

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Acts of the Apostles* 8:5-8, 14-17. In this reading Peter and John are sent from Jerusalem to Samaria to be ministers of the coming of the Spirit to the new converts in that town. These men had already been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the imposition of hands completes the initiation of these converts. —*A Celebrant's Guide to the New Sacramentary - A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of Peter* 3:15-18 and indicates that baptism initiates a person to imitation of the death and resurrection of Jesus and that the destiny of all believers is to live according to the realm of the Spirit. —*A Celebrant's Guide to the New Sacramentary - A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin

The **Gospel** is from *St. John* 14:15-21. In this discourse at the Last Supper, which was His last will and testament, our divine Lord promised His Church, through the Apostles, that the Holy Spirit would be with it until the end of time. The Spirit of truth will be directing it and effectively aiding it to preserve the faith, the doctrine, and the morals which Christ taught His Apostles.

Looking back now over almost 2,000 years of the Church's history we can see how this promise has been fulfilled. There were heretics and schismatics who threatened the very continuance of the Church as God's faithful people on earth. There were crises and near catastrophes caused by the human weaknesses of its heads and its members, yet the Church survived and spread and continued to send saints to heaven because of the direct and active aid of the Holy Spirit.

During those two thousand years great empires have risen and fallen. They had large armies and vast wealth and earthly resources at their disposal, yet they disintegrated like all things human. The names of one-time mighty men who ruled over millions are now nothing more than a nuisance for children in their history classes. The large tracts of our globe which they ruled are now divided and known by other names. This was, is, and will be the lot of all merely human enterprises. Today's despots, where they rule with iron hand, will share the same fate.

In the midst of all these upheavals the Church of Christ has continued to flourish because it was directed and sustained by the Holy Spirit, who abides within it. How can we ever show enough gratitude to the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity who planned so lovingly and so efficaciously for our safe journey to heaven? The Father sent His Son as man among us so that we men could become His brothers, and adopted sons of the Father. The Son suffered hardships, insults and misunderstandings during His temporary stay on earth, and ended like a crucified malefactor because of the sins of mankind. But He rose triumphantly from the dead and set up the Church as a society which would bring to men of all races, ages and colors the salvation and exaltation of mankind, which His life and death had won for us.

Knowing only too well the weaknesses and waywardness of human nature, He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to remain with His Church as its infallible guide until the last man has entered heaven.

This is a very brief summary of what the Blessed Trinity has done, and is continuing to do for us, through the Church. We, the people of God, the chosen race of the New Testament are God's Church on earth. It is for you and me that the Holy Spirit is at work this very day. When He guides the steps of Peter's successor, the Pope, or the deliberations of the bishops, the heirs of the apostolic college, it is for us and for our salvation that He is acting. While we are faithful members of the Church, and of Christ's mystical body, while we remain live branches safely attached to the vine who is Christ, we have nothing to fear; we are on the sure road to heaven, to enjoy eternal happiness with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit whom we shall thank and glorify forever.

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

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

HGA

11:00 AM

Mass of Christian Burial
+ Isabelle Marie Sampson
(No SJB 4:00 PM Mass)

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

SP

11:30 AM

Mass of Christian Burial
+ Mary "Mammie" Sampson
(No 9:00 AM Mass)

Friday, May 15, 2026

HGA

11:00 AM

+ Herman MacDonald

Saturday, May 16, 2026

SJB

4:00 PM

+ Marjorie Digout

SP

5:30 PM

+ Roderick, Jenny & Isaac Fougere

Sunday, May 17, 2025

SH

9:00AM

HGA

11:00 AM

+ Jessie & Germaine Durant
+ Maria Morell

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

May 2, 2026

Envelopes & Loose

\$ 933.00

Total

\$ 933.00

St. Peter's

May 2, 2026

Envelopes & Loose

\$ 990.00

Candles

14.00

Parish Dues

Total

\$ 1,004.00

Holy Guardian Angels

May 3, 2026

Envelopes & Loose

\$ 559.10

Candles

25.50

Total

\$ 584.60

Community News

Thank you to members of St. John the Baptist and St. Peter's Choirs for joining together for the funeral of Annette Fougere on Saturday, May 2 in Arichat. It was much appreciated by the family.

Richmond RTO AGM Meeting - May 12, 2026- "Scratch Eats" in Arichat. Time: 11:30 AM
All RTO members welcome.

Rev. Joseph William Crispo

The Rev. Joseph William Crispo died peacefully at St. Martha's Hospital on May 2, 2026, after a brief illness. He attended Holy Heart Seminary in Halifax and was ordained to the priesthood on May 20, 1967, at St. Ninian's Cathedral in Antigonish by Bishop William Power. Father Bill began his ministry as an assistant priest at St. Anthony's in Glace Bay, St. Joseph's in Bras d'Or, Stella Maris Parish in Inverness, and St. Theresa's Parish in Sydney. From 1973 to 1976, he furthered his studies in Religious Education at Boston College, earning an M.Ed. Upon returning, he served briefly at Holy Family Parish before being appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in North Sydney in 1978. In 1980, he also obtained a Teacher Diploma in Religious Education.

A dedicated servant of the Church, Father Bill also contributed to diocesan leadership. In 1978, he was appointed to the Senate of Priests and later served as Chair of the Diocesan Vocation Committee for three years. In 1980, he was elected to the Personnel Board, where he served for three years. He continued his service, completing a six-year term as Chair of the Pension Society in 2016.

From 1984 to 1991, he served as Pastor of Stella Maris Parish in Inverness and as Administrator of St. Margaret's Parish in Broad Cove. He was then appointed Rector of St. Ninian's Cathedral in Antigonish, where he faithfully served from 1991 to 2000. Following a one-year sabbatical, Father Bill continued his pastoral ministry as Pastor of St. Lawrence in Mulgrave, St. Francis in St. Francis Harbour, and later St. Joseph in Port Hawkesbury. Father Bill retired in 2007, but his commitment to the Church remained strong. In recent years, he resided at the R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home in Antigonish.

Affectionately known as "Father Bill," he will be remembered for his warmth, friendship, and inspiring homilies, often ending with a gentle touch of humour that brought comfort and joy to those who heard him. Father Bill's life was a testament to faith, humility, and dedicated service.

MAiD Awareness Sunday Followup

Parishioners who have completed letters regarding MAiD Awareness Sunday are asked to return them to the parish or forward them to the diocesan office. These letters will be collected and submitted together to help strengthen their collective impact. Thank you for your participation and continued support in protecting the dignity of human life.

MAiD raised with Vancouver priest, twice, during hospital stay

Terry O'Neill

Canadian Catholic News. May 1, 2026

A version of this story appeared in the May 03, 2026, issue of *The Catholic Register* with the headline "MAiD raised with Vancouver priest, twice, during hospital stay."

A Vancouver priest recovering from a hip fracture at Vancouver General Hospital says he was twice offered assisted death by health-care staff who knew he was a priest and opposed to euthanasia — a practice critics say is growing as medical professionals are increasingly encouraged to initiate such conversations.

"There are some things you just don't talk about to some people," said Fr. Larry Holland, who has completed studies in health-care chaplaincy in addition to serving at numerous parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

He said he was “shocked” when a doctor brought up the option of MAiD should his condition deteriorate. Holland, 79, is currently convalescing at VGH after suffering a hip fracture from a fall on Christmas Day.

Holland said he wasn’t dying then or now and that the doctor’s mention of MAiD left him “kind of silent” for a moment. The doctor then raised the subject again, saying it’s “something they have to discuss with someone who’s been given a terminal diagnosis.” Holland recalled telling the doctor he was morally opposed to euthanasia. The doctor explained that “he just wanted to make sure that, if a (terminal) diagnosis came up or not ... I knew of the different services I had access to.”

Weeks later, a second offer of MAiD came from a nurse who the priest said seemed uncomfortable raising the topic and was likely doing so out of compassion because of the pain he was enduring. “It’s a false compassion, really,” he said.

A spokesman for Vancouver Coastal Health, which operates VGH, told *The B.C. Catholic* in an email that “staff may consider bringing up MAiD based on their clinical judgment, provided they possess the necessary knowledge and skills to do so.” Staff are also “responsible for answering questions when patients bring up the topic of MAiD,” the spokesman said.

The two incidents arise as Canada approaches 100,000 assisted dying deaths. Fr. Larry Lynn, the Archdiocese’s pro-life chaplain, said he was shocked to hear about Holland’s case. “This must surely be among the most appalling examples of Canada’s coercive and insensitive euthanasia regime,” Lynn said, adding it’s disturbing that a health-care provider suggests euthanasia with any patient, and particularly when the patient is a consecrated religious known to be morally opposed. “It places the medical practitioner into the role of the devil, tempting a vulnerable person into mortal sin.”

Amanda Achtman, creator of the anti-euthanasia project Dying to Meet You and ethics director of Canadian Physicians for Life, says initiating MAiD discussions in a medical setting is a form of coercion that attacks patients’ deepest convictions when they’re vulnerable. To “torment” someone who has deeply held beliefs with an offer of MAiD is “an attack on their identity,” Achtman said.

Conservative MP Garnett Genuis has introduced Bill C-260, An Act to Prevent Coercion of Persons Not Seeking Medical Assistance in Dying, which would prohibit federal employees from proactively offering or recommending MAiD. The bill resulted from incidents of bureaucrats such as veterans’ counsellors trying to steer vulnerable people toward assisted dying.

Alberta introduced legislation in March that would restrict regulated health professionals from providing information about MAiD to patients unless the patient brings it up. The Safeguards for Last Resort Termination of Life Act would also restrict the public display of MAiD information in facilities.