: to fully understand what Jesus meant with those words, we need to live Good Friday as Good Friday, attempting to not yet focus our eyes on Easter. We need to live the events of Holy Week trying to forget the advantage we already have of knowing the end of the story. This will help us to clearly see the humanity of Jesus, who as a good Jew was indeed quoting Scripture as he hung dying on the cross. If we can live Palm Sunday as the day Jesus was celebrated upon entry into Jerusalem; Holy Thursday as the day Jesus shared a final meal with his followers, and later faced betrayal and arrest; Good Friday as the day Jesus was crucified and died, those haunting words will resonate with us in a profound way.

How many times in their history must the Jewish people have prayed that Psalm? How many times have we prayed it, or, worse still, felt it? The Psalms are filled with realism and human emotions. They are passionate expressions that arise from the heart and soul of the people of ancient Israel, giving their remarkable sense of spiritual journey in poetry and music. As it is today, so it was when these words were written - poetry and music express our deepest insights and this is what we hear in the Psalms. Poetry allows us to articulate the questions that are important to us, like suffering and death. They work because they are good poetry, and they have something significant to say.

While it is true that all the Psalms are praise regardless of the words used, they also allow us to express anguish and pain, despair and anger, struggle, and remorse. The Psalms were central to the worship of the Hebrew people, and frequently they have not been given the attention they should be by us. Pope Benedict believed that the Psalms could teach us how to pray. Athanasius, a fourth century theologian said of the Psalms, “whereas most Scripture speaks to us; the Psalms speak for us.” They provide a human response to God’s presence in our midst. They are the way we seek answers to our deepest questions.

When words fail us in our communication with God, the Psalms allow our feelings to be expressed in poignant ways. We feel the words wash over us, as a cleansing. With eyes and hearts of faith, we know that God will never forsake us. Yet our tradition allows a space for despair, for protest, for complaint. And those beautiful words give us the means to express that.

~ Ellen Bennett

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Palm Sunday of the Pasion of the Lord 24 March 2024

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



**Parish Office:**

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

**Phone:** 506-523-6817

**Email:** icprexton@rogers.com

**Web:** <https://ourladyofhope.weebly.com/>

**Office Hours:**

Monday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Tuesday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm,  
Wednesday to Friday – 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**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>	Isaiah 42:1-7	Ps 27	John 12:1-11
<b>Tue</b>	Isaiah 49:1-6	Ps 71	John 13:21-38
<b>Wed</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9	Ps 69	Matthew 26:14-25
<b>Thu</b>	Exodus 12:1-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Ps 116	John 13:1-15
<b>Fri</b>	Isaiah 52:13-52:12 Hebrews 4:14-16	Ps 31	John 18:1-19:42
<b>Sat</b>	Genesis 1:1-2:2	Ps 104	Mark 16:1-7
<b>Sun</b>	Acts 10:34A-43 1 Corinthians 5:6B-8	Ps 118	John 20:1-18



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$103.00**; Envelopes: **\$1080.00**; New Year's Day Env.: **\$20.00**; Share Lent Env.: **\$20.00**; Hall Rental: **\$270.00**; Funeral Payment: **\$375.00** **TOTAL: \$1868.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$22.00**; Envelopes: **\$180.00**; Share Lent Env.: **\$30.00**; Church Donation: **\$300.00** **TOTAL: \$532.00**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	23	SP	4:00 pm	Josie McGlynn †	Bill McGlynn
Sun	24	IC	11:00 am	Odette & Ron Sawyer †	Diane, Jeannine & Family
Tue	26	IC	4:00 pm	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Sat	30	IC	8:30 pm	<b>Easter Vigil - People of the Parish</b>	
Sun	31	SP	10:30 am	<b>Easter Sunday - People of the Parish</b>	

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	30	IC	8:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions	Corrine / Jocelyn Judi	Gloria
Sun	31	SP	10:30 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	31	IC			1 <sup>st</sup> Decade: For our Clergy; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	7	IC	10:30 am	Vina	3 <sup>rd</sup> Decade: For our youth; 4 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For peace in our world; 5 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For the intentions of parishioners.



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

**ALVERIE ROBICHAUD, CHRISTIAN ROBICHAUD**

**ROGER MAZEROLLE**

**ALL RESIDENTS LIVING IN SPECIAL CARE HOMES**

## SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM

March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Chrism Mass (Tuesday)	10:00 AM	Moncton Cathedral
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	Indian Island
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday	3:00 PM	Elsipogtog
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)	8:30 PM	Rexton
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday	10:30 AM	South Branch

**PLEASE NOTE, FR. BERNARD WILL BE AWAY FROM APRIL 8TH-12TH, SO, THERE WILL BE NO 4:00 PM MASS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH IN REXTON.**

**CATECHISM** (Confirmation participants) – Our next catechism session will be on Tuesday, **March 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm in Elsipogtog.

**WAY OF THE CROSS – GOOD FRIDAY**, will take place in **Elsipogtog, March 29<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 in the morning.

**CHANGES TO PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE** Please note that during Holy Week, the Parish Office will be **closed on Friday, Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>** and **Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>**. The Parish Office will be return to regular office hours on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**LENT GOES TO THE MOVIES** Our Mondays @ The Movies film discussion group will meet regularly over Lent to discuss Lenten themes in popular films. Our last discussion for Lent will be on **March 25<sup>th</sup> – Billy Elliot (2000)**. All discussions take place on Zoom at 2:00 pm. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com) to register. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion, and DVDs will be made available for participants to borrow.

**WAY OF THE CROSS 2024** – Please note the Way of the Cross on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** will take place at Holy Family Church in Moncton and NOT Immaculate Heart of Mary Church as originally published in your bulletin.

**Thank you for giving from the heart to Share Lent 2024!** Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks you for supporting the **Reaping our Rights** campaign with your Share Lent donation. Thank you for your generosity. The sum collected will help support our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

If you have not yet had a chance to give, you can still place your Share Lent envelope in the offertory or donate online at [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give).

Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.

