

**St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes**  
(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

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## **March 17, 2024**

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*'Out of the depths I call to you O Lord: Lord hear my cry. Listen attentively to the sound of my pleading!'* (Ps 129:1-2). In this, the fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to turn our attention to the realities that are perhaps the most 'scandalous' in human experience, the death of a loved one. In this Gospel we see all those who are being supportive of Martha and Mary at the moment of their brother, Lazarus' death.

Previously called "Passion Sunday," this **Fifth Sunday of Lent** marks the beginning of Passiontide, a deeper time of Lent. This is the third Sunday of the scrutinies for the preparation of adult converts, and the final Sunday of Lent before the beginning of Holy Week. The Liturgy of the Word of this day speaks of re-creation, resurrection, and new life.

Today the option of covering of sacred images is practiced. The rubrics in *The Third Edition of the Roman Missal* states,

In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil (Fifth Sunday of Lent, p. 256).

The Optional Memorial of St. Patrick, which is ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

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## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34*. In today's extract, the prophet is foretelling the setting up of a New Covenant, to replace the Old Covenant made between God and his Chosen People on Mt. Sinai, a covenant which the Chosen People had not kept. The New Covenant would not

be written on tablets of stone but on each individual's heart. It would be a covenant of love rather than one of obligation.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews 5:7-9*. The purpose of this letter is to confirm the converts in the Christian faith which they have accepted.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 12:20-33*. On the first Palm Sunday, as Christ entered Jerusalem not as a conquering king on a charger but "riding on an ass" to show that he was the humble servant of all men, he clearly foresaw the sufferings and torments that would be his in that city, before the week was out. Among those who waved palm branches to honor him and who sang aloud: "Hosanna to the son of David, Hosanna in the highest," there were perhaps some who, urged on by the leaders, would be shouting the following Friday, "away with him, crucify him," and "we have no king but Caesar." Such was the fickleness of human nature then. Unfortunately, it has not changed much, if at all, in the two thousand years that have since elapsed. We are still fickle when it comes to choosing between Christ and the things of this world. Yet he knew all of this, and was still willing to carry the cross for us who are such unworthy mortals!

This very thought should put us all to shame, for what repayment does the very best of us make for the incredible love he has shown for us? We grumble and complain when some small cross is laid on our shoulders; we are full of laments if life is not running smoothly for us; we cannot understand why God should let certain things happen to us, his friends! But see for a moment what the lot of his beloved Son was on earth. Born and reared in extreme poverty; insulted and offended by those he wanted to teach; quickly forgotten by those he benefited by his miracles; hounded by his enemies and betrayed by one who had been his disciple for over two years and who had sat at table with him that same night; deserted in his moment of trial by those very ones who had sworn undying allegiance to him. Then followed the torments wished on him by his enemies—those he had come to save; the mock trial and illegal condemnation; the scourging at the pillar; the crowning with thorns; the carrying of the cross and finally the three hours of intense torture and agony while his body hung on the cross! The next time we are tempted to grumble and complain about our sad lot. Let us look thoughtfully at a crucifix for a few moments!

"He who loves his life loses it," this is a truth stated by Christ at the solemn moment when he was speaking of the purpose of his own painful death. He died so that we might live, not for sixty or even a hundred years on earth, but forever in heaven. We can, we know, lose the eternal life Christ won for us if we are too attached to our transitory, earthly life. If we love our own comforts, pleasures,

temporal gains, our own worldly will, more than we love our unending, happy future, then we are loving our earthly lives wrongly, and we are gravely risking the loss of the future, true life.

If, on the other hand, we do our best to be faithful servants of Christ, we shall always judge all our actions with eternity in view. We can use the things of this life which God gives us, and still be close followers of Christ. The lawful possession of the goods of this world, the enjoyment of the licit pleasures of life, are allowed to the fervent Christian. If these possessions and pleasures are accepted with Christian gratitude, they will become stepping-stones that will help us across the river of life to our everlasting home beyond.

Each one of us should look fervently and devoutly on the crucifix today, and try to compare our willingness to suffer those crosses sent to us by God, with the crushing cross and passion our Savior Jesus Christ gladly accepted for us and not for his own sake. Do not let the conclusion you draw stun you into inactivity, but rather let it shock you into a new outlook on life; a new resolve to serve, follow and imitate our loving Christ more closely in future. So may it be for all of us.  
-Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

## **Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

**Please call the office:  
902-535-2053**

### **Receipts:**

#### **St. John the Baptist**

**March 9, 2024**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 734.00</b>
<b>Lenten Project</b>	
<b>“Operation Smile”</b>	<b>305.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,039.00</u></b>

## St. Peter's

March 9 , 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	724.00
Candles		24.00
Share Lent		10.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>758.00</u>

## Holy Guardian Angels

March 10, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	702.10
Candles		33.50
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>735.60</u>

## Mass Schedule

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Beverly Johnson*

Friday, March 22, 2024

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Jessie & Germaine Durant*

SP 1:00 PM

Mass of the Christian Burial

+ *Noel McNamara*

Saturday, March 23, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Helen Poirier*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *John V. & Mary E. Fougere*

Sunday, March 24, 2024

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Fred J. Sampson*

# From Bishop Kirkpatrick

Share Lent Campaign Development and Peace – Caritas Canada (DPCC) 2024

My Dear Clergy and My Dear People

Development and Peace was established in 1967 by the Canadian Bishops to help build a better world by engaging people in the work of bringing about a more just sharing of the gift of God's creation and resources of the world with the most impoverished of our brothers and sisters.

At the heart of Development and Peace's transformative work are the education, action, and fundraising campaigns that bring thousands of Canadians together every year. Development and Peace launched a five-year theme under the banner - Create Hope. This year's specific theme **Reaping our Rights** echoes Pope Francis's words in *Laudate Deum*: "Everything is connected" and "No one is saved alone." We are asked to work together as we consider human rights and environmental rights.

This is why we invite you to become involved with Development and Peace to help such people in the Global South, "Reap their Rights." We are invited to share our solidarity with those who defend the lands, waters, and forests that sustain them, as well as the culture, history, and identity that defines them. You are invited to learn more and sign a letter to the Honduran Ambassador to Canada. Plans are on-going to submit the Letters to the Ambassador on the International Day of Peasant Struggle, on April 17 <https://devp.org/en/campaign/stand-for-the-land/act/> **On March 17**, we will celebrate Solidarity Sunday. I invite you to help Create Hope by giving generously support the 2024 Share Lent collection in our diocese. You are invited to donate through your Share Lent envelope or online.

If you have not yet ordered the free Share Lent materials for your parish, you can do so at [Resources Lent 2024 | Development and Peace – Caritas Canada \(devp.org\)](https://devp.org/en/campaign/stand-for-the-land/act/)

If you have any questions about the campaign or the Share Lent materials, you are invited to contact our Regional DPCC animator, Adah Ogbe at [aogbe@devp.org](mailto:aogbe@devp.org).

Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

Fraternally,

+ **Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick**

Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick

Bishop of Antigonish

# **Holy Week Celebrations**

## **Chrism Mass**

Monday, March 25, 2024, at 3:00 pm

Celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral

Notes: Parishioners of all parishes are welcome to join all Holy Week celebrations.

: Following the instructions on the Sacred Triduum from the Clergy Days, November, 2023, and with the Bishop's permission, the following schedule is close to the ideal.

This year the Sacred Triduum will be held at St. John the Baptist Church.

## **Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)**

Thursday, March 28, 2024

No foot washing

**SJB**

**4:00 PM**

## **Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)**

Friday, March 29, 2024

**SJB**

**3:00 PM**

Note: Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. There should be no physical contact with the Cross, but veneration may be expressed by a reverent bow or a genuflection.

## **The Resurrection of the Lord**

### **At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**

Saturday, March 30, 2024

**SJB:**

**8:00 PM**

### **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, March 31, 2024

**SH 9:30 AM**

**HGA 11:00 AM**

**No weekday Masses Monday, April 1 – Friday, April 5, 2024.**

## **Community Notices**

**SJB:** Our Lenten Project is financial support for “**Operation Smile**” providing surgical repair for children with hair lip/pallet in Libya, Syria & Yemen. Please place your donation in the envelope attached to bulletin and put in collection basket.

Thanks for your generosity.

**SJB:** Any donations towards the cost of Easter flowers would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the weekly collection in an envelope marked "Easter flowers". Thanking you in advance, St John the Baptist CWL.

### **HGA: VOLUNTEER(S) WANTED:**

As you know, HGA has not had an organist since Jane Martell died in June, 2017, and we have not had regular music/choir since the summer of 2021 when our floppy disk player stopped working. Is there anyone who would have free time and be willing to play our organ for Sunday morning Masses? We would certainly appreciate music. If you or anyone you know is available, please contact Sheila Pottie 902-587-2594 or Maureen Sampson 902-587-2517 or René Samson (902) 227-7776

**HGA:** Cleaning of the church before Easter on March 18, Monday, 9:00 AM. Anyone wishing to donate towards Easter Flowers in memory of deceased loved ones is welcome to do so.

### **HGA Parish Council**

We are asking parishioners to consider becoming a member of the following parish council committees:

1. Finance & Management
2. Liturgy
3. Religious Education

**Knight's meeting for March:** The regular meeting for Council 14280 will be held on Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM in the meeting room of the St. Peter's Glebe House.

### **Richmond RTO Monthly Meeting**

March 19th, at 9:00 AM St. Peter's - Louie's Cosy Corner. Hope to see you there!

## **March 17 is Solidarity Sunday**

This Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Reaping our Rights campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity.

Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world.

*"Development and Peace — Caritas Canada accompanies, supports and respects our institutional autonomy. It creates a climate of trust. I thank our sisters and brothers in Canada for their solidarity, a solidarity that generates life opportunities, that accompanies the dreams of women and men, of families, of communities and territories. Thank you!"* — Eva Colque, Executive Director, Fundación NUNA, a partner in Bolivia

Help create hope and dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give). Thank you for your solidarity!

## **Scams Affecting Seniors in Our Community**

Please join St. Marguerite Bourgeoys CWL on Wednesday, March 20 at 1 pm at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, 40 Cabot St. Sydney, in welcoming Constable Gary Fraser, Community Outreach Liaison Officer, who will present education on "Scams Affecting Seniors in Our Community."

**May 31, 3 pm**

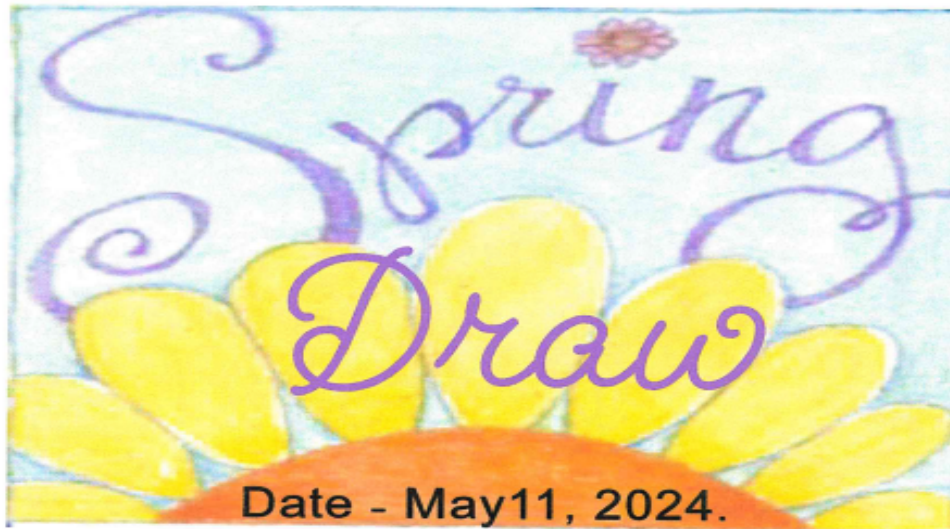
**Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon David Rankin**

**St. Ninian Cathedral, Antigonish**

Deacon David Rankin warmly invites all to his ordination to the priesthood by Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick on the Feast of the Visitation. There will be a light reception to follow at St. Ninian Place.

All are also invited to his **First Mass at 4pm on Saturday, June 1** at 4:00pm (vigil for Corpus Christi) at his home parish, St. Mary's in Mabou.





Date - May11, 2024.

Tickets on Gift Card Basket  
\$5.00 each 3 for \$10.00

Gift cards from  
St.Peter's businesses totalling  
over **\$500**

Tickets may be purchased by EMT to  
Dianne\_Landry@hotmail.com or contact

\* Shirley 535-2093 \* Pam 535-2595

\* Julie 623-0725

**Lottery number: AGD 337956-24**

**Sponsored by:**

*St.Peter's Parish Altar Society*