

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes

Parishes' Office: 902-535-2053

Laureen Burke – Mondays & Tuesdays: 9:00 – 12:00

Mary Sutherland – Wednesdays & Thursdays: 9:00 – 12:00

May 1, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you (Jn 15:5-7).



Sunday Readings

The **first reading** taken from the the Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31 is about St. Paul's first visit to Jerusalem after his conversion.

The **second reading** is from the first Letter of John 3:18-24. In today's verses the Beloved Disciple is urging his readers to believe firmly in Jesus Christ the Son of God, and to love their neighbor with a practical love, a love which will help him in his corporal and spiritual needs.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 15:1-8. The words of consolation and encouragement which our Lord spoke to his Apostles on Holy Thursday night were intended to console and encourage all his followers for all time. They encourage and console us today, and we need encouragement to persevere on the road to heaven. Living a truly Christian life is never easy. We have always the attraction of the world, and the temptations by the agents of evil, to make that life less easy still. But in our own day these difficulties have increased a hundredfold. The attractions of this world have been multiplied by the increased comforts, pleasures and means of self-indulgence which science and technology have put within our reach. Human nature, always inclined to choose the easiest way out, has been given so many means of escape from the strain of self-control that even for a fervent Christian it is frequently very difficult to avoid these worldly allurements.

Having the ordinary comforts of life and the possession of some of this world's goods is not wrong or anti-Christian, but the natural temptation is to get more and more of these comforts and riches, and the point is soon reached where this becomes the only purpose in life. When this sad stage is arrived at, God and our future life are forgotten; this world becomes our idol and our prison. The temptations which the agents of evil put in Christ's way are also multiplied today. The communications media are now very technically improved and perfected and can be, and sometimes are, a means for good. Unfortunately, more frequently, they are the channels of bad example. The evil deeds of men have more "news value" than their good deeds. And it is so much easier to follow the bad example! Permissiveness, rejection of authority, glorification of unlawful sexual indulgence, drug addiction, and other such crimes are placed before the minds and the eyes of the youth of today, and are unfortunately copied by far too many.

It is indeed hard to swim against the current; it is so much more pleasant to allow oneself to be carried along without effort by the rushing tide. But when there are rocks and shoals ahead, the thoughtless and ease-seeking swimmer will end in grief. Our Lord has warned us today, as he warned his first followers, to abide in him, to remain closely united with him, as is the branch to the vine, if we hope to bear fruit worthy of heaven. He promises us that if we remain closely united to him, that is, if we strive daily to keep his commandments, he will be ever ready to answer our requests, and to heed all our prayers. The sincere prayer today of every man who is trying to lead a Christian life is for the grace to overcome the allurements of the world, the flesh and the devil. Let us take courage, then. Christ has promised to remain beside us during life if

only we stay close to him. While we remain healthy branches of the vine, Christ, we will be on the road to heaven. Our daily tasks, our work as well as our prayer, our recreation as well as our rest, our joys as well as our sorrows, will give glory to God and prove that we are worthy to be called disciples of Christ.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

From Bishop Kirkpatrick

April 28, 2021

My Dear People,

With their third COVID-19 update in two days, Premier Iain Rankin and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Robert Strang announced a province-wide shutdown for the next two weeks effective today.

The directive mandates that there be no in-person faith gatherings in the province for the next two weeks. I support this shutdown and direct that our churches remain closed to the public until further notice. Our diocesan and parish offices will be closed to the public during this time.

The new variants of this pandemic have been spreading rapidly. We need to work together to stop the spread of this virus by staying home and limiting our interaction with others. Our faith is essential to us. Please continue to pray for those who are sick and for those who care for them. As we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, we pray that the patron saint and protector of the universal Church and the principal patron saint of Canada will guide us in the path of life. Stay safe and keep well.

Fraternally,
+ Wayne Kirkpatrick
(Most Rev.) Wayne Kirkpatrick

April 25 Receipts

St. Peter's – Unavailable

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes & Loose	\$647.00
Candles	<u>\$46.65</u>
Total	\$693.65

St. John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose	\$602.00
Cemetery	<u>\$80.00</u>
Total	\$682.00

In the Diocese

Employment Opportunity:

Summer Student Position

Location: Chancery Office, Antigonish

Full time for July and August 2021

Applicants must be entering or returning to post-secondary education in September 2021
Qualifications include excellent penmanship, keyboarding skills, computer skills including knowledge of Word software.

Must be able to read cursive writing. Knowledge of the Diocese of Antigonish and Roman Catholic faith are essential.

Application Deadline: noon Monday, May 3, 2021

Please email resume with cover letter to:

Cathy Walsh, Executive Assistant and Vice Chancellor

chancery.ant@ns.sympatico.ca

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/employment-opportunity/>

Inviting All Youth:

Virtual Conversations For Ages 12-24

Starting May 6 and 8

Our Diocesan Youth Ministry is seeking young people aged 12-24 to join a series of virtual conversations about issues important to them in 2021 and how we as a faith community can respond to them. The conversations are scheduled to take place on an ongoing basis beginning in May and will be an opportunity for young people across Atlantic Canada to gather via Zoom. All youth in this age range are welcome to join the conversation.

First Sessions

Ages 12-15: May 8, 10:30 am to noon

Ages 16-19: May 8, 1:30 pm to 3 pm and May 6th, 2021

Ages 20 to 24: May 6, 7 to 8:30 pm.

These sessions were initiated by the CCCB and the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network and are hosted by Diocese of Antigonish Youth Ministry in collaboration with the Atlantic Association of Catholic Youth Ministers.

To register contact Norma at norma@dioceseofantigonish.ca or 902 202 2972.

May 1:

Pioneer Shrine Gift Shop Opens

The gift shop at Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine will open on Saturday, May 1.

Hours are 1- 4 pm daily

Starting Saturday, May 22 the hours will be 10 am - 4 pm Monday to Saturday and 11 am - 5 pm on Sunday.

The Shrine is open daily for visitation as it has been all winter.

There is public health protocol in place in both the Shrine and the gift shop.

If you have any inquiries, please call 902-945-2221.

Christians and Muslims:

Witnesses of Hope

"Thanks be to God our Creator, and to our fellow men and women, for the quick response and generous solidarity shown by believers and also persons of good will with no religious affiliation in times of disaster, whether natural or man-made, like conflicts and wars. All these persons and their goodness remind us believers that the spirit of fraternity is universal ... In adopting this spirit, we imitate God..."

From the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in a message issued for the month of Ramadan and 'Id al-Fitr.

Read the message on Our Blog:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/christians-and-muslims-witnesses-of-hope/>

May 2

Deacon Recognition Sunday

The Permanent Diaconate is ordained men fulfilling a three-fold ministry of Altar, Word and Charity.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate in our diocese. On May 2, Deacon Recognition Sunday will be observed in our parishes and on Mass for Shut-Ins, airing on CTV 11:30 am and available to watch on our YouTube Channel. Throughout the year, there will be celebrations to honour and promote the Permanent Diaconate.

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/diaconate-program/>
